



THE STRENGTH OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

When unsolvable problems and unbearable burdens persist, it is then that we realize that we don't have the measure of strength we need to bear them. Worldly trends and doctrines teach that positive thinking about oneself as self-sufficient will enable us to endure the assaults in our lives. It is a fact that intellectuals and professionals ultimately cannot solve or cure the problems. So who can? Who is strong enough to handle these pressures? Where can we go to find the physical, emotional, and spiritual strength to face the desperate situations?

The Word of God clearly declares, *For who is God, except the LORD? And who is a Rock, except our God? God is my strength and power, and He makes my way perfect* (II Samuel 22:32, 33).

THEME SCRIPTURE

For You have armed me with strength for the battle; You have subdued under me those who rose against me (II Samuel 22:40).

SECTION I – Definitions

1. How do you define *strength*? _____

Dictionary Definitions

The Random House Dictionary definition of *strength* states: *the quality or state of being strong; bodily or muscular power; mental power; force or vigor; an inherent capacity to manifest energy; to endure and to resist.*

Biblical Definitions

Since God is Almighty, there are numerous Hebrew and Greek words used for His *strength*: power, and might. One of the Biblical Hebrew meanings of God's *strength* in the Old Testament is the word *ma'owz* which means fortress, hold forces, fort, rock.

Another Hebrew word is *'oz* which means strong, power, boldness, loud, mighty.

There are also several Biblical Greek definitions of God's strength. One is the word *dunamis* which involves force, miraculous power, demonstrated by the miracle itself by producing: ability, abundance, meaning, mighty deed, (worker of) miracles, power, violence and mighty (wonderful) work. We get our English word *dynamite* from this word.

Another Greek word is *kratos* which means manifested power and dominion. Also, there is the word *ischus* which is strength in ability.

Because God is Omnipotent, possessing all power, no single word can fully encompass His Infinite Strength.

Scripture Descriptions

2. READ the following Scriptures that declare God's strength. UNDERLINE the word or phrase that describes His strength.

Nehemiah 8:10b *Do not sorrow for the joy of the LORD is your strength.*

Psalms 18:1, 2 *I will love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my Strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, and my stronghold.*

Psalms 27:1 *The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

Psalm 28:7, 8	<i>The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him.</i>
Psalms 37:39	<i>But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; He is their strength in the time of trouble.</i>
Psalms 46:1	<i>God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.</i>
Proverbs 10:29a	<i>The way of the LORD is strength for the upright.</i>
Isaiah 12:2	<i>Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; for YAH, the LORD, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.</i>
Isaiah 25:4	<i>For You have been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat; for the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall.</i>
Isaiah 26:4	<i>Trust in the LORD forever, for in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength.</i>

3. What did you learn about God's strength from these Scriptures? _____

PERSONAL

How has what you have learned impacted your life? _____

SECTION II – Satan Attacks Job’s Property and Children

In the book of Job, we meet a righteous man whom God allowed to experience tremendous suffering. Job could not rely on family or friends for his physical, emotional, and spiritual strength. But instead, God empowered him with the ability to say . . . *shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?*¹ (Job 2:10).

READ Job Chapter 1.

1. What was said about Job (vv. 1-5)? _____

2. Who presented himself before the LORD with the sons of God² (vv. 6, 7)? _____

Where had Satan been? _____

3. The LORD God initiated the conversation with Satan about His servant Job. What tribute did the LORD pay to the character of Job?

4. Satan disputed the LORD saying that Job was untouchable because of God’s divine protection. How did Satan challenge the LORD (vv. 9-11)?

¹ *adversity*: misfortune; wretched or troubled state; calamity, disaster.

² sons of God: this term is used in the Book of Job in reference to angels, good or evil; Satan himself, an angelic being, presented himself to God with these angelic beings; (see Job 38:7).

5. How did God allow Satan to test Job? What limit did He set (v. 12)? _____

6. SUMMARIZE how Satan tested Job (vv. 13-19). _____

7. In light of this satanic onslaught on his life, how did Job respond? Who did he turn to? What did he say (vv. 20, 21)?

8. What was said of Job (v. 22)? _____

Satan Attacks Job's Health

READ Job 2:1-10.

Again, there was a day when the sons of God and Satan presented themselves before the LORD (vv. 1-3).

1. What was Satan's second challenge to the LORD regarding Job (vv. 4-6)? _____

How did the LORD allow Satan to afflict Job? _____

2. How did Satan afflict Job (vv. 7, 8)? _____

3. How did Job's wife tempt him (vv. 9)? _____

4. With what profound statement about God did he answer his foolish wife (v. 10)? _____

What is said of Job? _____

Job Depends on God's Strength

READ Job 12:13-25.

Job's conclusion was that God is sovereign and worthy of worship no matter what He allows in our lives. When Job came to the end of his own strength, he humbled himself and acknowledged the greatness and strength of the Lord. Even though circumstances looked bleak, he trusted God. Suffering or weakness is not always the result of sin; God sovereignly uses suffering to test our hearts and to draw us closer to Him.

In Job 12:13-25, Job tells his friends about God's strength. WRITE Job's declarations.

verse 13 Example: with Him are wisdom and strength _____

counsel and understanding _____

verse 14 _____

verse 15 _____

verse 16 _____

verse 17 _____

verse 18 _____

verse 19 _____

verse 20 _____

verse 21 _____

verse 22 _____

verse 23 _____

verse 24 _____

verse 25 _____

God's strength gives us the ability to endure our trials. Job submitted to God's plan for his life; therefore, God strengthened him in the midst of his afflictions and manifested His power to him. In the end, the Lord blessed Job's latter days more than his beginning (Job 42:10-13).

SECTION III – Scriptural References of God's Strength

What do you learn about God's strength through these verses?

I Chronicles 16:11 _____

Psalm 27:14 _____

Psalm 71:16 _____

Psalm 73:26 _____

Psalm 138:3 _____

Isaiah 40:29 _____

Isaiah 40:31 _____

II Corinthians 12:9 _____

PERSONAL

How has God's strength enabled you to stand firm? What have you learned from His strength?

THEME SCRIPTURE

WRITE the THEME SCRIPTURE.

(II Samuel 22:32, 33).

*Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid:
for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song;
He also is become my salvation.*

Isaiah 12:2

NOTES: _____

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Due to the holy nature of God, the first letter of all references to Him,
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