

# GOD IS OMNIPOTENT

Leader pages on pp. 114-117

**THE POINT:**  
GOD HAS THE POWER  
TO DO ANYTHING.

## ISAIAH 44:6-9, 21-28

<sup>6</sup> This is what the LORD, the King of Israel and its Redeemer, the LORD of Armies, says: I am the first and I am the last. There is no God but me.

<sup>7</sup> Who, like me, can announce the future? Let him say so and make a case before me, since I have established an ancient people. Let these gods declare the coming things, and what will take place.

<sup>8</sup> Do not be startled or afraid. Have I not told you and declared it long ago? You are my witnesses! Is there any God but me? There is no other Rock; I do not know any.

<sup>9</sup> All who make idols are nothing, and what they treasure benefits no one. Their witnesses do not see or know anything, so they will be put to shame.

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<sup>21</sup> Remember these things, Jacob, and Israel, for you are my servant; I formed you, you are my servant; Israel, you will never be forgotten by me.

<sup>22</sup> **I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud, and your sins like a mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you.**

<sup>23</sup> Rejoice, heavens, for the LORD has acted; shout, depths of the earth. Break out into singing, mountains, forest, and every tree in it. For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, and glorifies himself through Israel.

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<sup>24</sup> This is what the LORD, your Redeemer who formed you from the womb, says: I am the LORD, who made everything; who stretched out the heavens by myself; who alone spread out the earth;

<sup>25</sup> who destroys the omens of the false prophets and makes fools of diviners; who confounds the wise and makes their knowledge foolishness;

<sup>26</sup> who confirms the message of his servant and fulfills the counsel of his messengers; who says to Jerusalem, "She will be inhabited," and to the cities of Judah, "They will be rebuilt," and I will restore her ruins;

<sup>27</sup> who says to the depths of the sea, "Be dry," and I will dry up your rivers;

<sup>28</sup> who says to Cyrus, "My shepherd, he will fulfill all my pleasure" and says to Jerusalem, "She will be rebuilt," and of the temple, "Its foundation will be laid."

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### MEMORY VERSE

### KEYWORDS

**LORD of Armies (v. 6)**—Can refer to the army of Israel or a heavenly army. God is the mighty Warrior above all armies and hosts of heaven.

**I formed you (v. 21)**—God was worthy of worship by the Israelites because He "formed" them into His people.

**Stretched out the heavens (v. 24)**—God claimed absolute authority in creation. God is not part of creation.

**Cyrus (v. 28)**—Persian king who ascended to the throne in 559 BC. He would release the captives to rebuild the temple and Jerusalem.

# WHAT SHOULD BELIEVERS UNDERSTAND ABOUT THE OMNIPOTENCE OF GOD?

Growing up in Atlanta in the 1970s, I went to many events at the Omni Arena. Atlanta’s basketball team played there. I saw my first concert there. It hosted the Final Four in 1977, the Democratic National Convention in 1988, and the Summer Olympics in 1996. It even had a hotel attached to it, complete with an ice-skating rink, and the world’s only indoor amusement park. The Omni had everything!

Naturally, when I first heard about God’s omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence, I grasped their meaning almost immediately. I already knew omni meant everything, so omniscience had to mean God is all-knowing; omnipresence that He is all-present; and omnipotence that He is all-powerful.

God is all this and more. However, intellectually knowing God can do everything is different from practically trusting God to be actively working in our lives. Put another way, we say God can do everything, but we often act like He doesn’t do anything. But what if we could somehow align what we say we believe with how we live our everyday lives? That would change everything!

## God Alone Is Unique // Isaiah 44:6-9

Before we do anything else, let’s make sure we understand omnipotence. God’s omnipotence means He has unconditional and unlimited power to do that which He wills in accordance with His nature.<sup>8</sup> That phrase “in accordance with His nature” is crucial. God is unable to sin, for example. That would be contrary to His nature. Another caveat some people throw into the definition is that God is able to do “all that is logically possible.” No doubt, at some point in your life you’ve heard the question, “Can God make a rock so big He can’t move it?” But others leave that caveat off. If God can suspend the laws of nature, then He can suspend the so-called “rules” of logic if He wants to.

