

**LET
GOD
ARISE!**

*The Battle Belongs to the Lord
Prayer Guide #4*

Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis



The Power of God

1 Samuel 17.45-47

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Isaac Watts

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise;
That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command,
And all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord that filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eyes;
If I survey the ground I tread,
Or gaze upon the skies!

There's not a plant or flower below but makes Thy glories known;
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from Thy throne;
While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care,
And everywhere that we can be,
Thou, God, art present there.

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Yahweh God is the God Almighty, and nothing is too hard for him

Gen. 17.1 - When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless.”

Ps. 29.4 - The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

Rev. 11.17 - saying, “We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign.”

Ps. 50.1 - The Mighty One, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Rom. 1.20 - For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Deut. 33.27 - The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms. And he thrust out the enemy before you and said, Destroy.

Ps. 90.2 - Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Isa. 26.4 - Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.

Isa. 40.26 - Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name, by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power not one is missing.

1 Tim. 1.17 - To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.



Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV)

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Gen. 18.14 - Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son. Deut. 32.39 - See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

Ps. 147.5 - Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

Jer. 10.10-13 - But the Lord is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation. [11] Thus shall you say to them: "The gods who did not make the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under the heavens." [12] It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens. [13] When he utters his voice, there is a tumult of waters in the heavens, and he makes the mist rise from the ends of the earth. He makes lightning for the rain, and he brings forth the wind from his storehouses.

God's power is wedded to his sovereign will and mighty works

Exod. 4.11 - Then the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?"

Ps. 33.6 - By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.

2 Pet. 1.3-4 - His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, [4] by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.



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Exod. 15.6 - Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power, your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.

Deut. 3.24 - O Lord GOD, you have only begun to show your servant your greatness and your mighty hand. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as yours? Deut. 10.17 - For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe.

Ps. 47.1-3 - Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! [2] For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth. [3] He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.

2 Chron. 20.5-12 - And Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court, [6] and said, “O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you. [7] Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? [8] And they have lived in it and have built for you in it a sanctuary for your name, saying, [9] ‘If disaster comes upon us, the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before you— for your name is in this house—and cry out to you in our affliction, and you will hear and save.’ [10] And now behold, the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom you would not let Israel invade when they came from the land of Egypt, and whom they avoided and did not destroy— [11] behold, they reward us by coming to drive us out of your possession, which you have given us to inherit. [12] O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”



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God displays his wonders in conquering the enemies of his people

Ps. 54.1 - O God, save me, by your name, and vindicate me by your might.

1 Sam. 17.45-47 - Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. [46] This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, [47] and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hand.” Deut.

7.20-23 - Moreover, the Lord your God will send hornets among them, until those who are left and hide themselves from you are destroyed. [21] You shall not be in dread of them, for the Lord your God is in your midst, a great and awesome God. [22] The Lord your God will clear away these nations before you little by little. You may not make an end of them at once, lest the wild beasts grow too numerous for you. [23] But the Lord your God will give them over to you and throw them into great confusion, until they are destroyed.

2 Chron. 25.8 - But go, act, be strong for the battle. Why should you suppose that God will cast you down before the enemy? For God has power to help or to cast down.

1 Chron. 29.10-13 - Therefore David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: “Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. [11] Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. [12] Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand



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it is to make great and to give strength to all. [13] And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.”

Isa. 40.28-31 - Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. [29] He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. [30] Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; [31] but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

God is worthy to be worshiped because of his power

Ps. 21.13 - Be exalted, O Lord, in your strength! We will sing and praise your power.

Job 42.2 - I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

Jer. 32.17 - Ah, Lord God! It is you who has made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you. Matt. 19.26 - But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Luke 18.27 - But he said, “What is impossible with men is possible with God.”

1 Sam. 14.6 - Jonathan said to the young man who carried his armor, “Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised. It may be that the Lord will work for us, for nothing can hinder the Lord from saving by many or by few.”



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Ps. 24.8 - Who is this King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle!

Amos 9.5 - The Lord God of hosts, he who touches the earth and it melts, and all who dwell in it mourn, and all of it rises like the Nile, and sinks again, like the Nile of Egypt.

