

God Almighty

AG Chapter 7

2 Chron. 20:6

I. The Text Opened

A. "O LORD God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?" (2Ch. 20:6).

1. In verses 1–13 of this chapter, there is found the source of safety in the hour of peril.
2. Very suddenly does the scene change in these chronicles of the kingdom of Judah.
 - a) From the peaceful and pleasant duty of completing the arrangements for securing justice throughout the land, Jehoshaphat was driven to consider the alarming intelligence that a powerful combination of enemies was threatening the independence of his kingdom.
3. Suddenly in a most serious peril.
 - a) Judah does not seem to have done anything to provoke this attack, or to have had any reason to expect it.
 - b) It came upon them like a clap of thunder in a clear sky.
 - c) It is a possibility that has so much of probability about it that men would do well to be prepared for it lest they should be called to face it.
4. Refuge is in God
 - a) But if that is to be so, men must be in a right relation to him.
 - b) They must be able to say, with a deep significance, not only "O Lord God of our fathers," but also "Art not thou our God?" (vers. 6, 7).
 - (1) *Jehoshaphat could plead that he and his people were in the land as rightful possessors of the soil; they inherited from God himself (ver. 11), and these invaders were wholly in the wrong; their attack was utterly indefensible (ver. 10).*
 - (2) *The king could plead that the cause of Judah was just and right.*
 - (3) *This consciousness of integrity men also must have, if they would fall back on God.*
 - (a) *"If our heart condemn us not, then we have confidence toward God" (1 John 3:21); but otherwise men cannot raise their hopes.*
5. Making a Direct and Earnest Appeal to God Almighty
 - a) Jehoshaphat took active measures to enlist the intervention of Jehovah; he "set himself to seek the Lord," etc. (vers. 3–6).
 - b) It behoves men, in the day of their trial and their peril, to take active measures to secure the merciful and mighty succor of their God.
 - c) They must make their earnest and persevering appeal to him, and be waiting upon while they wait for him.
 - d) And their appeal will, at any rate, be threefold.
 - (1) *Their utter helplessness apart from his effectuating power. "We have no might," etc. (ver. 12).*
 - (2) *His almighty power. (Vers. 6, 7.)*
 - (3) *His Divine faithfulness. (Vers. 6–9.)*

II. The Doctrine from the Text

A. Doctrine: That God is almighty, with all power and might in everything he does in the created order.

1. God alone is almighty – unlimited in His mightiness.
 - a) God's omnipotence encompasses His infinite ability to be all-powerful in every respect.
 - b) He can do whatever He wills.
 - (1) *Stephen Charnock, "The power of God is that ability and strength by which He can cause to happen whatever He pleases, whatever His infinite wisdom decides, and His infinitely pure will resolves to do As holiness is the beauty of all God's attributes, so power gives life and action to all of them. God's eternal plan would be pointless if He did not have the power to execute it. Without power His mercy would just be feeble pity, His promises an empty sound, His threats a mere paper tiger. God's power is like Him: infinite, eternal, and incomprehensible. It cannot be delayed, restrained, or frustrated by the creature."*
 - c) God's power does not come from any outside source or depend on any other authority.
 - d) It belongs to Him inherently as part of His nature.
2. God's power is greater than He reveals.
 - a) When men see God's creation around them, such as majestic mountains, lightning, avalanches, and massive waterfalls, they should be in awe of God's power.
 - b) Yet even God's awesome creation fails to offer sufficient comprehension of His massive and infinite power, as God has infinitely more power than whatever they see demonstrated!
 - (1) *Behold, these are but the outskirts of His ways, and how small a whisper do we hear of Him! But the thunder of His power who can understand? (Job 26:14, 37:23, ESV)*
 - (2) *Men see the "outskirts of His ways" in creation.*
 - (3) *What they can see is only the fringe, the periphery, of what He is capable of.*
 - c) Even in the midst of displaying His power, God hides His power.
 - (1) *The biblical prophet Habakkuk, for example, describes almighty God in a vision scattering the hills, dissolving entire nations, and overturning the mountains.*
 - (2) *Yet he also says that in the midst of all of this, God "veiled His power."*
 - (3) *The power of God is so inconceivable and so immense that even the fearful and destructive storms of nature conceal more than they reveal of His mightiness!*
 - d) Consider:
 - (1) *"He trampled the waves of the sea," (Job 9:3, ESV) expresses God's uncontrollable power.*
 - (2) *"He walks on the vault of heaven," (Job 22:14, ESV) tells of the immensity of His presence.*
 - (3) *"He walks on the wings of the wind," (Ps. 104:3, NASB) describes the amazing swiftness of His operations.*
 - (a) *This last expression is especially telling.*
 - (b) *He does not "fly" or "run," which would indicate that He would be hurried.*

