

Authority of the Believer



And Ranking in the Kingdom of God

Amanda Buys' Spiritual Covering

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PART I: THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER

SECTION I – THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER:

IS YAHWEH GOING TO BE WORSHIPPED AND ARE THE BELIEVERS GOING TO RULE ON THIS EARTH?

Individually each one of us, but in particular, the Body of Christ will have to choose whether they will or won't.

I am called to be a servant-leader, but which way did my flock go?

We compete with each other to be the one who is at the TOP!!

Current scenarios:

- Leaders of nations – war for control of lands, wealth, riches, people, and political power.
- Businesses war for the control of the market
- Sport teams war to be crowned the champions.
- Marriage is a war over who is “boss”.
- Siblings war for the most attention, toys, clothes, TV.



All over the earth the question is asked – Who will be in control on the earth?

Private scenario:

Who have you chosen to rule YOUR private/personal world??

God puts the capability in every human being to rule, to take up the leadership responsibility to reign in life: the DNA. Every person has the ability to experience the dignity of ruling their own life, in true freedom under God's authority.

We are the offspring of the King – our DNA comes from God!!



Rom 5:17 “17 For if because of one man's trespass (lapse, offense) death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive [God's] overflowing grace (unmerited favor) and the free gift of righteousness [putting them into right standing with Himself] **reign as kings in life through the one Man Jesus Christ** (the Messiah, the Anointed One).”

“Reign” – “Baseluo” means to rule of reign as a king/queen, to reign as royalty.

God doesn’t want you to be ruled by any circumstances, the kingdom of darkness or any demon, we are in partnership with Him.

We are therefore empowered to rule and reign as a king in this life!

The Church talks about reigning, being more than a conqueror, being an overcomer and being triumphant in Christ.

We don’t reign by merely quoting these verses... These expressions are Biblical but to most believers merely just wishful thinking.

Many Christians have an ostrich mentality, they quote these heart-warming phrases, slogans and scriptures declaring a life of overcoming victory, but actually are in religious denial, beat-up by circumstances, walked on by their adversary at every turn. For many Christians being called an overcomer – having the abundant life of Christ – is good enough, but certainly is not a reality for many.

We talk of dominion, we use the phrase: “In the Name of Jesus”, we sing about being overcomers, but reality is more often:

- Our minds controlled by sin, and compromising thoughts.
- Our marriages fail.
- Our children grow up questioning the reality in connection to God.
- Our businesses fail while those who don’t know God prosper.
- We exhibit very little peace or joy, but experience the same stress as unbelievers do.
- We speak of the power of prayer but few see results.
- We speak of a God Who is in control but see an ungodly world system taking control of our schools, government and culture.
- We sing songs about taking our cities for God, but in reality we haven’t taken one yet!!



Something has to change!! God has called me to teach believers that you don’t have to be under the control of demonic powers in our culture, have mixed up emotions, have poor health, etc – you are supposed to be bruising the head of the serpent with your heel!!

Gen. 3:15 “15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her Offspring; He will bruise and tread your head underfoot, and you will lie in wait and bruise His heel.”

God wants you to **reign as a king/queen** over your:

1. **private** world – your body, your mind, thoughts, your destiny.
2. **extended** world – your family, business, home, to keep the thief from killing, destroying and stealing and taking your assets.
3. **universal** world – that is when God uses you to change a city, a region, a nation, those around you that aren't part of your family.



We need to go to a much higher level of releasing the authority of the Lord in the earth.

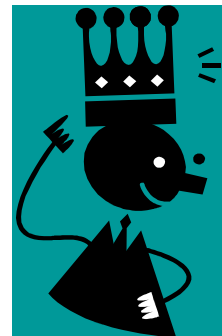
WHAT IS AUTHORITY?

Authority is the **right** to rule/reign. It is NOT **power**, not the **ability** to rule.

Power follow authority.

If you exercise control through power, without legitimate authority, you are usurping, are a rebel and probably a dictator.

You need to have a revelation of the right to reign. You have to know the Word, to understand delegated authority and have faith in what Christ did – only then will you have rights in the spirit realm.



