

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Like None Other

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:

Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?

He's Not Like Anyone Else!

PFI ESV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, ESV

Bible Verse: "O LORD...there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath."

PFI ESV Songs 4, Tracks 6,7

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 7:

The LORD Is Omnipotent

"Omnipotent" means "all" (omni) "powerful" (potens). The LORD is all powerful. There are no limits on God's power to do what He wants to do. God uses His omnipotent power to carry out all His holy will and rule perfectly over all His creation.

In the beginning, God used His omnipotent power to create everything He wanted to create, just the way He wanted it created. By His omnipotent power, He sustains everything He's made so that it keeps on living as He wants it to and to carry out His wonderful plans.

This doesn't mean that we have no control over the things we do. God created all living creatures with a will. They make decisions and carry them out. This is especially true of people, to whom God has given a spirit to know Him and to know what is right and wrong. We are each responsible for our own actions. And yet at the same time, God uses His omnipotent power to work in and through all His creations so that His good plans are perfectly fulfilled.

God is all-powerful, yet there is something He will not and cannot do. He will not use His omnipotent power to do anything that is evil. He always acts according to the perfectly holy way He is.

BIBLE VERSE

How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!

Bible Truth 7 Bible Verse: Psalm 135:5,6, ESV

"For I know the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps."

CASE STORY

Esther 1-9

Our story is called:

The Case of the King's Eye.

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. Who was the King's Eye? What made him so powerful?
2. Who was more powerful than the King's Eye? How did he show that?

This is an Old Testament story. It takes place back in the days of Xerxes, King of Persia, about 500 years before Jesus lived on earth.

Xerxes was one of the most powerful kings the world has ever known. His kingdom included many peoples and stretched from Africa to India. Xerxes expected people to do things his way and do them fast. Servants jumped at his commands. The laws he made could never be broken. People came into his presence only by special approval. To make sure these things happened, Xerxes had a special, very powerful servant he called the King's Eye. This man made sure the king's laws were followed, scheduled all his meetings, and kept watch for and got rid of all of the king's enemies.

Xerxes chose a man named Haman to be the King's Eye. Haman was usually very busy taking care of the king's business. But right now, as our story begins, he was up to some business of his own--and bad business it was.

"Gods of Persia, tell me upon what day I should get rid of my enemy, Mordecai the Jew," he prayed, as he threw lots (little wooden sticks) on the fortune-telling board. The lots first landed on the number thirteen, then on the month of Adar. "Ah ha! The thirteenth of Adar! On that day I will punish Mordecai for refusing to bow down to me. I will kill him and all the other Jews with him," he plotted. "Now all I have to do is fool the king into approving my plan."

Haman managed to trick the king with just one lie: "Great King, I have terrible news for you. There's a people called the Jews who don't live by our customs or obey your laws. You should get rid of them. It will take 333 tons of silver (about six million dollars' worth!) to do the job," Haman said.

"Very well," the king agreed, as simply as that. Do what you think best. When you take care of this problem, come back and we will celebrate this great danger from which

Haman happily agreed. He sent out messengers throughout the land with the new law: "By the command of King Xerxes," it said, "My loyal subjects are ordered to get rid of all the Jews on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar. Take all of their belongings, too. Prepare yourself for that day," the people were told.

Haman was delighted! Soon he would be rid of Mordecai and all his people! He went to celebrate with the king. But the Jews were horrified. They wept and fasted. They put on itchy sackcloth, rubbed ashes on their skin and they prayed and prayed to the one who could rescue them--the LORD. Perhaps Xerxes was a very powerful king and Haman was his very powerful servant, but the LORD was omnipotent--all powerful! He could help them when no one else could.

Like the rest of the Jews, Mordecai wept, fasted and prayed; but he did something else, too. He sent a message to his niece, Queen Esther, Xerxes' new bride. "Esther, there's a new law ordering the death of all our people! It's Haman's doing. You must go to the king and beg mercy for us," he wrote.

Esther read the dreadful news, but didn't know what to do. "Dear Uncle Mordecai," Esther wrote back, "I want to help, but the law says that anyone who goes to the king without being invited will be put to death, unless the king holds out his golden scepter to them. It's been a whole month since the king has asked to see me. How do I know he will spare my life if I go before him now?"

Esther wrote back.

Mordecai knew what Esther said was true. It seemed like a very chancy thing to approach the king uninvited. But Mordecai didn't believe in chance. He believed in the LORD. He knew He was omnipotent--all-powerful. He was in complete control of what happened to Esther. "Esther, don't think you will escape from this law. You will be killed with the rest of the Jews. You will be doing this to save your life as well as everyone else's. But, don't look at the chances. Rely upon the LORD, His plans and His power. It may be that He's made you queen for such a time as this!" he urged her.