(c) Instead He walks on the “wings of the wind,” one of the most unpredictable of the elements, gusting in rage and sweeping along with inconceivable speed.

(d) Yet the mighty wind is under His feet, indicating He is in complete control!

3. God's power in creation.

a) God's power is seen in His act of creation (Gen. 1).

b) Before men can work, they must have both tools and materials, but God made everything that exists with nothing.

c) By His word alone, out of nothing, He made all things.

(1) “In the beginning,” when only God existed, He created the universe and everything in it, including time itself.

(2) Can such power be imagined?

(3) Everything which has, will, or can exist, outside of God Himself, owes its being, substance, and form to God.

(4) How glorious is the wise and powerful Creator!

(a) For He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood firm.

(Ps. 33:9, ESV)

d) His omnipotence is manifested in the works of creation, but it is not exhausted by them.

(1) God could have created more than He did, if He pleased.

(2) He can do more than He has done, if it is His will.

(3) He could have raised up children to Abraham from the stones in the bed of the Jordan River (Matt 3:9).

(4) He could have sent twelve legions of angels to the aid of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, when he was on the Cross (Matt. 26:53).

(5) But God exercises His power prudently, which does not mean He is limited, but that He is wise in His use of His power.

e) Not only is God powerful and almighty in creation, but His power is constantly on display in His preservation of creation.

(1) No creature has power to preserve itself.

(2) Both humans and animals would die if there were not plants for food, and the plants would wither and die if the earth were not refreshed with plentiful rain.

(3) So, God is appropriately called the “Preserver of man and beast.”

(a) He is continually upholding creation so that everything is sustained by His power, “for in Him we live and move and have our being,” (Acts 17:11).

(b) God is at work throughout the universe, maintaining and preserving everything.

(c) His preservation of the natural world is indeed a longstanding testimony to the power of God.

f) Living things grow old and die and decompose into their component chemicals.

(1) Eventually men return to dust because they came from dust.

(a) Only the will and sustaining power of God prevents man's complete annihilation.

(b) Men are entirely dependent on their Creator for every breath they draw, every beat of their hearts, and the firing of every brain synapse.

(c) Men should be grateful and thank the Lord, “who has kept our soul among the living,” (Ps. 66:9, ESV).

4. The power of Christ

- a) On multiple occasions throughout Scripture, Christ is given names that declare Him as all-powerful, both as God and Redeemer.
- b) He is called Almighty, Alpha and Omega (Rev. 1:8), the Blessed and only Potentate (1 Tim. 6:15), the Captain of salvation (Heb. 2:10), the Chief corner stone (1 Pet. 2:6), Christ Jesus our Lord (1 Tim. 1:12, Rom. 8:39), the power of God (1 Cor. 1:24), the Deliverer (Rom. 11:26), God (John 1:1), God our Savior (1 Tim. 2:3), God with us (Matt. 1:23), our Life (John 14:6), Lord over all (Rom. 10:12), the True God (1 John 5:20), and the Word of life (1 John 1:1).
- c) Christ says of Himself, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth," (Matt. 28:18).

(1) God's great design was to place Christ above all creatures, having authority, power and sovereignty over them all.

(2) He also has authority over the angels and the devils, as they could not enter into the swine without His permission (Matt. 8:31-32).

- d) Jesus Christ demonstrated God's almighty power throughout the course of His earthly ministry.

(1) He performed many miracles.

(a) He turned water into wine (John 2:1-11).

(b) He healed the nobleman's son (John 4:46-54).