When God assigns you to do a specific outreach/prayer action, etc, He gives you the authority as well. If you operate in the flesh, you are wasting time and could get hurt.

We all have authority when we go before the Father, praying in Jesus Name. We do not have the same level of delegated authority when it comes to the universal world around us.

We do not all have the same sphere of authority in the earth¹. Each of us is called to a unique part of the Body of Messiah, as Paul says: some are hands and other are feet – the authority will be in relation to the calling / anointing.

¹ See more detail in **Authority and Ranking in the Kingdom of God** available from Kanaan Ministries.

Power has never been the issue in the war between the kingdom of darkness and the Kingdom of God, the issue is one of **in whose authority** do you stand.

Jesus did not come to deal with the power of satan at the cross. The Word says that Jesus came to deliver us from the **authority** of satan.

Authority is the issue that must be decided:

Heb 2:14 *"14 Since, therefore, [these His] children share in flesh and blood [in the physical nature of human beings], He [Himself] in a similar manner partook of the same [nature], that by [going through] death He might **destroy, bring to nought and make of no effect** him who had the power of death²—that is, the devil—"*

"Destroy" – katargetho" to spoil in the sense of making useless or voiding a contract; void or undo a legal hold that one has on someone else; make without affect.

1 John 3:8 *"8 [But] he who commits sin [who practices evildoing] is of the devil [takes his character from the evil one], for the devil has sinned (violated the divine law) from the beginning. The reason the Son of God was*

*made manifest (visible) **was to undo (destroy, loosen, and dissolve) the works the devil [has done]."***

"Destroy" – "Leo" – legal term, means destroy in a literal sense; to dissolve a contract or something that legally binds; to declare that someone is no longer bound.

Matthew 16 speaks of "binding and loosing" – this is the same word for "loose" – God is saying: "I am going to give you the keys of the

Kingdom of Heaven. I am going to give you authority to dissolve or LOOSE or void or undo the legal hold that satan has over someone."

Jesus came to break the legal hold that satan had over humanity. This is the fulfillment of:

Gen 3:15 *"15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her Offspring; He will **bruise and tread your head underfoot**, and you will lie in wait and bruise His heel."*

² Used here in the sense of authority over death.



“Head” – this is not a literal head – it is the word “rosh” in Hebrew meaning Headship.

Adam was the head – satan took that dominion through the sin of Adam and Eve – but God promises He will break satan’s headship over the human race.



1 John 3:8 *“8 [But] he who commits sin [who practices evil-doing] is of the devil [takes his character from the evil one], for the devil has sinned (violated the divine law) from the beginning. The reason the Son of God was made manifest (visible) **was to undo** (destroy, loosen, and dissolve) **the works the devil** [has done].”*

Col 1:13 *“13 [The Father] has delivered and drawn us to Himself out of the **power**, control and the dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,”*

“Power” – exousia (1849): (in the sense of ability); privilege, i.e. (subjectively) force, capacity, competency, freedom, or (objectively) mastery (concretely, magistrate, superhuman, potentate, token of control), **delegated influence:--authority**, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength.



He has delivered us from the **authority of darkness**.

There is coming a day and hour that Jesus will deal with satan’s power.

Satan is **like** a roaring lion, he still has all his teeth.

If his teeth had been pulled you would not need an armour!! That is why Paul tells us to put on the full armour – for protection against the teeth of the lion. Trying to go to war against him without your armour is madness!!

- He has fiery darts.
- He has diseases.
- He has the ability to deceive and control.
- He has the inherent power and ability to misrepresent his position.

BUT:

- He does not have the **legal right** to do this to those who make Jesus Lord of their life.



Rev 20:10 “10 Then the devil who had led them astray [deceiving and seducing them] was hurled into the fiery lake of burning brimstone, where the beast and false prophet were; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever (through the ages of the ages).”

Col 1:13 “13 [The Father] has delivered and drawn us to Himself out of the control and the dominion of darkness and has **transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,**”

Luke 10:17-20 “17 The seventy returned with joy, saying, Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name!
18 And He said to them, I saw Satan falling like a lightning [flash] from heaven.
19 Behold! I have **given you authority** and power to trample upon serpents and scorpions, and [physical and mental strength and ability] over **all the power that the enemy [possesses]; and nothing shall in any way harm you.**
20 Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are enrolled in heaven.”

