

His Great Power

By John W. Moore

What would people think if someone were to suddenly walk into the middle of a high traffic area in a congested city and begin shouting for drivers to stop and pull over to the side of the road? Probably most might think he was deranged in some way, and would just keep on driving. I doubt you or the average citizen would have much success in getting busy travelers to do much of what you wanted them to do. Even though you might be great in terms of stature and strength, most drivers would probably just ignore your powerless demands. If, on the other hand, someone wearing a police uniform flashes a badge at busy drivers and begins shouting at them to pull over, they would most always comply. Now, what would make the difference between drivers listening to the police officer as opposed to them listening to you? The police officer would have power; that is to say, he or she has authority, and authority conveys the right to rule and govern or to demand action.

In scripture, God is spoken of as having both power and authority, and the two always seem to be interconnected. However, power often implies the *means* to do something while authority often conveys the *right* to do it. In either case, God has both the power (strength) and the right to demand *something* or *someone* to action.

Unquestionably, God's power is infinite and unrivaled. It is clearly seen in things like the wonders of creation and its preservation, and of course in salvation. By his power He created the world (Jer. 10:12). Through the simple utterance of a few words, light appeared, planets were formed, and living things were created. The Psalmist declared the power of God by uttering the following:

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host. He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deeps in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast (Ps. 33:6-9)

While kings command armies, and princes their servants, only God can command the natural world. He both brought it into existence, and can control its wondrous might with but a few words by saying "Peace, be still" (Mark 4:39).

The greatness of God's power can also be seen in salvation. The consequences of sin and the cold realities of the grave have caused many heartaches and tears. Death often robs us of life's joy and often leaves a loved one sad and isolated. This has therefore caused many to go in search of a modern day fountain of youth. Cryonics is a science dedicated to the preservation or freezing of the physical body in hopes that someday men might discover the means to preserve life; at which point their bodies might be reanimated from death. It is a powerful reminder that despite all of our present knowledge and powerful advancement in medicine, humanity still does not, and will never, have the power to bring someone back from the grave.

In Jesus, mankind was allowed to see both the power and the authority of God. Both as the Creator and in taking on flesh, God demonstrated His perfect love as a Creator to both sympathize and empathize with the sufferings of man. He proved Himself righteous, holy, and a God above all gods (Ps. 135:5; Rom. 1:16-17; Heb. 2:5-18). Jesus, as God's Son, demonstrated that God does all things well, and that He has all right to rule and govern as the Creator and as the Savior. He likewise demonstrated His power when He conquered the grave.

While no man has power over death, Jesus the Son of God could not be imprisoned by death (Acts 2:24). By the power of God He was rescued from death, and thereby demonstrated that God could do what no one else could (Eph. 1:19-23). Death once reigned in life, but because Jesus demonstrated His power over death, Christians can now reign over life with the assurance of *eternal* life. The power of God allows us to be free from the powerful and sinister clutches of sin and its evil author, the devil. Because God has both the supreme authority and power over all the earth, we can rest assured of His promises and blessings.