

God Almighty
Rev. 4:1-8

Patmos was a rocky, rugged island six miles wide and ten miles long, some forty miles SW of Ephesus in the Aegean. The island was used by Rome as a place of exile. John was exiled there, **“on account of the word of God and testimony of Jesus.” Cf. 1:9.**

The fledgling churches were struggling for their very existence (cf. seven letters). The going was so tough the thing that was needed above all was some source of courage and hope. John was taken up into the heavenly council of God; the heavenly realm where ultimate truth and reality are clearly discerned. He is to go back to God’s people and communicate His secret purposes and the part they are to play in carrying it out.

He is given a glorious vision of the heavenly throne room of God where His glory is uniquely manifest. One that emphasized His covenant love, great *might*, ability and *power* of God.

“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come.” The Power of God is a never failing source of hope and courage for His people.

1. **The Power of God is an essential attribute of God.** We would not know God without the attribute. **Two reasons:**

a. **Without power He would not be known.** His wisdom would’ve eternally been engaged in arranging glorious but unexecuted plans; His goodness would’ve been full of unexpressed benevolence. Without power none of His perfections would’ve ever been expressed.

b. **Without power none would desire to know Him.** The existence of an eternal, immutable, and omnipresent being is an awesome reality; but that alone wouldn’t make us feel a need to know Him. We’d feel no need to cultivate a relationship with Him unless we see a reason to fear His displeasure or hope in His favor. **Illustr. We care little to know powerful people we feel do not affect us.**

2. **Coming to grips with the power of God.** When we think of this power we often use the term ‘*omnipotence*.’ **How are we to understand it?**

a. **Our experience of power.** We are conscious of power, the ability to produce effects. Ours is very limited. We can somewhat control our thoughts, focus our attention, move voluntary muscle. Beyond this our power does not extend. This is the limits of what our wills can *directly* accomplish. Everything else we do implies the use of means. **Illustr. We cannot will a paperclip to move, let alone a house.**

b. **God’s experience of power.** We arrive at omnipotence by stripping away all the limitations that pertain to us. God can do whatever He wills to do. For God means are not necessary.

Hodge, “This simple idea of the omnipotence of God, that He can do without effort, and by a volition whatever He wills, is the highest conceivable idea of power....”

c. **Omnipotence isn’t absolute power.** It isn’t power free from all the constraints of reason and morality.

i. Specifically God cannot **(1)** violate His nature **(2)** that which is irrational or self contradicting.

ii. This is no more a limitation of power that it cannot do the impossible than it would be of wisdom that it cannot be foolish or of holiness that it cannot do evil.

3. **Beholding the power of God. Conspicuous five ways:**

a. **Creation.** Creation is an eloquent testimony to the power of God.
Dick, “To a mind capable of abstract reflection, it must appear that creation, whether the thing created was great or small, a universe or a world... demonstrates the omnipotence of the Maker. The evidence depends not upon the size of the object, but upon its production out of nothing; and to reason, a pile of grass will suffice as well as the solar system.”

Illstr. *“Let there be light...” “Peace be still....”* He can create a universe, turn water into wine or multiply loaves and fish.

Consider two things:

- i. **Man cannot create anything.** We have to be given materials for our work. We can combine things, separate things, rearrange things; but create we cannot!
 - ii. **God creates ex nihilo!** *“For He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood firm.” Ps. 33:9.* With a word God called into existence not only the world but the sun which is a million times larger and stars which dwarf the sun; stars so far that light has yet to even reach us! Not just swarming creatures, but new creatures every day! **Cf. Isa. 40:26.**
- b. **Providence.** Providence, when rightly understood displays the same omnipotence as creation. *“He upholds all things by the word of His power.”* Time sweeps away all the monuments of man but the Sun shines with the same brightness. Who does not admire the power that causes the waves that rise to sink as they approach shore? **Cf. Jb. 38:8, 10-11.** Why does the earth continue to give its supply? **Illstr.** *Cars shimmy at high speeds but not the earth!*
- c. **Moral Governance.** At first blush it isn't as striking, but upon serious consideration it is gloriously impressive. Here there is resistance to be subdued, purposes and passions to be controlled and made subservient to divine councils.
- i. The demons are great in malignity, craft, and power. They would long since have blasted the world into ruin and misery, converted the earth to hell; filled the world with misery and pain.
 - ii. The human heart is the seat of many violent and malevolent passions that with the least favorable opportunity would break forth into murder, treachery, injustice, and oppression. The occasional eruptions remind us of the field of blood we'd be in if not for divine restraint.
- d. **Redemption.** Redemption is often described as a new creation, to signify that in the recovery of men from the guilt and power of sin there is a glorious display of omnipotence.
- i. The power of God was manifest in the conception of Christ, the works He performed, and in His resurrection from the dead.
 - ii. The power of God was manifest by sustaining Christ through His passion. If not for the power of God His physical and mental agony would've overthrown Him. *“But the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.” Isa. 50:7.*
 - iii. The power of God is manifest in the conversion of sinners. Conversion is the alteration of moral habit of the soul. It involves the breaking of old patterns and connections, the establishing of new ones and the complete revolution of the mind and affections. **2Cor. 5:17.**
 - iv. The power of God is manifest in the propagation of the gospel. There is no earthly explanation for its success. **(1)** It proclaims a crucified savior **(2)** ask sinners to give up what they love and love what they hate **(3)** was proclaimed by unlearned men and **(4)** bitterly opposed in all places at all times.

A God possessed of this kind of power should be **(1)** feared (**Cf. Jb. 9:5-10**) **(2)** known (**Cf. Ro. 8:31**) and **(3)** relied upon (**Ps. 146:5-6**).