

## **The Almighty**

### **By Kent Heaton**

“Listen to this, O Job; stand still and consider the wondrous works of God. Do you know when God dispatches them, and causes the light of His cloud to shine? Do you know how the clouds are balanced, those wondrous works of Him who is perfect in knowledge? Why are your garments hot, when He quiets the earth by the south wind? With Him, have you spread out the skies, strong as a cast metal mirror? Teach us what we should say to Him, for we can prepare nothing because of the darkness. Should He be told that I wish to speak? If a man were to speak, surely he would be swallowed up. Even now men cannot look at the light when it is bright in the skies, when the wind has passed and cleared them. He comes from the north as golden splendor; with God is awesome majesty. As for the Almighty, we cannot find Him; He is excellent in power, in judgment and abundant justice; He does not oppress. Therefore men fear Him; He shows no partiality to any who are wise of heart” (Job 37:14-24).

Elihu sat through the painful discourse of Job and his three friends with respectful honor for the aged. When the four men had finished their debate because Job was righteous in his own eyes, Elihu spoke. He reminded the four men of his age and how he had sat quietly in respect but their conclusion was misguided. Age does not always bring wisdom and how the four men sought to justify the things that came upon Job defied the righteousness of God. Job 32-37 is a powerful testimony of a young man's answer to an age of wisdom missing the mark concerning the true character of the Almighty.

When Elihu finishes speaking the Lord answers Job out of the whirlwind and picks up the mantle of rebuke begun by the young man. Sometimes it is important to listen to the young who have not been soured with the trials of life concluding misery is the lot of all men and the Lord has forgotten them. Job is reminded the power of God is summed up in the name 'Almighty.' When the Lord told Abraham (at the age of 99) he was to be a father within the year He declared Himself to be the Almighty God. Through the ages the Lord is known by this name. No book in scripture uses this name of God more than the book of Job (31 times). Somehow Job and his friends missed the import of what that name meant.

God's rebuke to Job is the definition of 'Almighty.' How can one compare the awesome majesty of the Lord with the wisdom of man? He is not just the mighty He is the Almighty with power so far beyond man there is no comparison. Elihu is reminding Job the ways of God are inscrutable.

It is important for the people of God today to remember how Awesome God is. Like Job we need to be reminded of the character of the Lord is understood by calling Him "Almighty." Language has power and it may help in our lives to use the name Almighty when we speak of the Lord to remind us of how large is His ocean and how small our boat. Pride lifts man up to think of himself more highly than he should. Standing in the presence of one called Almighty helps put a perspective on our dependence upon Him. He holds our breath in His hand. The sun rises and sets at His command. Life is held on the spider web thread of the day when the Lord will speak and His Son will return with His angels. The Almighty rules. There is nothing which God cannot accomplish. (Cicero, De divination, c. 78 B. C.)

### **Blessed are the Merciful**

“Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy” (Matt. 5:7). In Victor Hugo's novel *Les Misérables*, Jean Valjean served a 19-year sentence for stealing a loaf of bread in order to feed his sister's family. Finally, he is set free. A bishop is the only one who will befriend the embittered man. Valjean rewards him by stealing some of his silver. He is caught red-handed by the police. The bishop is called to the police station to prefer charges. Instead of doing that, he

brings Valjean his candlestick holders as well. Valjean is forever changed. He extends grace to an orphan child and raises her as his own. He forgives the policeman who wanted to put him back in jail. Finally he dies, holding in his hand the two candlesticks that the bishop gave him. This embittered man learned to extend mercy because mercy had been extended to him. Let us show mercy because we will receive judgment without mercy if we show no mercy.

### **Shut the Door**

“And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah has not turned to Me with her whole heart, but in pretense, says the LORD” (Jer. 3:10). A man went inside a telephone booth and dialed the number of a friend. When the connection was made, the friend kept saying, "I can't hear you; speak louder." All his friend could hear was the sound of the roar of the traffic in the background. He then said, "Shut the door so I can hear you."

For us to truly hear God's word and be totally committed to Him, we must shut the door to the outside world. Worldly interests and enticements distract us from serving the Lord. Let us set our minds on and seek first the things above so that we can serve God with the whole heart and not in pretense.

### **Modern Arks**

“Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits” (Gen. 6:14-15). A pious shipbuilder in Holland, by the name of Peter Jansen, reasoned that if God had designed the ark, it should be the ideal plan. So he built a ship on the plan of Noah's ark, not as large but of the same proportions. Though it was ridiculed while it was under construction, it was found after launching that it would carry one-third more freight, would sail faster, and was much safer than the old type. And, today, with but little variation modern ships are built on the general plan of Noah's ark. (From Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations)

### **A Moments Wisdom**

- The highest praise for a man is to give him responsibility.
- Judicious praise to children is what the sun is to flowers.
- Praise is like a shadow. It follows one who flees from it, but it flees from one who follows it.
- The trouble with many of us is that we would rather be ruined by praise, than saved by criticism.
- From praise, as from a shadow, a man is made neither bigger or smaller.
- An honest man is hurt by praise unjustly bestowed on him.
- In doing what we ought, we deserve no praise.
- Praise from a fool is censure.
- Be moderate in praising a man when he is present, but give him full credit when he is absent.
- The average man's idea of a good sermon is one that goes over his head, and hits one of his neighbors.
- He who fails to pray, cheats himself, not God.