

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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God's Wisdom and Power

(Jerry Fite)

Having one good outstanding trait is satisfying to most of us. If one noble characteristic stands out in our life, we feel good about ourselves. When a boxer possesses both a powerful jab and a devastating hook, he is a formidable opponent. When a quarterback possesses blinding speed and an accurate arm, he is doubly difficult to defend. When a boy or a girl possesses both good looks and intelligence, they are a great catch. Our great God possesses many outstanding characteristics. But His one-two-combination of wisdom and power is worthy of thought and meditation.

God's wisdom and power paint a great picture upon the canvas of nature, and the sea in particular. What power to rebuke the waters covering the face of the earth and set the bounds from which they may not pass. *“At thy rebuke they failed; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away (the mountains rose, the valleys' sank down) unto the place which thou has founded for them. Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth” (Psalm 104:7-9).*

What wisdom to allow gravity to pull the high mountain streams into the low lying valleys, to make the grass for the cattle to eat. *“He sendeth forth springs into the valleys; they run among the mountains; they give drink to every beast of the field; the wild asses quench their thirst...He watereth the mountains from His chambers: the earth is filled with the fruit of thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man; that he may bring forth food out of the earth (Psalm 104:10-11; 13-14).* God's power and wisdom allows life to exist and continually flourish.

God's power is further heightened when compared to man's wisdom. Would you use the sand on the beach as the barrier to keep the roaring waves in check? Jeremiah writes, *“Fear ye not me? saith Jehovah: will ye not tremble at my presence, who have placed the sand for the bound of the sea, by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it? And though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it” (Jeremiah 5:22).* What power to use unsettling sand as the barrier for the roaring and relentless waves of

the sea. Such power distinguished God from any idolatrous and powerless god, and should move us to answer Jeremiah with a reverent “yes!”

God challenges Job who has challenged God's ways, with the question, *“Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued of the womb...And marked out for it my bound and set bars and doors, and said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further; and here shall thy proud wave be stayed” (Job 38:8, 10-11).* Job, to sit in judgment upon God's ways, must know the power behind keeping the sea in place. God's design, and God's power is behind it. It is as if God is saying, “In your human wisdom and by your own strength, could you accomplish this fact of nature?”

God wants us to view His wisdom and power in his Son, Jesus Christ. *“...but unto them that are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God (I Corinthians 1:24).* The death and resurrection of Christ highlights God's wisdom and power to save man!