Nah. 1.2-7 - The Lord is a jealous and avenging God; the Lord is avenging and wrathful; the Lord takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies. [3] The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, and the Lord will by no means clear the guilty. His way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet. [4] He rebukes the sea and makes it dry; he dries up all the rivers; Bashan and Carmel wither; the bloom of Lebanon withers. [5] The mountains quake before him; the hills melt; the earth heaves before him, the world and all who dwell in it. [6] Who can stand before his indignation? Who can endure the heat of his anger? His wrath is poured out like fire, and the rocks are broken into pieces by him. [7] The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.

2 Cor. 13.4 - For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but in dealing with you we will live with him by the power of God.

Eph. 1.19-23 - and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might [20] that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, [21] far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. [22] And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, [23] which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.



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God's power benefits his own

Ps. 89.34 - I will not violate my covenant or alter the word that went forth from my lips.

Jude 1.24-25 - Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, [25] to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Dan. 3.16-18 - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. [17] If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. [18] But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

Luke 3.8 - Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father." For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.

Rom. 4.20-22 - No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, [21] fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. [22] That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness."

2 Cor. 9.6-9 - The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. [7] Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. [8] And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. [9] As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures



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forever.” Eph. 3.20-21 - 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, [21] to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Phil. 3.20-21 - But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, [21] who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

2 Tim. 1.12 - which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me.

1 Cor. 1.27-29 - But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; [28] God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, [29] so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

Ultimately God’s power will ensure our futures

Isa. 25.8 - He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

Hos. 13.14 - Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol? Shall I redeem them from Death? O Death, where are your plagues? O Sheol, where is your sting? Compassion is hidden from my eyes.

Matt. 28.18 - And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”



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John 5.25-29 - Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. [26] For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. [27] And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. [28] Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice [29] and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment. John 11.25-26 - Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, [26] and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

1 Cor. 15.25-27 - For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. [26] The last enemy to be destroyed is death. [27] For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him.

Rev. 1.8 - “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Rev. 1.18 - and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

Lam. 5.19-21 - But you, O Lord, reign forever; your throne endures to all generations. [20] Why do you forget us forever, why do you forsake us for so many days? [21] Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored! Renew our days as of old. ■



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YOU ARE *wrong*, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.

~ Jesus, Matt. 22.29



Who is able, in the end, to control the universe, God or the devil?

Such a question, in the asking, does not imply that God and the devil are equals, that Satan in some way can thwart the will and purpose of God, or that God is in any danger of ultimately arranging his universe according to his will. Far from it. As believers who know the Father through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, we affirm without equivocation that God is almighty, the Creator, the Maker of the ends of the earth.

Still. In light of all the horrific things happening in our world today—the widespread oppression, inequity, misery, and tragedy—the constant question of a postmodern age natters on. If God is almighty, loving, and aware, then why is the world in such horrible shape?

It seems as though the only time God is acknowledged in public life is during times of disaster. Tragic loss of life due to natural occurrences is attributed to God, and the horrific disasters are labeled as “acts of God.” As newscasters on the scene after a tornado, hurricane, or some other natural act of devastation, they readily describe the devastation of debris and lost lives and heartaches as the result of God’s actions. Failing to understand the nature of God’s divine power, they poorly attribute such acts to him.

If God is able, if Christ is Victor, if the Cross is our freedom, then why do horrible things continue to happen to good people? Why are the lives of the saints so filled with persecution and pain? How can a good, wise, and caring God permit such a potpourri of vicious and cruel acts to be perpetrated upon the vulnerable and defenseless?

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Who is able, in the end to control the universe, God or the devil?

Jesus, in dialoguing with some of his detractors, rebuked them for their theological ignorance in posing a strange hypothetical question by asserting the source of their error. They were mistaken in their theological claims because they neither knew the Scriptures nor the power of God. Lacking a knowledge of the Scriptures, they were unable to understand God's purpose and will. Lacking an understanding of the power of God they were stunted both in their imagination and reasonings. God's truth and God's power are the antidote from useless philosophical speculation and uncaredful theological reasoning.

