

3ABN SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL

008 - Monday - February 17, 2025

PAN-TOK-RA-TOR

The word Pantocrator means “Almighty,” or “All-powerful.” In the Greek version of the Old Testament (LXX), **PAN-TOK-RA-TOR** is the translation of “Lord of Hosts” and “God Almighty.” In the book of Revelation, **PAN-TOK-RA-TOR** appears nine times as a title that emphasizes God's sovereignty and power.

Throughout Scripture, God’s amazing power is made manifest. The Bible includes countless narratives of His exercising His power and working miracles. And yet, despite this, many things happen that God does not want to happen. Almighty God’s greatest gift is choice, first given in Eden, despite, the risks that Almighty God understood—it is God’s permissive will.

Genesis 50.20 NKJV “(50.20) But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive.”

Permissive – Sovereign Will – Remedial – Ideal will

God wants everybody in the universe to be satisfied, and so He gives to all the right of perfect freedom of choice as to what they will have. He tells them the relative value of things, and begs of them to choose that which is good; but if any are determined to have that which is evil, He lets them have it. He will have free men in His kingdom, and not a race of slaves and prisoners. Such they would be, if He compelled them to have salvation against their will. He wants subjects whom He can trust in any part of the universe; but if He were to compel any to be saved, He would still have to exercise force to retain them in the kingdom. Christ came to preach deliverance to the captives, and He does not propose to deliver them to bondage. Letter, June 27, 1895, p. 402-present truth June 27, 1895, p. 402.4

What do these passages teach about God’s power?

1. Revelation 11:17 (NKJV) “saying: “We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.”

The 24-Elders express their praise to Jesus because He was victorious: Revelation 11:15-16 (NKJV) “(15) Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” (16) And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God.”

Jesus “took” His great power to reign by prevailing over the power of the enemy.

Revelation 5:9 (NKJV) “And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,”

The Creative Power of God:

2. Jeremiah 32:17-20 (NKJV) “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You. (18) You show lovingkindness to thousands, and repay the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them—the Great, the Mighty God, whose name is the LORD of hosts. (19) You are great in counsel and mighty in work, for your eyes are open to all the ways of the sons of men, to give everyone according to his ways and according to the fruit of his doings. (20) You have set signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, to this day, and in Israel and among other men; and You have made Yourself a name, as it is this day.”

Jeremiah expresses the Sovereignty of God. Sovereignty of God in Christianity can be defined as the right of God to exercise his ruling power over his creation. Sovereignty can include also the way God exercises his ruling power. However, this aspect is subject to divergences notably related to the concept of God's self-imposed limitations.

God is limitless but, exercise limits:

NINEVAH: Jonah 3:10 (NKJV) “Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.”

GOD’S SOVERIGNTY TO ISRAEL: Exodus 32:12 (NKJV) “Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, ‘He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people.”

3. Matthew 19:26 (NKJV) “But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

- Jesus is revealing the limitlessness of Divinity through the frailty of humanity.
- Jesus relied on His Father for earthly miracles and blessings. In the same way we are to rely on our heavenly Father.

Sovereign power is revealed thorough our co-partnership with God:

John 5:30 (NKJV) “I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.”

John 15:5 (NKJV) “I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

4. Hebrews 1:3 (NKJV) “Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

The Almighty power of God is revealed in the act of redemption. Jesus purged a power that was undefeatable until He overcame the power of Satan.

Hebrews 2:14-15 (NKJV) “(14) Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that

through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, (15) and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”

These texts and others teach that God is all-powerful and that He sustains the world by His power. The fact that God is all-powerful is not only affirmed in words, but manifest in the many amazing instances where God uses His power to deliver His people or otherwise miraculously intervenes in the world.

The unity of the Almighty:

2 Corinthians 6:18 (NKJV) “I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty.”

The eternal power of Almighty God:

Revelation 1:8 (NKJV) “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

The Almighty power of God in Battle:

Revelation 16:14 (NKJV) “For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”

The Almighty power of God through His Word:

Revelation 19:15 (NKJV) “Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.”

Hebrews 4:12 NKJV “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

The power of the Almighty in heaven:

Revelation 21:22 (NKJV) “But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.”

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