

The God of Power and Love

"With God all things are possible." So stated the Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 19:26. Clearly, only a God who can do everything is worth taking note of. A god who is limited in any way would have weaknesses like us humans, and sooner or later would let us down. So what kind of power does the God of the Bible have, who is known as 'God Almighty' ?

A Powerful, Timeless Creator

He is not bound by time and has the ability to create anything and everything, as we are told in Psalm 90:2:

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

It is very hard to imagine a being who has always existed. However, if we think about Einstein's theory that time and space are relative and may vary under different physical conditions, it is perhaps possible to imagine time 'stopping'. God states that He created times and seasons along with everything else, when the world began, as recorded in Genesis 1:14. God reinforces this point when challenging Job:

"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?" (Job 38:4).

The rest of that chapter is a description from God about His work in creation. This demonstrates the unique power of God, used to create everything we can see. So the next time you look at the vastness of the

stars or the delicate detail of your favourite flower, consider the macro and micro powers of God which are at work.



The Loving God

The thought-provoking thing about God, the timeless, all-powerful, creative being is that He is interested in the lives of each of us. We are just one little detail in that creation, so why is the Lord God so concerned about us? Because we are made in His image (Genesis 1:27) and He wants to share His nature and existence with us.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus emphasises that God does indeed care deeply about men and women:

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16).

God put great care into the creation of life on this planet. He worked to a plan and loved what He was doing. Mankind came along and spoilt what had been beautifully made. Imagine our feelings if someone did that to us. However, God loved His creation and the people in it so much that He decided to allow flawed humans an opportunity to have a close and continuing relationship with Him, although He would not force them to do so.

The Plan

God's plan worked on 3 levels. Firstly, He developed a group of people who would become the focus of showing how the relationship with God could be restored. This was the Jewish nation and He loved them, as we can see in Deuteronomy 7:6-8.

Secondly, He created a system of laws and social organisation for the Jewish people, which He shared through Moses. These would, if the spirit and letter of the laws were kept, demonstrate how all people could relate to God.

These all pointed to the third and central part of the plan. This was the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, created to complete His plan. God's love for humans was so strong that He provided Jesus, who willingly accomplished the task set before him: to imitate God in every aspect of his life, to do nothing wrong (be sinless) and then to willingly sacrifice that life through terrible torture and death on the cross.

In doing so, Jesus made it possible to cover up the frequent sins that we humans commit, the many ways in which we break God's laws. He showed God's tremendous love for all men and women, through his own love to those around him. He demonstrated this for



us too, who he knew would be born, generation after generation, until God's plan is finally completed.

Real Love

How great is that sort of love? Could you sacrifice your child? Could you be a sacrifice yourself, despite being innocent? We see how God proved His love in the work of the Lord Jesus.

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:6-8).

How do we respond to such a powerful love?

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another (1 John 4:10-11).

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