

(T) Welcome to **Discipleship training On The Air**. In this meditation and memorisation series you may learn how to build up the Christian Church. Two teachers will meditate on the meaning of a Bible verse about one characteristic of the God of the Bible. As you listen to this programme, make notes in a notebook or record the programme.

In this eleventh series, the Bible teaches five truths about the God's greatness. The topic of today's meditation and memorisation is: GOD IS ALL-POWERFUL. We will meditate a new Bible passage, memorise a new Bible verse and then review the previously memorised verses together.

(S) **POINT 1. MEDITATION OF THE NEW BIBLE VERSE**

The new Bible verse that we will meditate and memorise is Jeremiah 32:17. Let me read In Jeremiah 32:16-19. Jeremiah prays, "Ah, Sovereign LORD (Lord LORD), you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you. ... O great and powerful God, whose name is the LORD Almighty (LORD of hosts), great are your purposes and mighty are your deeds."

The memorisation verse is: God is all-powerful. Jeremiah 32:17. "Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you". Jeremiah 32:17.

(T) **First. God is all-powerful in heaven and on earth.**

One. What is the meaning of the name "Sovereign LORD" (Adonai JaHWeH)(32:17)?

This name of God refers to him as *the Almighty Creator and Ruler, to whom everything is subject and to whom all people relate as servants*. As Sovereign LORD he made the heavens and the earth by his great power. It describes God as the high and exalted One, the transcendent God, the God who infinitely surpasses every virtue we humans can imagine! No list of wonderful names of the God of the Bible can adequately describe his exalted nature!

(S) **Two. What is the meaning of the name "LORD (JaHWeH)(32:17)?**

In Exodus 3:14-15, God says to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you'. ... 'JaHWeH, the God of your fathers - the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob - has sent me to you.' This is my name for ever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation". The meaning of the name "JaHWeH" is "I am that I am" or "I shall be what I am". It refers to *the unchangeable nature of God in his relationship to his people*. It is therefore the name that expresses the grace of God and the covenant faithfulness of God. According to Galatians 3:8, he will definitely keep the covenant he made with Abraham, to bless all the families of the world through his "seed", Jesus Christ.

(T) **Three. What is the meaning of the name "LORD Almighty" (JaHWeH Tsebaoth)(32:18)?**

This name of God refers to him as the LORD sitting on his throne in heaven and surrounded by a host of angels.

In Isaiah 6:1-8, Isaiah had a vision of the LORD of hosts sitting on his throne and surrounded by angels who worshipped him, glorified him and immediately obeyed his commands.

In Psalm 89:6-17, the Lord sits in the council of his holy angels and they greatly fear him, because he is more awesome than all who surround him. He rules from his throne with the same majesty with which he created the heavens and the earth, the mighty oceans and mountains. He rules with righteousness and justice, with love and faithfulness.

Psalm 68:17 says that the chariots of God are tens of thousands and thousands of thousands, in short, uncountable!

And in Joshua 5:13-14, Joshua saw an angel with a drawn sword, and he was the commander of "the army of the LORD".

Hebrews 1:14 teaches that all angels are ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation. Angels protect the LORD's people and judges the LORD's enemies. Thus, "the LORD of hosts" is *God as King of glory, who is surrounded by uncountable armies of angels, who rules the heaven and the earth in the interest of his people, and who receives glory from all his creatures!*

(S) **Second. God manifests his great power by his miraculous signs and wonders.**

One. What are miraculous signs and wonders? The Bible uses three words for God's miracles: miracles, signs and wonders. As a sign, a miracle points to God. As a wonder, a miracle evokes wonder and inspires awe in people.

Two. When especially did God perform miraculous signs and wonders? Miracles in the Bible occurred especially around the times when God gave new revelation to his people and thus proved that revelation was given by his authority.

Thus when God revealed the law to *Moses*, God performed miracles through Moses, like the ten plagues.

When God revealed his reality to Judah and Israel during a time they turned away from God, God performed miracles through the prophets *Elijah and Elisha*. For example, he protected his servants by surrounding them with chariots of fire.