Esther agreed. "You're right, Uncle. I'll do it, but gather all the Jews of the city together. Fast and pray to the LORD for three days for me. I and my maidservants will do the same. Then I will go to the king, even though it's against the law. If I die, I die," she wrote him. Esther knew that only by the

overruling power of the omnipotent LORD would she survive this daring plan.

All the Jews fasted and prayed. Then, on Day Three, Esther put on her royal robes, went to the king, and hoped in the LORD. The LORD answered their prayers! The king raised his scepter to Esther and invited her to come near. "What do you want, Queen Esther? Ask for what you want, up to half my kingdom and I'll give it to you," he told her.

"I would like you and Haman to come today to a banquet I've prepared."

The king happily agreed. At the banquet, as he and Haman were enjoying their wine, he asked Esther again, "What else can I give you, Esther, up to half my kingdom?" he asked her.

"Will you and Haman come to another banquet tomorrow night. I will give you my answer then," she replied.

Haman left the banquet in a good mood. How good it felt to be honored by the queen like this! But all that changed when on his way home he passed by Mordecai and Mordecai refused to bow down and honor him.

Telling his troubles to his wife and friends, they came up with a plan. "Built a tall gallows. Make it seventy-five feet high. In the morning, ask the king's permission to hang Mordecai; then in the evening, go enjoy your dinner with the queen and him," they suggested. Haman agreed. All that night, you could hear the bang-banging of hammers as the gallows was being prepared. The evil plans of the powerful King's Eye seemed certain to succeed.

But there was someone far more powerful than the King's Eye at work that night: The LORD. He is omnipotent--all-powerful. He can defeat the plans of even the most powerful plan. And that's what He did that night.

Sleep is a gift from the LORD and it was one gift He withheld from King Xerxes that night, as part of His good plan. Since he couldn't sleep, Xerxes decided to read. "Bring me the Book of Deeds from my reign," he ordered a servant. Xerxes opened the book and what did he read? The story of how Mordecai the Jew once saved his life from two men who planned to kill him.

"I want to honor Mordecai for what he did for me, but how?" the king said. "Call Haman! He'll know what's best," he ordered.

When Haman arrived, the king asked, "What should be done for the man the king delights to honor?"

Haman was sure the king was thinking of honoring

himself so he came up with a really fancy answer. "Give him one of the king's royal robes, put him on the king's horse and have one of the king's most important men lead him around the city, shouting, 'This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!'"

The king loved the idea. "Haman, go right now and do all that for Mordecai the Jew. And I want you to be the man who leads him through the streets of Susa."

Haman obeyed the king, but hated every moment of it. How hard it was to honor the man he most hated! But as terrible as this was, the worst was yet to come for Haman, that night at dinner with the king and queen. As they drank their wine, the king said to the queen: "Esther, give me your request."

"O king, please save the lives of my people and myself from the man who plans to destroy us," she pleaded.

"Who is he? Where is the man who has dared to do such a thing?" the king demanded.

"He's right here, O king. It's Haman," she replied.

Haman believed he had a plan for revenge that would not fail, he thought he could trick the king into thinking Mordecai needed to die, he thought he could do away with the Jews, but he was wrong. Perhaps he was the powerful King's Eye, but he was nothing compared with the LORD, the Omnipotent God. No one is like Him! The LORD had the power to do whatever He pleases...or to stop whatever He pleases. He works in all peoples and happenings, according to His good plan. He takes even the schemes of wicked men and the laws of powerful kings and weaves them into His own good plans, by His wise, omnipotent hand. He, not the King's Eye, would have the final say. Haman, the man who had once been confident in his own power, now stood terrified and powerless before the king and queen. He had planned to destroy Mordecai and his people; but instead, he would be destroyed.

"Guards, take this man away to the gallows to die!" the king ordered. Haman was taken away and hung.

That very day, the LORD turned over all of Haman's plans and worked out His own good plans, And Mordecai was given Haman's position as the King's Eye, and another law was sent out that would protect the Jews from being wiped out on the 13th of Adar.

