

**Beginnings – ORIGIN** *(Where did we come from?)*

- **Only Two Choices**
- **Realize the Significance**
- **Is it Faith or Science?**
  - LAB - Lookable, Accessible, Breakable
- **Guess at the Evidence**
- **Inspect the Evidence**
  - Universe = "Decay"
  - Age of the Earth = "Can't Say"
  - Origin of Life by Chance = "No Way"
  - Evolution of Species and Man = "Lacks Genes and Tweens"
- **No Compromise**

DON'T - Death, Orders of Creation, Names in genealogies, Ten Commandments refer to seven-day week

**Intent of Life – LIFE** *(Why are we here?)*

- **Love - GOD and MAN**
- **Increase - GROW**
- **Faithfulness - Time, Talent, Treasure**
- **Eternity – Past, Present, Future**

**Authority – POWER** *(Who's in charge?)* A God Who is:

- **Personal and Loving**
- **Omnipotent**
- **Wise and All-Knowing**
- **Everywhere and Eternal**
- **Righteous and Reliable**

**Standards – RULES** *(What are the rules?)* God's rules are:

- **Revealed supernaturally, not derived by reason**
- **Universal and apply to everyone, everywhere, all the time**
- **Loving**
- **Enforced**
- **Steadfast**

# O - Omnipotent

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*Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him. Psalm 115:3*

Omnipotent means that **God is All-Powerful – He has the ability to do anything He purposes to do.**

It seems very logical that the One Who simply spoke everything into existence and is outside of creation would have total authority and power over that creation. Yet even though it is logical, we can't really grasp the extent of "All Powerful" because we can't measure it or compare it to anything else.

Most people instinctively recognize that God must be all-powerful or He wouldn't be God. If He wanted to do something but couldn't, that would be pitiable. But as a practical matter we sometimes act as if God is limited in His power. If we say that we know God wants to fix a situation or wants to give us something but then He doesn't, we're implying that His power is insufficient. But His power IS sufficient. When we don't receive what we ask for it is solely because He purposed not to give it to us, not because He is unable.

The only "limits" to what God can do are the limits He places on Himself because of His character. For example:

- God cannot sin
- God cannot break His promise
- God will not forsake His people
- God will not ignore any aspect of his character (His compassion does not eliminate His justice, His justice does not eliminate His love)

Most other worldviews that include a god also believe that their god is omnipotent. But for the worldviews that deny a god, this is a key difference. A personal God with all power is THE authority because He has unlimited ability to do what He chooses.

## God's Sovereignty

*For **God is the King of all the earth**; sing to him a psalm of praise. God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.*

Psalms 47:7-8

A related attribute of God is His sovereignty. This refers to His absolute rule over creation, including nations and individuals. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords – **He has both the authority to decide all matters and the power to implement His decisions.** This again is consistent with His character – He has universal authority over everything, everybody, everywhere, always.

Some people object to God's sovereignty because they believe it eliminates man's freedom. In one sense that is true. God's rule is absolute – man's will does not override God's sovereignty.

But I think this objection begs a follow up question – man’s freedom to do *what*? If God is not sovereign, man is:

- “Free” to be randomly attacked, killed, plundered, and otherwise subjected to the “freedom” of other men and nations without God’s control
- “Free” to suffer death, disease, calamity, and suffering knowing that it is totally random and purposeless
- “Free” to continue in rebellion against God and suffer eternal punishment in Hell because God doesn’t “interfere” with souls that are dead in sin.

A sovereign God is in control – nothing happens to us without His permission. A non-sovereign god would be more like a super-hero – he could ride in to rescue us occasionally but he couldn’t rescue everyone at the same time from all danger and calamity.

It’s fairly easy to see God’s sovereignty in creation (unless you believe in Mother Nature or random chance). No rational person believes that man has sovereign control over a tornado, the waves of the ocean, a lightning bolt, or the sun. These obey God alone. But we sometimes fail to realize that it’s even more foolish to believe that a man could thwart the eternally-determined purpose of the Almighty. We need to rejoice in the fact that God is sovereign and that He will accomplish His purpose in our lives. **Our lives are not only under His control, but they are also under His watchful care and loving direction.**