(c) He healed Peter's mother-in-law (Matt. 8:14-17).

(d) He cleansed the leper (Mark 1:40-45).

(e) He restored the centurion's servant (Luke 7:1-10).

(f) He raised the widow's son to life (Luke 7:11-16).

(g) He stilled the storm on the sea (Mark 4:35-41).

(h) He fed five thousand people with a boy's boxed lunch (John 6:5-14).

(i) He walked on the sea (Mark 6:45-52).

(j) And He performed many other miracles, including rising from the dead.

- e) The message of the Gospel demonstrates the power of God in the good news of Jesus Christ as Redeemer.

(1) Jesus Christ is the manifestation of the "... power of God, and the wisdom of God," (1 Cor. 1:24).

(2) The news of the Gospel is the actual power of God manifested in the world.

(3) The Gospel as the power of God is called the Gospel of the Kingdom (Matt. 4:23), the Gospel of God (1 Pet. 4:17), the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Mark 1:1), and the dispensation of the Grace of God (Eph. 3:2).

5. God's power over Satan

- a) God is also powerfully at work, though invisible to men, in the spiritual realm.

- b) Satan is real, and if he were not restrained by God, men would feel his malice much more intensely.

(1) The devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8, ESV)

- c) Satan is filled with hatred against God and with fiendish animosity toward men, particularly the saints.

- d) If he had his way, he might do to every person what he did to Job: sending fire from heaven to destroy their crops, cattle, and livelihoods, causing a wind to blow down their houses and kill their children, and covering their bodies with boils (Job 1-2).

e) But praise be to God Almighty that He keeps Satan on a short leash, preventing him from carrying out greater and more evil actions!

- (1) *Martin Luther's favorite designation for the Devil was, "God's barking dog."*
- (2) *The all-powerful God effortlessly confines Satan to the place and purpose He has already ordained for him.*

f) Satan wages war with God for the souls of men, but he can do nothing against the power, will, and consent of God.

- (1) *In truth, God uses the Devil to accomplish His purposes.*
- (2) *When Ahab was to be deceived, Satan became a lying spirit in the mouth of all the prophets, after being commissioned by the Lord.*
- (3) *The spirit which tormented King Saul was said to be an evil spirit from the Lord, because he was sent by God to confound the King.*
- (4) *The plagues of Egypt were inflicted by God through the use of destructive angels.*
- (5) *Since the Devil is God's slave, men clearly see that Satan is under the power of God, and so ruled by his authority.*
- (6) *As much as the Devil may hate it, he must yield obedience to God.*

6. God's power over sinful men.

a) In a much more visible way, God's power also restrains the natural corruption of sinful men.

b) He permits sufficient outbreaks of sin to show what the tragic corruption of human society can carry out, but what limitless depravity and selfish evil would prevail in the world if God did not powerfully prevent it!

- (1) *Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips, whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness, their feet are swift to shed blood. (Rom. 3:13-15)*

c) This truth, however, must give serious pause to the unbeliever.

- (1) *God hates unbelief.*
- (2) *He requires that unbelievers repent and believe in Him, and in His only Son and Redeemer Jesus Christ.*
- (3) *For as long as the unbeliever remains in unbelief, he despises the power of God and the work of God in Jesus Christ.*
- (4) *The unbeliever follows the god of this world, Satan, and is under his control and power, being dead in sin (Eph. 2:1-5) and living in unrighteous rebellion against God. God, therefore, in His power gives him over to the Devil.*
 - (a) *As Paul instructed the Corinthians, "deliver such a one unto Satan," (1 Cor. 5:5).*

7. God's power in judgment.

a) God, as supreme Judge of all, executes His judgment throughout history in almighty power.

b) Numerous examples exist of God's powerful judgment.

- (1) *Can your courage endure, or can your hands be strong, in the days that I shall deal with you? I the Lord have spoken, and I will do it. (Ezek. 22:14, ESV)*
- (2) *In Noah's day, God opened the windows of heaven and broke up the great fountains of the deep, and the entire human race (except for those in the ark) was swept away, helpless in the face of His stormy punishment (Gen. 6:17).*
- (3) *Sodom and Gomorrah were annihilated in a shower of fire and brimstone from heaven (Gen. 19:24).*
- (4) *Pharaoh and all his legions were impotent when God drowned them in the Red Sea (Ex. 14:30).*

c) As Christians meditate on the historical demonstrations of God's power, and then consider God's power in judgment against others that they might see around them or throughout the world, their own consciences should be stirred.

