

# God Is All Powerful

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God is all powerful  
Jer. 32:27; Mt. 19:26

God is not all powerful  
Jgs. 1:19

With a limited understanding of God's word, it is easy for someone to take a single scripture in isolation to prove that the Bible is unreliable. In fact, it is usually because people lack a good working knowledge of scripture that they open themselves up to deception by those who claim to be authorities on Biblical matters (cf. 2Tim. 2:15).

Judges 1:19 is a case in point because only this verse is used to make a serious accusation about God contradicting Himself. Scripture is clear that at least two witnesses must be provided before any truth can be affirmed (cf. Dt. 17:6; 19:15; 2Cor. 13:1),

So the Lord was with Judah. And they drove out the inhabitants of the mountains, but they could not drive out the inhabitants of the lowland, because they had chariots of iron (Jgs. 1:19; NKJV used throughout unless noted).

Although God performs many miracles, He also provides practical solutions to physical challenges. This is why the nation of Israel was informed that they would not be able to drive out all of the inhabitants of the land at once. Instead, they were instructed to move these nations out methodically and gradually over a period of time so that wild animals did not have a chance to multiply and cause serious problems, including loss of life,

And the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you little by little; you will be unable to destroy them at once, lest the beasts of the field become too numerous for you (Dt. 7:22).

Therefore, instead of Judges 1:19 accusing God of contradicting Himself, it confirms His instructions in Deuteronomy 7:22 regarding how ancient Israel was to overcome their enemies. When the scripture in the book of Judges states that, "the Lord was with Judah," it meant that they were protected from their enemies. This phrase did not imply that Judah would win every battle and vanquish every enemy completely every time they encountered them. In addition to God's instructions in Deuteronomy 7:22, His people were not to enter into any agreements or covenants with their enemies. Unfortunately God's people did not listen to this command, just as people today do not listen to other commands from Almighty God,

Then the Angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: 'I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said, 'I will never break my

covenant with you. And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.' But you have not obeyed my voice. Why have you done this?' (Jgs. 2:1-2).

Due to Israel's disobedience, God ensured that eventually they would learn their lesson through the "school of hard knocks,"

Therefore (because of Israel's disobedience), I (the Angel of the Lord; cf. Jgs. 2:1) also said, 'I will not drive them (Israel's enemies) out before you; but **they shall be thorns in your side**, and their gods shall be a snare to you' (Jgs. 2:3; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

The nations that ancient Israel was commanded to remove committed many atrocities and their sins were so deeply entrenched that their repentance was reserved for a future time,

For this city (Jerusalem) has been to Me a provocation of My anger and My fury from the day that they built it, even to this day; so I will remove it from before My face<sup>32</sup> because of all the evil of the children of Israel and the children of Judah, which they have done to provoke Me to anger – they, their kings, their princes, their priests, their prophets, the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.<sup>33</sup> And they have turned to Me the (their) back, and not the (their) face; though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not listened to receive instruction.<sup>34</sup> But (instead) they set up their abominations in the house which is called by My name, to defile it.<sup>35</sup> And **they built the high places of Baal** which are in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, **to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire to Molech** (pagan deity), which I did not command them, nor did it come into My mind that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin (Jer. 32:31-35; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

It is for this reason that God did not want His people making covenants or agreements with the pagan nations that were around them. They were meant to dispossess these nations and begin teaching them about God's law and commandments. Instead of fulfilling this role, ancient Israel abandoned God's way of life and eventually became assimilated into their neighbors' false systems of worship. Unfortunately, this same rebellion against God's law and commandments continues in the present day descendants of Israel, and indeed the entire world (cf. Rev. 12:9b). Many people today claim to know and worship God. In reality they observe the practices of false religious systems of worship, including this world's Christianity, just as their forefathers did (see study: Pagan Practices).

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor. 11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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