This month in our *The Battle Belongs to the Lord* series we consider God's limitless and infinite power. From the beginning, our God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has called himself El Shaddai, the Almighty. He is the one whose strength cannot be measured and power has no limits. He who is infinitely able has never known fear, defeat, or lack. All things work together according to his will, and none can thwart him or say to him "What are you doing?" Our God, the LORD, is Lord! In the spiritual warfare that creation has engaged in since the Fall in the Garden, the Almighty One has not used his power arbitrarily nor non-purposefully. The triune invisible God does not use his power coercively to make fate and determinism the order of our day. Nor has he ignored his creation, allowing evil, chaos, suffering and death to have the final say. Rather, in the incarnation of his Son, our Lord has wielded his power for the sake of Love, demonstrated through favor by the sacrifice of his Son on a stake of torture and shame. God's power has been manifest, but not in a Greek, passive, Stoic manner, or in a wooden, cruel, manipulative fashion. Instead, the power of God, in all its splendor, is shown most clearly in the blood sacrifice of his Son on the Cross.



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Where do we see the power of God in history? God's power is seen in his resolve to overcome the tragedy of human rebellion and spiritual oppression through his making an eternal covenant to conquer our enemies and bring an end to dread and evil. God's power is felt in his determination not to obliterate a creation that rejected his righteous will, but instead sending his own Son into it to experience the judgment we deserved in his own body on the Tree. God's power is lived out in the lives of his saints, who persevere in the face of persecution and death, facing the fury of that ancient foe whose future end is known.

Frankly, the misunderstanding of God's power in the Cross is precisely why the contemporaries of Jesus misunderstood his purpose and mission. Seeking a Messiah of power and splendor, they stumbled at the idea of Yahweh's suffering Servant, of a Lamb slain, of a Foot-washer, of One who would stand in the face of naked evil and not even open his mouth in protest. What is the meaning of Lent if it is not that Power must be redefined in the wake of the Savior who takes on his own person the guilt and weakness of humankind and the universe. God's omnipotence did not prevent the Cross; rather, God's power was manifested directly in the Cross itself. It is there where the warrior of God is strongest, most protected, fully reconciled. Amazingly, Christ crucified shows that God is not only able and in charge, but that his lovingkindness is welded to his power, all for the sake of our salvation:

1 Cor. 1.22-24 - For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, [23] but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, [24] but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. During this Lenten season, as we reflect on the journey Jesus took to Calvary to win our victory, let us be thankful that our God is a God of power. His greatest act of divine strength was shown in raising his own dear Son from the grave on our behalf, securing



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our victory for the ages to come, and damning all his foes to annihilation forever.

This month let us reckon on the power of God, power to shape history, to bring his Son into the world, to secure our salvation through his death and confirm our victory by his resurrection. Soon, in power and glory the Son will come and crush evil once and for all.

Till that blessed day arrives, we are called to do battle in the name of the Lord until he returns. Let us intercede for the helpless this month, receive God's help in time of need, and find the strength to stand in the evil day. We take great confidence in knowing that, in spite of the way the world looks, our God is still on the throne. All things are still possible by the power of God, for with God nothing shall be impossible. Only in God's strength can we stand and conquer. We know who it is who wins in the end. Let us be strong in him, and in the might of his power (Eph. 6.10). ■

The Season of Lent: The Mighty Power of God

1 Sam. 17.45-47 - Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. [46] This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, [47] and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hand."



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Biblical Principle of the Month

During this Lenten season, we journey with our Rabbi and Lord, Jesus of Nazareth, following his steps to the Cross. Rather than being a sign of defeat, weakness, and tragedy, the Cross is now our sign of victory, deliverance, and yes, power. The power of almighty God is laid out before us in the figure of the slain Lamb, whose humility and death has won for the world its salvation. Now, we seek to be conformed to that mighty source of strength and abundance, the only place where humankind can truly know God's power—the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Come, kneel, and be strengthened again.

1 Cor. 1.18 - For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Rom. 1.16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.



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