(1) *They should be motivated to remain steadfast in their obedience to Him.*

(a) *"I remember your judgment of old, O Lord," (Ps. 119:52).*

(b) *They should revere Him.*

(c) *Like Habakkuk, who in a vision saw the powerful judgments of God which were to come on the Chaldeans, men should tremble and quake in awe of the great and powerful Lord.*

8. God's power in hell.

a) The most spine-chilling example of God's power is eternal damnation for the unrepentant person in hell.

b) Initially created for the Devil and his fallen angels, all those who continue to do evil in the sight of God will suffer eternally in hell.

c) It is the furnace of fire where unrepentant sinners are eternally tormented in their minds, bodies, and souls, to the full degree and capacity of their beings, by the power of God, without any possibility of relief by mercy or pity from God.

(1) *Hell is called "unquenchable" fire, (Luke 3:17), a furnace of fire, (Matt. 13:42) a lake of fire, (Rev. 19:20), eternal fire, (Jude 10ff), outer darkness, (Matt. 22:13), the blackness of darkness, (Jude 13), chains of darkness (2 Pet. 2:4), damnation (Matt. 23:33), a place of torment (Luke 16:28), God's wrath to come (1 Thess. 1:10), a prison (1 Pet. 3:19), a bottomless pit (Rev. 9:1), the second death (Rev. 2:11), everlasting punishment (Matt. 25:46), and corruption (Gal. 6:8). God's power there is what makes hell, hell.*

(a) *It is a place where God is, but in the power of His wrath, void of love and mercy (Deut. 32:22).*

III. The Text Applied

A. God as Almighty is a Fall Reversing Power, able to save you.

1. There is good news for the unbeliever.

2. True repentance (2 Cor. 7:10), which God demands, thoroughly removes man's sinfulness, no matter how great a sinner that man might have been (Isa. 55:7).

3. And it removes wretchedness, no matter how bad a sinner one might think they are (Luke 15:32).

4. It returns the sinner to God, by the power of God, who is the only supreme good (Acts 26:18).

5. It gives occasion for great joy to the saints on earth (Acts 15:3), to the angels in heaven (Luke 15:7, 10), and to God (Luke 15:20-25).

6. It entitles the penitent to God's precious promises (Isa. 1:16-18).

7. It is the way to life and salvation (Acts 11:18), putting men in possession of the inheritance of the saints, of the kingdom of heaven, even paradise itself (Matt. 18:3).

a) How great is the power of God in salvation!

(1) *And it is accomplished only in Jesus Christ as the one Mediator between God and man (1 Tim. 2:5).*

(a) *Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved, (Acts 4:12).*

B. Praising God's Unlimited Power

1. The truth of God's omnipotence should fill us with wonder and allegiance, which in turn becomes praise for who God is.
 - a) God is worthy of never-ending, unquestioned confidence, since nothing is too hard for Him.
 - b) If God were restrained in power and limited in strength, we might be discouraged or even despair.
 - c) But as He is infinitely powerful and able to do all He desires.
 - d) No prayer is too hard for Him to answer and no need is too great for Him to supply.
 - e) No passion is too strong for Him to subdue.
 - f) No temptation is too powerful for Him to deliver from, and no misery too deep for Him to relieve.
 - (1) *The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (Ps. 27:1, ESV)*
 - (2) *Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Eph. 3:20-21, ESV)*
2. God's power is on the side of His people, confirmed to us in His Word as promises.
 - a) "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31).
 - b) In prayer, we draw near to the Lord that fortifies us with His power and favor.
 - c) The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Though a host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though wars should rise against me, in this will I be confident. For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion. (Psalm 27:1, 3, 5)
3. We are encouraged to entrust everything to our heavenly Father, without fear or anxiety, trusting our almighty God to accomplish His good and perfect will in our life.