I give you power (AUTHORITY) to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power (DUNAMIS) of the enemy.

Jesus gives us the right to rule. You have the right to stop satan – he only does what we allow him to do to us.

IGNORANCE WILL KILL YOU!!

In Genesis Adam gave his authority away to satan – Jesus took it back on Calvary. Unless you know what you’ve lost, you can’t get it back. Only then will you walk in your full authority.

Satan knows who has the revelation of the authority which we have been given.

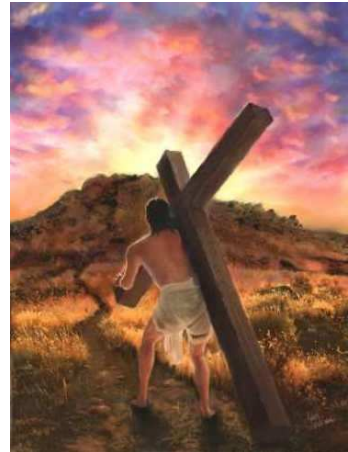
One person prays in the Name of Jesus and casts out demons. Another person prays and the demons beat him up!!

The Name of Jesus has not stopped functioning. It is not a FORMULA!!

We have AUTHORITY over the enemy!!

We are not trying to match satan’s **power**, therefore it is wrong to say: “I have power over you, in Jesus Name! You have to come out!!”

We stand on our **delegated authority!** The word AUTHORITY comes from the word AUTHOR. The Author is the one who gives me authority. Unless I understand what the AUTHOR did from the beginning, I can’t move in AUTHORITY.



SECTION II – AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER:

MAN'S AUTHORITY COME FROM GOD.

God's throne is established upon authority:

- God's works issue from God's throne
- God's throne is established upon authority
- All things have been created by the authority of God
- All laws on earth are held together through authority.

The Bible says that God upholds all things by the word, which is His authority

Heb 1:3b *"...upholding and maintaining and guiding and propelling the universe by His mighty word of power."*

It does not say that God upholds all things by His power.

- God's authority represents God Himself.
- God's power represents His works

Matt. 6:13 *"13 And lead (bring) us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."*

In the whole universe God is the only authority, all other authorities is delegated by God. Nothing is greater than authority in the universe; nothing can surpass it.

For this reason if we want to serve God, we must know God's authority.

Satan because who he is he rebelled against God's authority. He wanted to be God.

Satan violated God's authority, and God's holiness.

- Violating God's authority is a matter of rebellion; is an act of principle, it is not easy to be forgiven of rebellion.

Is. 14:12-14 *"12 How have you fallen from heaven, O light-bringer and daystar, son of the morning! How you have been cut down to the ground, you who weakened and laid low the nations [O blasphemous, satanic king of Babylon!]
13 And you said in your heart, I will ascend to heaven; I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit upon the mount of assembly in the uttermost north.
14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."*

- Violating God's holiness is a matter of sin; sin is a matter of conduct; it is easy to be forgiven of sin.

Ezek. 28:12-13, 15-16 *"12 Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, Thus says the Lord God: You are the full measure and pattern of exactness [giving the finishing touch to all that constitutes completeness], full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.
13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, the carnelian, topaz, jasper, chrysolite, beryl, onyx, sapphire, carbuncle, and emerald; and your settings and your sockets and engravings were wrought in gold. On the day that you were created they were prepared.
15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until iniquity and guilt were found in you.
16 Through the abundance of your commerce you were filled with lawlessness and violence, and you sinned; therefore I cast you out as a profane thing from the mountain of God and the guardian cherub drove you out from the midst of the stones of fire."*

The principle of satan is self-exaltation. Satan's rebellion against God's authority, subsequently gave rise to sin.

If we serve God we must never violate His authority.

We should never preach the word of God under the principle of self-exaltation. It is possible that we can be in rebellion on satan's side, while we preach the doctrine on Messiah's side. While, we may think that We are doing the Lord's work, the reality is, we are misleading the flock of sheep.