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is Omnipotent

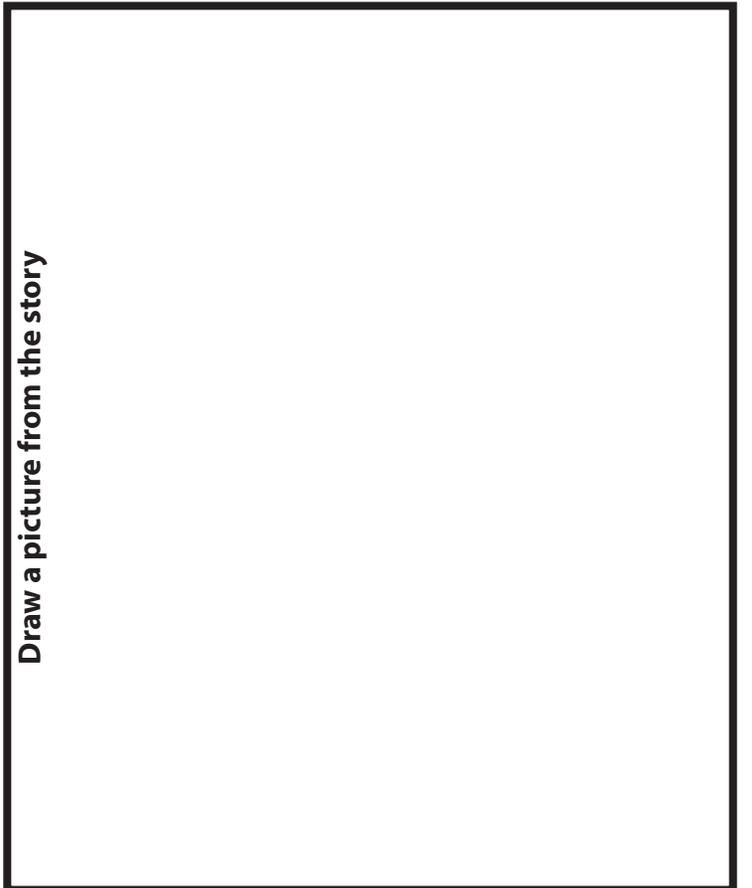
Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 135:5-6

"For I know the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps."

Haman trusted in lots, tricks and the king's laws to destroy the Mordecai and Jews. He didn't understand that his plans could never stand up against the omnipotent LORD, who uses even the schemes of evil men to fulfill His good and wise plan for His people.

But God's people know this is true. Why? Because God has already sent Jesus to save them from the worst thing they will ever have to face: God's just punishment for their sins! That's right! If God has done this, they know that He is surely powerful enough to take care of any other trouble they face.

Let's praise the LORD right now! Let's praise Him for being the Omnipotent God who can do whatever pleases Him, as our Scripture verse say. Let's ask Him to help us to work in our hearts, helping us turn from our sins and trusting in Him as our Savior. Let's ask Him to help us not to worry when we face troubles, but in trust in Him and His omnipotent power to take care of us and work out all things for our good and His glory.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU	BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: Omnipotent means that God is all-knowing. Answer: False. Omnipotent means that God is all-powerful.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions</p> <p>a. Who was the King’s Eye? What made him so powerful? Answer: Haman. The Persian king made him his most powerful servant. He was also powerful because he was deceitful. He used the king’s trust in his to (try to) fulfill his own evil plans.</p> <p>b. Who was more powerful than the King’s Eye? How did he show that? Answer: The LORD. He overruled Haman’s evil plans and worked His own, good plans out of them instead.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Psalm 135:5-6 “For I ___ that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all ___. Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on ___, in the seas and all deeps.” Answers: know, gods, earth.</p>	<p>This Is My Father’s World <i>PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 29</i></p> <p>Verse 3 This is my Father’s world, O let me ne’er forget, That though the wrong Seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet. This is my Father’s world. The battle is not done. Jesus who died shall be satisfied, And earth and heaven be one.</p> <p>Words: Malthie D. Babcock Music: Franklin L. Sheppard</p> <p>This world belongs to God, because in His omnipotence He created it all, just as He desired; and He sustains it and all the creations in it by His omnipotent power. While sin and death are still allowed for now, one day, He will accomplish all He has planned for this world and will bring an end all that is evil. He will win the battle once and for all, at just the perfect time He has planned.</p>

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY	BIBLE VERSE SONG
<p><i>A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication</i></p> <p>A God, we praise You for being Omnipotent--more powerful than any enemy or trouble we will ever face.</p> <p>C God, we confess that many times we think You won’t or can’t take care of us. We choose to worry or fear instead. We need Jesus to save us!</p> <p>T God, we thank You for working out Your wonderful plans, even out of the most terrible things that could happen. You always work out everything for Your people’s good and Your glory.</p> <p>S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to trust You in everything we go through, instead of worrying or being afraid.</p>	<p>I Know that the LORD Is Great <i>PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 30</i></p> <p>I know that the LORD is great, That our Lord’s above all gods. Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, In heaven and on earth, The seas and all deeps. Whate’er the LORD pleases He does. I know that the LORD is great, That our Lord’s above all gods. Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, In heaven and on earth, The seas and all deeps. Whate’er the LORD pleases He does. Psalm One-thirty-five, five and six.</p> <p>Words: Psalm 135:5,6, ESV Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>Omnipotent means all powerful. The LORD is all powerful. He is greater than all gods. He is all powerful over all His creation. That is why in the heavens, the earth, and the seas, He will always do whatever pleases Him.</p>