Those questions are getting deeper into the weeds than we need to go to grasp what the prophet Isaiah is conveying in chapter 44. In this passage, the prophet was establishing God’s uniqueness over every idol and pretend god. What makes God completely different and absolutely sovereign compared to the gods of the nations? Isaiah highlighted several factors:



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- God existed before there was anything else. In Isaiah 44:6, God declares He is “the first and . . . the last,” a statement nearly identical to Jesus’s declaration in Revelation 1:8 that He is “the Alpha and the Omega,” the beginning and the end.
- God is the only God. God declared this twice: first as a statement—“There is no God but me,” (v. 6), then as a rhetorical and somewhat sarcastic question—“Is there any God but me? . . . I do not know any,” (v. 8).
- God alone knows the future. In verse 7, God challenges any other god to “declare the coming things, and what will take place.” Of course, none can. Verse 9 affirms that their “witnesses” (pagan prophets) “do not see or know anything.” In fact, verses 9-20 are one long exposé of how ridiculous it is to bow down to a block of wood.
- God alone established a people for Himself (v. 7). Isaiah was ministering during a turbulent time in Israel’s history. In 722 BC, roughly twenty years into Isaiah’s public ministry, Israel was overrun by the ruthless kingdom of Assyria. Yet even though the nation had been scattered, God’s people would endure, because God had established them.

The point of all this was to give God’s people hope and assurance during an uncertain time. The Assyrians had their gods, but they were “worthless idols.” The Assyrian people may have been cruel, ruthless, and strong, but they had not been established by God the way Israel had. It may have been the dominant world power at the time, but God alone knows the future. Less than a century and a half later, Assyria itself would be overthrown, and Babylon would take its place on the world stage.

When everything in your world feels like it’s falling apart, remember: God is on His throne, and He knows the end from the beginning.

### IN WHAT WAYS DO THESE VERSES GIVE YOU A PICTURE OF GOD’S POWER?

### God Alone Is Our Maker // Isaiah 44:21-23

After His ruthless takedown of false idols in verses 9-20, God spoke tenderly to His people through the prophet. God reminded Jacob (Israel) that He had formed him, and that Jacob was His servant. His words feel like a love letter to His people: “Israel, you will never be forgotten by me” (v. 21). What an amazing truth! The omnipotent, all-knowing God could have chosen to remain aloof and distant from the affairs of man. Instead, God works on behalf of His people. He is intimately involved with their lives. In these



### DIGGING DEEPER THE ACCURACY OF PROPHECY

Our lesson passage, Isaiah 44:24-28, reveals the fact that God announced more than 150 years in advance that a man named Cyrus would release the Jewish exiles. This fact points to God’s omnipotence and sovereignty. The specific mention of Cyrus and the events surrounding it, proves the reliability of God’s word. Those who said God could not free His people would be proved wrong when God’s prophecy was fulfilled. Through the prophets, God said Jerusalem would again be inhabited by His people. It happened exactly the way God said it would. Fulfilled prophecies demonstrate God’s control over all things and His faithfulness to His promises. Bible prophecy is not just about foretelling the future; it’s about understanding God’s plan, character, and relationship with mankind. It is evidence of the Bible’s inerrancy and is worthy of our trust. “Every word of God proves true” (Prov. 30: 5).

**How does the fulfilled prophecy of the Bible motivate you to share your faith in Jesus Christ?**

verses, God gives three imperative exhortations—two to Israel, and one to all creation:

**Remember.** God called on His people to remember their identity in relation to Himself. They were His servants. They were created by Him. Just as God admonished them to remember Him, God also assured them that they would never be forgotten. Best of all, God has “swept away [their] transgressions like a cloud, and [their] sins like a mist” (v. 22). The book of Isaiah begins with one of the most beautiful statements of this truth in all of Scripture: “Come, let’s settle this, says the LORD. ‘Though your sins are scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are crimson red, they will be like wool’” (Isa. 1:18). Even today, when we as God’s people remember this truth, it changes our perspective. Through Christ, our sins have been swept away and washed clean. Never forget that!