Satan is not afraid of us preaching the words of Christ. He is only afraid of us submitting to the authority of Christ .

Our service to God can never be according to the principles of satan. Only when we wash ourselves spotlessly clean from the principle of satan can we hope to serve God.

There is the phrase in the Lord's prayer, "And do not bring us into temptation."

Matthew 6:9-13 *"9 Pray, therefore, like this: Our Father Who is in heaven, hallowed (kept holy) be Your name.
10 Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
11 Give us this day our daily bread.
12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven (left, remitted, and let go of the debts, and have given up resentment against) our debtors.
13 **And lead (bring) us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.**
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."*

Temptation speaks of satan's work. There is also the phrase, "But deliver us from the evil one." This refers to satan himself. Following this, the Lord said, "for Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen." This is the most important declaration. The kingdom is God's and so the authority and the glory. Everything is God's! What sets us completely free from satan is seeing this most precious thing-the kingdom is God's. The administration of the whole universe is under God. For this reason we have to learn to submit to God's authority. No one can steal God's glory. Satan showed the Lord all the kingdoms of the earth, but the Lord said that all the kingdoms of the heavens are God's. We need to see to whom authority ultimately belongs.

When we preach the gospel we are bringing people under the authority of God. If we are to establish God's authority on earth, how can we possibly not meet that authority ourselves?

The greatest act of obedience is to be in submission to God's will.

The greatest demand God has on man is not bearing the cross, offerings, consecration, or self-sacrifice. God's greatest demand on man is submission. God commanded Saul to smite the Amalekites and utterly destroy all that they had (1 Sam. 15:1-3). But after Saul overcame the Amalekites, he spared Agag the kin of Amalek. He also took the best sheep, the best oxen, refused to destroy them, offered to sacrifice them to God (vv. 7-9, 14-15). When Samuel addressed him on the issue he said to him, *"To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed, than the fat of rams"* (v. 22).

The sacrifice spoken here is of the burnt offering; not sin. Samuel said only in heeding and obeying is there an absolute honoring of God and an exaltation of His will.

Rom. 13:1-3 *"1 LET EVERY person be loyally subject to the governing (civil) authorities. For there is no authority except from God [by His permission, His sanction], and those that exist do so by God's appointment.
2 Therefore he who resists and sets himself up against the authorities resists what God has appointed and arranged [in divine order]. And those who resist will bring down judgment upon themselves [receiving the penalty due them].
3 For civil authorities are not a terror to [people of] good conduct, but to [those of] bad behavior. Would you have no dread of him who is in authority? Then do what is right and you will receive his approval and commendation."*

Obedience is the other end of authority and is the highest expression of response to God's will.

In order to be obedient one must keep self out of the picture.



The only possibility of true obedience is by living in the spirit.

HEADSHIP

1. Adam was appointed as the **Head** of the Earth

Rosh (7218 ראש): It is a word used to describe:

- HEADSHIP/chief/leader/prince/captain/head of a family/tribe.
- The first in rank or authority.

2. Adam was the Head at Creation

3. We are all, the human race, designated by God, to walk in authority on the earth.

ADAM means HUMAN-BEING / humankind in a collective sense.

God made MAN and called him ADAM. He made the human race and named the first one: HUMAN.

ADAM WAS FULLY REPRESENTATIVE OF what God intended for MAN and what He intended for ALL Men.

His DOMINION MANDATE to Adam was intended for all mankind.

All humans were to be first in rank over all the rest of creation.

Gen. 1:26-28 *"26 God said, Let Us [Father, Son, and Holy Spirit] make mankind in Our image, after Our likeness, and let them have **complete authority** over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the [tame] beasts, and over all of the earth, and over everything that creeps upon the earth.
27 So God created man in His own image, in the image and likeness of God He created him; male and female He created them.
28 And God blessed them and said to them, Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it [using all its vast resources in the service of God and man]; and have **dominion over** the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and over every living creature that moves upon the earth."*

"Man" – ADAM – and let THEM RULE.

Let's make humankind and let THEM RULE.

God created ADAM, male and female, He created them.