When God sent his Son, *Jesus Christ*, to the earth, he performed the greatest amount of miracles as well as the greatest miracles. He healed the sick, set the demon-possessed free, restored the handicapped, blind and deaf, raised the dead, fed the hungry crowds and calmed the storm. But the greatest miracles were that God took on the human nature in Jesus Christ, that he was conceived by the Holy Spirit, that he was raised from the dead, that he ascended into heaven, that he has never stopped saving millions of people from sin and eternal judgement, and that he has transformed their lives completely!

Finally, when God established his Church everywhere through the work and writings of *the apostles*, he also performed many miracles through them.

(T) Why is a miracle called a sign?

One. A miracle is called a sign when it points to God, the Doer of the miracle.

A sign is a miracle viewed as a proof of divine authority and majesty. The purpose of the miracle is to lead the attention of the spectator away from the deed itself to the Divine Doer of the miracle.

Two. A miracle is called a sign when it illustrates a spiritual principle.

A sign is a work of power in the physical realm illustrating a principle that is operative in the spiritual realm. The purpose of the miracle is to show that what takes place in the sphere of creation points away from itself to the sphere of redemption. For example, In John chapter 6, the multiplication of the loaves of bread is a sign (6:14) which intends to fix the attention on Jesus Christ as the Bread of Life, who gives eternal life to those who believe.

Three. A miracle is called a sign when its intention is to strengthen faith.

A sign is done, not to create faith, but to strengthen faith. In John 20:30-31 is written, "These signs are written so that you may believe". However, the original Greek does not say "That you may begin to believe", but "That you may continue to believe"! The purpose of the miracles as signs is not to create faith, but to strengthen true, saving faith! Only the Holy Spirit creates faith. The miracles and the teachings connected to these miracles strengthen faith. The purpose of the miraculous signs in the Old Testament were to strengthen the faith of God's people in the God of the Bible, in his covenant promises and in his ability to do whatever he has said.

(S) Third. In the present time God manifests his power in showing love and punishment.

How does God especially manifest his power to us in the present day? In Jeremiah 32:18-19, Jeremiah prays, "You show love to thousands but bring the punishment for the fathers' sins into the laps of their children after them. ... Your eyes are open to all the ways of men; you reward everyone according to his conduct and as his deeds deserve."

One. God manifests his power by showing love to thousands. In John 3:16 we read, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." God's love is viewed as the one single, great and central fact or reality in the Bible. God's love reached back to eternity, was expressed throughout history, and bears fruit in the present in our lives. The love, with which he chose us before the creation of the world, finds its highest possible expression in the incarnation and death of Christ, and is now shown in our salvation when we believe. God manifests his power by showing love to millions and millions of people from every tribe, nation and language that are saved through Jesus Christ.

(T) Two. God manifests his power by punishing the sins of people.

In Galatians 6:7-8 we read, "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature he will reap destruction". God punishes the wicked by letting them suffer the consequences of their own sins. God has built laws into his creation. If these laws are transgressed, they bring punishment with them. If people ignore the law of gravity, then they can have a nasty fall. If people transgress God's spiritual and moral laws in creation, then God allows them to suffer. For example, their hatred leads to broken relationships. Their mismanagement of the earth leads to droughts or floods. Their sexual immorality leads to aids. And in times when people disobey God or when the relationship between people and God is broken, then God withdraws his

care or even punishes the people. God uses all kinds of disasters like earthquakes, floods, and especially droughts and famines throughout history to show his displeasure against sin and to warn people to repent and turn back to him.

**(S) Fourth. God will show his power in resurrection, judgement and renewal of all things.**

How will God manifest his power in the future?

**One. God will manifest his power in the future resurrection from the dead.**

In Philippians 3:21 is written, "The Lord Jesus Christ, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body". By the same power which Jesus Christ saves people and punishes evildoers, will he resurrect the dead bodies of all people who have ever lived on the earth. The graves will be opened, the sea and all other places where the dust of dead people is, will give up the bodies. No scientist in all history has been able to raise the dead. Even when doctors have been able to prolong the life of people, all people finally die. The only One who will resurrect the dead so that they will never die again, is Jesus Christ. God the Father has given this power to God the Son. Thus, at the second coming of Jesus Christ, God will again manifest his power by resurrecting all the dead people!