### WHAT ROLE DOES REMEMBERING PLAY IN OUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH?

**Return.** The second imperative in this passage was for Israel to return to God. Return from where? While this could refer to their return from Babylonian captivity, most scholars agree that this is not a call to return from a geographic location, but a spiritual condition. It’s about repentance, not relocation! The Lord called them to return because they had been “redeemed” (Isa. 44:22). For the ancient Israelites, redeem was a little word with big implications. Generally, it is meant to buy back, be exchanged for, and brought into safety. Specifically, it meant to do the work a kinsman would do for a member of his family. God has swept away our transgressions and blown away our sins. In light of so great a redemption, our natural response should be to return to Him.

**Rejoice.** The third imperative in this passage is for all creation. God orders the heavens to rejoice, the depths of the earth to shout, the mountains to sing, and every tree in every forest to join in the chorus. Psalm 19:1 tells us that “The heavens declare the glory of God.”

In Psalm 24:7, the gates of Jerusalem “lift up their heads.” According to Isaiah 55:12, trees don’t just sing, they “clap their hands.” And Jesus told the Pharisees in Luke 19:40 that if His disciples kept quiet, “the stones would cry out” in praise to

Him! So, it’s nothing at all for an all-powerful God to order all creation to sing! Why all the racket? Because God has acted on behalf of His children (v. 23a), and He glorifies Himself by redeeming them (v. 23b).



## God Alone is Our Restorer //

### Isaiah 44: 24-28

In these verses, God’s sovereignty over all things is on full display. Verses 24-28 are a glorious restatement of the themes of this chapter:

- God is the first and the last (v. 6), and He was there with you while you were being formed in the womb (v. 24).
- God alone can command creation to give Him praise (v. 23) because God alone “spread out the earth” (v. 24).
- God exposes the foolishness of idol worship (vv. 9-20); therefore, He “makes fools of diviners” (v. 25).
- God has chosen Israel to be His servant (v. 21); therefore, He “confirms the message of his servant” (v. 26).

To grasp what verses 26-28 say about God’s staggering ability to see the end from the beginning, we need to remember some key dates. First, Isaiah’s ministry spanned the roughly sixty years between the end of Uzziah’s reign and the end of Hezekiah’s reign, around 740–680 BC. Second, Jerusalem was conquered by the

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Babylonians, in 586 BC, and the temple was destroyed along with it. Third, King Cyrus of Persia, who defeated the Babylonian empire, issued a decree allowing the Jews to return from Babylonian captivity in 539/538 BC.

God foretold the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the temple one hundred years before they were even destroyed! God called King Cyrus of Persia by name as the one who would “fulfill all my pleasure” (Isa. 44:28).

God is all-powerful. If He can be trusted with the what, the who, and the how of an event a hundred years into Isaiah’s future, never doubt for a moment that He can be trusted to work all things for His purposes in your life. One of the great promises of Scripture is Romans 8:28, which assures us that, “all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” God is all-powerful, and everything that happens in His creation is for two purposes: His glory and our good. This promise is for all those whom the Lord has redeemed. Is it for you?

### WHAT CONFIDENCE CAN BELIEVERS TODAY FIND IN THIS PROMISE MADE TO THE ISRAELITES SO LONG AGO?

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Bible is not only full of history, but it is a part of history. It teaches us what was going on historically and culturally at the time events were recorded. God uses biblical history to reveal Himself, His ways, and His actions so that we may know Him. It is easy to overlook names of places, dates, who was ruling, and who begat who in the Bible because the information may not seem applicable in the present moment. But God has always orchestrated the course of human events with purpose. Throughout Scripture, we witness God at work through the rise and fall of empires, the bondage and freedom of His people, and the fulfillment of prophecies. By studying Biblical history, we gain a deeper understanding of God’s love, power, and sovereignty. What Christians believe about God in history shapes our worldview. Having a biblical worldview is foundational for our faith today.