Ps. 115:16 *"16 The heavens are the Lord's heavens, but the earth has He given to the children of men."*

The Heavens are the DOMAIN of JAHWEH but He has given the domain of the earth to the sons of man – ADAM.

Only God has the authority in the Heavens, the stars, galaxies, etc.



Authority on the earth is “given” to Adam, humankind. “Given” does not mean that ownership is given away – God gave authority to govern or rule, i.e. delegated authority.

“Nathan” – to give in the sense of giving an assignment, or giving a charge to someone, put under the charge of someone.

1. Adam’s Headship

Gen 2:15 “15 And the Lord God took the man and **put him** in the Garden of Eden to tend and guard and **keep** it.”

“Keep” the earth – “shamar (8104 שָׁמַר)” – watchman – primary meaning is to protect, to guard.

Shamar (1036b)

a primitive root; properly, to hedge about (as with thorns), i.e. guard; **generally, to protect**, attend to, etc.:--beward, be circumspect, take heed (to self), keep(-er, self), mark, look narrowly, observe, preserve, regard, reserve, save (self), sure, (that lay) wait (for), **watchman**.



What did Adam have to protect Eden from? Did God warn them about the serpent? They were not surprised when the serpent started talking to them!

“Rule the earth”: “Radah (7287a רָדָה)” – means to tread on, to reign, to rule, to have dominion.

radah (921d); a prim. root; *to have **dominion, rule, dominate***:— dominated(1), had dominion(1), have dominion(1), prevailed(1), rule(12), ruled(4), ruling(1), subdued(1), subdues(1).

Ps 8:3-6 “3 When I view and consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained and established,
4 What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of [earthborn] man that You care for him?
5 Yet You have made him but a **little lower than God** [or heavenly beings], and You have **crowned him with glory and honor**.
6 You made him to have **dominion** over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet.”

“dominion” – “mashal (4910)” – to govern, to manage. Conveys the concept of delegation.

“Adam/humankind, you are in charge of the earth and you must manage it.”

“He crowned man with **glory**”: kabowd (3519) - rarely kabod kaw-bode'; from 3513; properly, **weight**, but only figuratively in a good sense, splendor or copiousness:--glorious(-ly), glory, honour(-able).

From the root word heavy/weighty.
Man is “carrying a lot of weight” – he has a lot of authority.

Adam was God’s government in the earth.



2. Satan’s Headship

a) Satan is called the head.

Gen. 3:15 “15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her Offspring; He will bruise and **tread your head** underfoot, and you will lie in wait and bruise His heel.”

God was saying: “I know you are the head now. What I delegated to Adam, he delegated to you. He was the “rosh” but now you are the “rosh”. BUT I am making a promise right now. I am going to send Someone that is going to crush your headship.



Ps 110:6 “6 He will execute judgment [in overwhelming punishment] upon the nations; He will fill the valleys with the dead bodies, **He will crush the [chief] heads** over lands many and far extended.”

He is going to come and shatter the “rosh³” over the “erets⁴” (earth).

John 12:31 “31 Now the judgment (crisis) of this world is coming on [sentence is now being passed on this world]. Now the ruler (evil genius, prince) of this world shall be cast out (expelled).”

³ 7218 ro'sh roshe

from an unused root apparently meaning to shake; the head (as most easily shaken), whether literal or figurative (in many applications, of place, time, rank, etc.):--band, beginning, captain, chapter, chief(-est place, man, things), company, end, X every (man), excellent, first, forefront, ((be-))head, height, (on) high(-est part, (priest)), X lead, X poor, principal, ruler, sum, top.

⁴ 776 'erets eh'-rets

from an unused root probably meaning to be firm; the earth (at large, or partitively a land):--X common, country, earth, field, ground, land, X natins, way, + wilderness, world.

He will establish Himself as “Rosh” over the earth.

John 14:30 “30 I will not talk with you much more, for the prince (evil genius, ruler) of the world is coming. And **he has no claim on Me**. [He has nothing in common with Me; **there is nothing in Me that belongs to him**, and he has no power over Me.]”

John 16:11 “11 About judgment, because the ruler (evil genius, prince) of this world [Satan] is **judged** and condemned and sentence **already is passed** upon him.”

