

Notes for the Ones Called-Out to Meet

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The Only Real Potentate

by Dan Trygg

“God will bring this about in His own time. He is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords, ¹⁶ the only One who has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light; no one has seen or can see Him, to Him be honor and eternal might/dominion. Amen.”

1 Timothy 6:15-16

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For everything was created by Him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or lordships or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and by Him all things hold together.”

Colossians 1:15-17

“...the Lamb will conquer them because He is Lord of lords and King of kings. Those with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”

Revelation 17:14

We are going to do a study on the Kingdom of God. There are many passages in the scriptures that talk about this reality, ...that there *is* a Kingdom of God. Jesus taught the most about this concept, using parables to help us understand more about it. This is necessary, because **the Kingdom of God is very different than the kingdoms of this world.** It follows different principles, and has an entirely different focus and purpose. Because of this, **the kingdoms of this world are in conflict with the Kingdom of God. The central issue is: *Who is the King?*** Earthly kingdoms are centered around *other* persons or powers, ...not God. **The Kingdom of God is the reign and rule of God. Those who are of His Kingdom live to serve and honor Him.** Their hearts and actions are in agreement with His will.

Before we go further in talking about the Kingdom, **let's talk about the King. He is described in 1 Timothy as “the blessed and only Potentate”**, or “the blessed and only Sovereign” in some translations. The Greek word is “*dunastēs*”. It is related to the Greek word for “power, ability to act”, “*dunamis*”. “*Dunastēs*” refers to “supreme power”. **God is the only Supreme Power.** In the world's way of thinking about this, that would mean that He dominates and controls everything, and everybody. But God does not operate that way. He doesn't need to. You see, among the world's kingdoms, there is competition and striving for control and dominion. **God does not need to strive or compete. There is no one like Him. He does not have to *strive* to control, ...He has control, ...as much as He wants.** The world's kingdoms try to gather power for themselves. **God has no need to “gather power”, ...He possesses *all* power to begin with!** In fact, **He is so secure in His supreme power, that He gives it away.** He delegates abilities, strength, authority and power to His creatures, ...and He gives them freedom to utilize it as they choose.

The Source of all the abilities and capacities of all things, ...including spiritual and earthly thrones, lordships, rulers and authorities, **is ultimately God through Christ**, as the Eternal Word (Jn. 1:1-3). This is the message of the passage in Colossians 1. **All things, all creatures both great and small, have been created by Him and for Him.** In fact, all things stand together in Him. Hebrews 1:3 declares that **all things are “upheld” or “carried” by the word of His power. This includes thrones, lordships, rulers and authorities.** They are totally dependent upon Him for their very existence, and whatever power or influence they may have, is derived from the abilities He gave to them, ...which is sustained and supported only by His will and His word. At any moment, He could totally remove them by just a word, if He so chose. **There is absolutely no comparison between God's almighty, absolute power, and the derived abilities of His creatures**, ...no matter how great they may be, or *imagine* that they are. **There is only one Creator. He is the Source and Sustainer of all else.** God is absolutely correct, when He declared in Isaiah: “I am Yahweh, and there is no other; besides Me there is no God” (Isa. 45:5; cf. 44:6,8; 45:6,14,21,22; 46:9). He is unique. None is like Him. He is so far above, beyond, and higher than anything else, that there truly is no comparison. In 1 Corinthians 8:5,6 Paul observes: “For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, yet for us there is but one God, the Father, out from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by means of whom are all things, and we exist through Him.” Whether these other “so-called gods” are demonic usurpers, or spring from the imagination of people, in reality there is only one true God, the Creator and Sustainer of all. **Whatever powers other so-called “deities”, spiritual powers or earthly rulers may claim for themselves is secondary and derived from the one true Power, ...the only Supreme Creative Power, and Ruler of all things.**

Therefore, it follows that He is the King of kings, and the Lord of lords. All their abilities and strength are derived from Him, and dependent upon His will and sustenance of their lives. **He is the Power above all powers.**