**Biblical Truth:** “These things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our instruction, on whom the ends of the ages have come” (1 Cor. 10:11).

### Why is understanding Biblical history vital to teaching future generations about Christ?

## LIVE IT

### How will you share God’s uniqueness, power, and restoring love with those around you?

Regardless of how powerful something or someone is, it is not all-powerful. A fire or earthquake or hurricane can be powerful, but they are no match for God’s power. A president or king can wield great power, but it barely makes a ripple in the ocean of history compared to the eternal, omnipotent God. Here are some ways to lean into that reality this week:

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- **Acknowledge it.** Pray the Lord’s prayer at least once each day this week. Focus on the line, “For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever” (Matt. 6:13, KJV).
- **Personalize it.** Second Peter 1:3 promises that “His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness.” Identify areas of your life where you must depend on God’s power.
- **Yield to it.** Although God is all-powerful, we must make the decision to submit to His power in our own lives. Pray and ask God for discernment to discover areas in your life where you need to do this.

# DAILY READINGS

## 1. INCOMPARABLE! // ISAIAH 44:6-7

God stands completely alone in His absolute power—no rival exists, no equal can be found, no competition threatens His throne. He speaks the end from the beginning, declaring what will be and then sovereignly bringing it to pass through His matchless authority. This incomparable God who orchestrates history with perfect precision is the same One who knows your name, orders your steps, and counts your tears. Our circumstances may seem chaotic, but they unfold under the watchful eye of One whose power knows no limits and whose plans never fail.

**Surrender to His incomparable authority and find your place in His perfect design.**

## 2. TRUSTWORTHY! // ISAIAH 44:8

When we truly know God, worry becomes unnecessary—His absolute power, perfect trustworthiness, and unwavering certainty eliminate every reason for concern. He has never failed a promise, never lacked the strength to deliver, and has never wavered in His commitment to those who belong to Him. Understanding this should transform our response to life's challenges—from concern to confidence. As we grow in knowing Him, not merely knowing about Him, we discover that His power working on our behalf renders every concern obsolete.

**True spiritual maturity results from trusting in our all-powerful, perfectly reliable God.**

## 3. REDEEMED! // ISAIAH 44:21-28

The same hands that shaped the galaxies tenderly formed you in your mother's womb, and the heart that beats with infinite love refuses to forget your name. Our all-powerful Creator doesn't wield His might with cold indifference but with passionate care for each soul He has made. His love compels Him to pursue the wandering, His mercy stands ready to forgive the repentant, and His grace works tirelessly to redeem what seems irredeemable.

This truth should shatter our misconceptions about God's character while exposing our need for His transforming touch. We should run toward His power, free from fear, knowing that behind infinite strength beats an infinitely loving heart.

**"... For there is faithful love with the LORD, and with him is redemption in abundance" (Ps. 130:7).**

## 4. NO NEED TO WORRY // MATTHEW 6:25-34

God's faithfulness is not a momentary feeling but an unchanging attribute—He cannot deny Himself or abandon His promises. This doesn't mean He grants every wish, but rather that His faithful love ensures He provides what's truly best for His children. Learning to have faith in His faithfulness requires releasing our grip on our own understanding and timing. When we align our desires with His will, we discover that His provision exceeds our expectations. Growing in this trust transforms anxiety into anticipation, knowing that God never neglects His beloved children.

**The faithful God who clothes the lilies and feeds the sparrows delights in caring for you.**

## 5. IMMUTABLE // HEBREWS 13:8

In a world where everything shifts like sand—God stands as the one constant we can absolutely trust. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. His faithfulness, untouched by the chaos swirling around us. While everything else fluctuates, His character remains rock-solid, His promises unshakable, His love unwavering. This unchanging nature should become our anchor when life's storms rage and uncertainty threatens to overwhelm us. Recognizing God's constancy in contrast to our ever-changing circumstances reveals our deep need for His stability. Drawing near to our faithful, unchanging God transforms us from worrying wanderers into faithful followers

**As we build our lives on His unchanging foundation, we find unshakable peace and purpose.**