In all three of the above scriptures, Jesus calls satan ruler of this world.

“Ruler” – “archon (758)” – arch enemy number 1!! Archon (758) present participle of 757; a **first (in rank or power)**:--chief (ruler), magistrate, prince, ruler.

This word means: first in rank/power.

Eph 6:12 “12 For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the despotisms, against the principalities, powers, against [the master spirits who are] the **world rulers of this present darkness**, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere.”



“**Principalities**” – archon – world ruling spirit. Prince, chief, magistrate, govern.

746 arche ar-khay'

from 756; (properly abstract) a commencement, or (concretely) **chief** (in various applications of order, time, place, or rank):--beginning, corner, (at the, the) first (estate), **magistrate**, power, principality, principle, rule.

3. The temptation of Christ:

Matt. 4 “1 **THEN JESUS** was led (**guided**) by the [**Holy**] **Spirit** into the wilderness (desert) **to be tempted** (tested and tried) by the devil.
2 And He went without food for forty days and forty nights, and later He was hungry.
3 And the **tempter came** and said to Him, **If You are God’s Son**, command these stones to be made [loaves of] bread.
4 But He replied, **It has been written**, Man shall not live and be upheld and sustained by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.
5 Then the devil took Him **into the holy city** and **placed Him on a turret** (pinnacle, gable) of the temple sanctuary.
6 And he said to Him, **If You are the Son of God**, throw Yourself down; for it is written, He will give His angels charge over you, and they will bear you up on their hands, lest you strike your foot against a stone.
7 Jesus said to him, **On the other hand**, it is written also, You shall not tempt, test thoroughly, or try exceedingly the Lord your God.
8 Again, the devil took Him up on a **very high mountain** and showed Him all the **kingdoms** of the world and the glory (the splendor, magnificence, preeminence, and excellence) of them.
9 And he said to Him, These things, all taken together, I will give You, if You will prostrate Yourself before me and do homage and worship me.
10 Then Jesus said to him, Begone, Satan! For it has been written, **You shall worship the Lord your God**, and Him alone shall you serve.
11 Then the **devil departed from Him**, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him...”

Luke 4:5-6 “5 **Then the devil took Him up to a high mountain** and showed Him all the kingdoms of the habitable world in a moment of time [in the twinkling of an eye].
6 And he said to Him, To You I will give all this power and **authority** and their **glory** (all their magnificence, excellence, preeminence, dignity, and grace), for it has been turned over to me, and I give it to whomever I will.”

Satan led Jesus up onto a high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world. V6 “for it has been handed over unto me...” Jesus did not challenge that because He knew it was true.

“and I give it to ever I wish...” That is how evil people get into power and deceive the masses.

“**Kingdoms**” – 932 basileia bas-il-i'-ah

from 935; properly, royalty, i.e. (abstractly) rule, or (concretely) a realm (literally or figuratively):--kingdom, + reign.

He said to Jesus: "I will give You this authority, it's glory if You will fall down and worship me".

b) How did this happen?

Gen 3:6 "6 And when the woman **saw** that the tree was good (suitable, pleasant) for food and that it was delightful to look at, and a **tree to be desired** in order to make one wise, she **took of its fruit** and ate; and she gave some also to her husband, and he ate."



"desirable" – "chamad (2530)" – to long for, becomes the primary root word for covet.

Ex 20:17 "17 You shall **not covet** your neighbor's house, your neighbor's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

Forms of Coveting:

- Coveting the gold that is used on idols:

Deut 7:25 "25 The graven images of their gods you shall burn with fire. You shall not **desire** the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, lest you be ensnared by it, for it is an abomination to the Lord your God."

Achan's sin began with coveting: "chamad":

Josh 7:21 "21 When I saw among the spoils an attractive mantle from Shinar and two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels, I **coveted** them and took them. Behold, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath."

- Coveting the intimacy of a prostitute:

Prov 6:25 "25 **Lust** not after her beauty in your heart, neither let her capture you with her eyelids."

- Coveting property:

Micah 2:2 "2 They **covet** fields and seize them, and houses and take them away; they oppress and crush a man and his house, a man and his inheritance."

