

WHAT IS MAN?

INTRODUCTION

This week I had the privilege of filling in for Shirley by doing her Bible School lecture on Believer's Authority. I was blown-away by God's "only-God-can" type of foresight, pre-knowledge and planning to ensure man's dominion and authority in the earth.

The Biblical account of believers' authority reads like a novel and as you look at it, you learn about so much more than authority. It gives a fantastic insight into who God is, the power of His word and ours, who Jesus is, who satan is and who we are in Christ.

Over the past two weeks the Lord has spoken to us about living a transformed life and living in victory over sin. It's very logical to move on to how we can reign in this life in Christ as we walk in the powerful authority and dominion we have in Him.

Today we will look at the following:

- What is authority and dominion?
- Where does authority and dominion come from?
- The sneaky snake who stole man's dominion and authority and the Man from Heaven who won it back.
- What man is meant to do with this restored authority and dominion.

MESSAGE

Psalm 8:3-9 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, WHAT IS MAN that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? For you have made him a little lower than angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honour. You have made him to have dominion over the work of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet... (repeated in Hebrews 2)

WHAT IS AUTHORITY AND DOMINION ?

Authority: "Exousia" - **Strong's:** power to act.

Dominion: Power, domination, control, command, direction, rule, government, jurisdiction.

In terms of Psalm 8 dominion speaks about ALL things being under one's feet!

In Luke 7:1-10 we read of the Roman Centurion who came and asked Jesus to heal his servant. He was a man who understood authority: The centurion was a man dedicated to the Roman Empire and consequently had been promoted

to his rank and was given the right to issue commands and have them obeyed as if he was the Roman Emperor himself.

He recognised the same principle in the life of Jesus. Jesus has been given the right to issue commands and have them obeyed as if He is God the Father Himself.

WHERE DOES ALL AUTHORITY AND DOMINION COME FROM?

God is the creator of everything, heaven and earth – all authority comes from Him – there is no other source of authority.

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject to the GOVERNING AUTHORITIES. FOR THERE IS NO AUTHORITY EXCEPT FROM GOD, AND THE AUTHORITIES THAT EXIST ARE APPOINTED BY GOD.

Even Jesus as He walked as a man, only walked in the authority that came from the Father.

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

- This is the first key...we only have the authority that God gives us, the more we surrender to God and obey Him, the more authority we will have.
- All authority we have must be used to honour our heavenly Father.

MAN WAS CREATED WITH DOMINION AND AUTHORITY

Genesis 1:26 & 28 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; **let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; **fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

- Man was made to rule and have dominion. He was given a sphere of authority by God who is the final authority.
- Nothing or nobody had the right to disobey this man in whom God invested His authority; this man who was to rule at the right hand of God – all things were put under his feet.

LOST DOMINION AND AUTHORITY

The original fall from authority:

Isaiah 14:12-15 How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart. I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne

above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High. But you are brought down to the grave to the depths of the pit. [NIV]

- Lucifer was the anointed cherub, but when he rebelled, he lost all his authority.
- Having lost it, he set about to regain it. Let's see how he did it...

Genesis 2:16-17 And the Lord God commanded the man saying: "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it YOU WILL SURELY DIE.

- Man's right to rule was based in his obedience and submission to God's authority.
- Satan's plan was to undermine and discredit God's authority.

Genesis 3:1 & 4 And [the serpent] said to the woman: "Has God indeed said ...?" And the serpent said to the woman, "YOU WILL NOT SURELY DIE. For God knows that in the day you eat it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

The progression of the deception: He sowed doubt ("did God really say that?") - He contradicted God's word ("you will not surely die") and finally he managed to deceive God's children.

Romans 6:16 Do you not know to whom you PRESENT YOURSELVES AS SLAVES TO OBEY, YOU ARE THAT ONE'S SLAVES WHOM YOU OBEY,

As Adam presented his trust to satan by submitting to his word instead of obeying God's word, he became slave to satan and mankind lost it's God-given dominion and authority...

- Because of man's disobedience to the terms of his delegated rule, man fell and lost his dominion and authority.
- As a result, everything under his delegated realm came under a curse because his relationship with the Creator, his source of delegated authority and dominion had been severed.
- Instead of walking in obedience to God, man submitted to satan's words and became slave to him instead of son of God!

Through man's disobedience, he didn't only lose his authority and dominion, he forfeited it to satan! Satan then became the administrator of the now-cursed realm.

Satan even had the cheek to offer that authority to Jesus! **Luke 4:6** And the devil said to Him: "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been **DELIVERED TO ME**, and I give it to whomever I wish."

Satan had stolen man's dominion and authority... Like all stolen goods, Satan's stolen authority, was always illegitimate and God always had a plan.

THE MAN FROM HEAVEN

Romans 5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Colossians 2:13-15 And you being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having **DISARMED PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS, HE MADE A PUBLIC SPECTACLE OF THEM, TRIUMPHING OVER THEM IN IT.**

What an amazing God we serve...As the first Adam gave up his authority and dominion, so the second Adam, God Himself in the form of man came and restored that authority to man by disarming satan and his principalities and powers on the cross!

Ephesians 1:20b-22 (NKJV)... He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. 22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

Here we see Jesus the Man sitting in heaven and once again a man has power, might and dominion.

Ephesians 2:4-7 (NKJV)... But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

As Jesus rules and reigns with all things under his feat, we are seated with him and all things are under our feet. When we give our hearts to Him and walk in obedience and surrender, Jesus restores the dominion and authority that we lost and once again we reign – we are kings and priests in Him.

Jesus the man regained man's authority through His death on the cross and now He has delegated it back to man!

THE BELIEVER'S RESTORED DOMINION AND AUTHORITY

What should we be doing with this restored dominion and authority?

Matthew 28:18-19 Then Jesus came and spoke to them saying. "ALL AUTHORITY has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.

- We have authority to perform the work of the Great commission:

Luke 10:19 "Behold, I give you the **authority** to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the **power** of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

- We have authority over ALL the power of the enemy.

Matt 16:19 "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

- We have authority to bind and loose!

What takes place when Christians walk in this delegated authority and proclaim the Gospel? Mark 16:15-20 gives the answer:

- They cast out demons.
- They speak with other tongues.
- They are unharmed by deadly things.
- They heal the sick.

CONCLUSION

What is man? We are kings and priests in Christ Jesus!

When we give our lives to Jesus Christ, God gives us the keys of the kingdom of heaven! He restores our authority and dominion. When we speak, things MUST happen the natural and in the spiritual realm!

There is a battle going on to delude Christians to believe we have no authority, no hope, no source of power and that we are weak. The devil still tries to rob us by tempting us and deceiving us to disobey God and to submit to his words instead. Let us choose to reign in Christ Jesus. Let us take back the territory the enemy has taken by walking in obedience and submission to God and His Word. Loose the people that are in chains, cast out forces of darkness and walk in the light of God.

Jesus won back our authority and dominion us at such a high price. Let us use it to heal, cast out demons, speak words of life and carry out our the Great Commission.