**(T) Two. God will manifest his power in the Last Judgement of all people.**

In 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 we read, "When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels, he will punish those who do not know God, even those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord." When we look at how many wicked people live today, then we must conclude that life is manifestly unjust! The good suffer, the unselfish are exploited, the meek are terrorised, the poor are deprived. On the other hand, the evil flourish, the selfish make fortunes, the brutal oppress the meek and the rich cause the poor to get poorer. Tyrants die peacefully in their beds while saints are tortured to death. If, as we are assuming, there is a God who is all powerful and good, how can he possibly allow the injustices in the world to continue? If he does nothing about all the injustice in the world, either now or after this life in order to redress such gross injustice, then he is not God. If he does not put down such rampant evil, then he is either not all-powerful and so cannot do it, or he is not good and so does not care! However, the Bible teaches very clearly that God is all-powerful and good. Justice on a cosmic scale will be done. All the people who ever lived on earth will be present at this final future judgement!

The Bible says that death is not the end! After death there will be the final judgement. At the end of human history in this world, Jesus will return to earth and judge all the people that ever lived. God will judge every deed of every person, including every hidden thing he ever thought or did. The non-Christians will be judged for their unbelief and for the shortcomings in their life. The judgement of the unbelievers and the wicked will be a place of everlasting separation from God and everlasting torment! According to Matthew 25:46 the word 'everlasting' must be understood as 'never ending'!

**(S) Three. God will manifest his power in the renewal of all things.**

In Acts 3:21 is written "Jesus Christ must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything." According to 2 Peter 3, after the resurrection and the last judgement, God through Jesus will destroy ungodly people and all evil on earth with fire. He will renew the present earth and heaven through fire. The new heaven and new earth will be the home of only the righteous and everything that is pure. "Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life" (Rev 21:27).

Because God is all-powerful, let us trust him and depend on him in every aspect of our lives! Nothing is too difficult for God to accomplish!

**(T) POINT 2. MEMORISATION OF THE NEW BIBLE VERSE**

The method of memorising a new Bible verse has four steps:

**Step 1. Meditate** and understand the Bible verse before you memorise it.

**Step 2. Write** the Bible verse on a card or in a notebook. Write topic at the top. The topic today is "God is all-powerful". Beneath that, write the Bible reference of the verse. The Bible reference today is Jeremiah 32:17. And beneath that, write the whole verse.

**Step 3. Memorise** the verse in the right way. Always start with the name of the topic, the Bible reference and the first line of the verse. It is a good practice to learn the Bible reference twice, first at the beginning of the verse and then at the end of the verse.

**Step 4. Review** the new Bible verses every day for five weeks. And review the old Bible verses at least once every three weeks.

Let us memorise the Bible verse together. Then let us take turns to say that part of the verse alone without looking at the Bible or notebook.

- (T+S) God is all-powerful. Jeremiah 32:17. “Ah, Sovereign Lord.  
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(T) **POINT 3. REVIEW OF THE LAST BIBLE VERSES YOU HAVE MEMORISED**

Let us review the last 5 Bible verses that we have memorised without looking at our notebooks.  
 Series “The Christian Church”, verse 5 and series “God’s greatness”, verses 1-4.

- (S) The glory in the church. Ephesians 3:20-21. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21.  
 (T) God is incomparable. Isaiah 40:25-26. “To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. Isaiah 40:25-26.  
 (S) God is all-glorious. 1 Chronicles 29:11. “Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom: you are exalted as head over all”. 1 Chronicles 29:11.  
 (T) God is sovereign. Ephesians 1:11-12. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. Ephesians 1:11-12.  
 (S) God is all-knowing. Hebrews 4:13. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4:13.

(T) **POINT 4. ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK**

First. Daily review the last five memorised Bible verses once every day for 5 weeks.

Second. See the workbooks “Go and build Christ’s Church” and Internet on [www.dota.net](http://www.dota.net)

Third. Listen every SATURDAY to WEDNESDAY on the radio to “Discipleship training on the air”.