Conclusion: COVETING / "CHAMAD" IS **UNGOVERNED DESIRES**.

There is nothing inherently wrong with your sexual appetite – it is a gift from God – it's to procreate – it's for a husband and wife.

These desires that God put into our flesh and soul are normal BUT you can be a GLUTTON!!

There is nothing wrong with thirst but you can become a drunk!!



Desire in itself is not bad – it's when you begin to desire the thing of the flesh more than the government of God. *"I want my own knowledge of good and evil. I want my own wisdom. I don't want You to govern me any more. I want to be my own god!"*

Adam did not realize that he when he handed his delegated authority to satan that he was going to come out from under God's Government and submitted to the rulership of satan.

Rom 6:16 *"16 Do you not know that if you **continually surrender yourselves to anyone to do his will**, you are the slaves of him whom you obey, whether that be to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience which leads to righteousness (right doing and right standing with God)?"*

You are the slaves of the one that you obey.

The people who want God to be out of our schools, governments, etc, are in agreement with the ungodly people in **Ps 2**.

Ps 2:1-3 *"1 WHY DO the nations **assemble with commotion** [uproar and confusion of voices], and why do the people **imagine** (meditate upon and devise) **an empty scheme**?
2 The kings of the earth take their places; the **rulers take counsel together against the Lord** and His Anointed One (the Messiah, the Christ). They say,
3 Let us break Their bands [of restraint] asunder and cast Their cords [of control] from us."*

The Word says that God just laughs at them.

He has already decreed that His Son will reign over ALL!!

Ps 2:4-12 *"4 He Who sits in the heavens **laughs**; the Lord has them in derision [and in supreme contempt He mocks them].
5 He speaks to them in His deep anger and troubles (terrifies and confounds) them in His displeasure and fury, saying,*

6 Yet have I anointed (installed and placed) My King [firmly] on My holy hill of Zion.

7 I will **declare the decree of the Lord**: He said to Me, **You are My Son**; this day [I declare] I have begotten You.

8 Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations as Your inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth as Your possession.

9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them in pieces like potters' ware.

10 Now therefore, O you kings, act wisely; be instructed and warned, O you rulers of the earth.

11 Serve the Lord with reverent awe and worshipful fear; rejoice and be in high spirits with trembling [lest you displease Him].

12 Kiss the Son [pay homage to Him in purity], lest He be angry and you perish in the way, for soon shall His wrath be kindled. O blessed (happy, fortunate, and to be envied) are all those who seek refuge and put their trust in Him!"

4. Christ THE HEAD!!

a) This was prophesied in the Old Testament.

Ps 118:22 "22 The stone which the builders rejected has become the **chief cornerstone**."

Chief Corner Stone – "Roch" The first Ranking

Ps 110:7 "7 He will drink of the brook by the way; therefore will He lift up His head [triumphantly]."

Zech. 4:7 "7 For who are you, O great mountain [of human obstacles]? Before Zerubbabel [who with Joshua had led the return of the exiles from Babylon and was undertaking the rebuilding of the temple, before him] you shall become a plain [a mere molehill]! And he shall bring forth the finishing gable stone [of the new temple] with loud shoutings of the people, crying, Grace, grace to it!"

Gen 3:15 "15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her Offspring; He will bruise and tread your head underfoot, and you will lie in wait and bruise His heel."



b) Yeshua as Head was fulfilled in the New Testament:

Eph 1:22 “22 And He has **put all things under His feet** and has appointed Him the universal and supreme Head of the church [a headship exercised throughout the church],”

Eph 4:15 “15 Rather, let our lives lovingly express truth [in all things, speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly]. Enfolded in love, let us grow up in every way and in all things into Him **Who is the Head**, [even] Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).”



Eph 5:23 “23 For the husband is head of the wife as **Christ is the Head** of the church, Himself the Savior of [His] body.”

Col 2:10 “10 And you are in Him, made full and having come to fullness of life [in Christ you too are filled with the Godhead—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—and reach full spiritual stature]. And He is **the Head of all rule and authority** [of every angelic principality and power].”

Col 2:19 “19 And not holding **fast to the Head**, from Whom the entire body, supplied and knit together by means of its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.”

Matt 28:16-18 “16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed and made appointment with them.
17 And when they saw Him, they fell down and worshiped Him; but some doubted.
18 Jesus approached and, breaking the silence, said to them, **All authority (all power of rule) in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.**”

In the Wilderness, satan took Jesus up onto a **mountain** to tempt Him by showing Him all the kingdoms of this world.

After the cross and resurrection and just before Jesus was about to ascend to Heaven to take up His rulership as “Roch”, He took His disciples to a **mountain**. There He says: “All exosea” has been given unto Me IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH!!”

The disciples who understood this revelation bowed down and worshipped Him!!

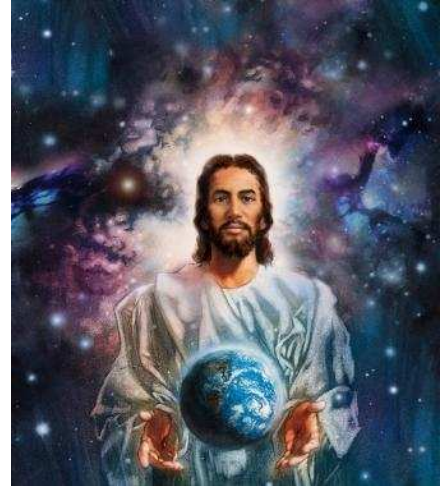
SECTION III – AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER

HOW MAN’S AUTHORITY IS RESTORED.

a) All authority has been given to Christ.

What is very important is that all authority is restored to **Christ** and it can never be lost again. If it was restored to us, the chances are that we could lose it again.

Matt. 28:18 *“18 Jesus approached and, breaking the silence, said to them, **All authority (all power of rule) in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.**”*



Daniel 7:13-14 *“13 I saw in the night visions, and behold, on the clouds of the heavens came One like a **Son of man, and He came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him.***

14 And there was given Him [the Messiah] dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away, and His kingdom is one which shall not be destroyed.”

“Son of Man” was the term that Jesus used to refer to Himself the most.

Is 9:6-7 *“6 For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father [of Eternity], Prince of Peace.
7 Of the increase of His government and of peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from the [latter] time forth, even forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”*

b) Our Authority that now comes through Jesus Christ as the last Adam and not the first Adam.

Jesus Christ is now our representative – He came as a human being – as the last Adam – and he took back what the first Adam lost.



He is the last Adam:

1 Cor 15:45-49 *"45 Thus it is written, The first man Adam became a living being (an individual personality); the **last Adam (Christ) became a life-giving Spirit [restoring the dead to life].***

46 But it is not the spiritual life which came first, but the physical and then the spiritual.

47 The first man [was] from out of earth, made of dust (earthly-minded); the second Man [is] the Lord from out of heaven.

48 Now those who are made of the dust are like him who was first made of the dust (earthly-minded); and as is [the Man] from heaven, so also [are those] who are of heaven (heavenly-minded).

49 And just as we have borne the image [of the man] of dust, so shall we and so let us also bear the image [of the Man] of heaven."

Many prayers do not get answered because we do not understand authority; what is rightfully ours.

We have been taught that Jesus got back all that the first Adam lost for us; is that true? We have authority now and we can ask whatever we want...there is just enough truth in this statement that it can be deceptive.

The Truth:

He took all authority back but did not give it directly to us – He keeps that delegation for Himself. The only way that we can move in this authority depends on our relationship with Him.

He did not just turn to the human race and say: "Here it is!"

He took it to HIMSELF!! He declared that He (another human being) now has all authority over Heaven and earth. If you want authority, you have to go through Him.



Mark 16:15-18 *"15 And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach and publish openly the good news (the Gospel) to every creature [of the whole human race].*

16 He who believes [who adheres to and trusts in and relies on the Gospel and Him Whom it sets forth] and is baptized will be saved [from the penalty of eternal death]; but he who does not believe [who does not adhere to and trust in and rely on the Gospel and Him Whom it sets forth] will be condemned.

17 And these attesting signs will accompany those who believe: in My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new languages;

18 They will pick up serpents; and [even] if they drink anything deadly, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will get well."

What does: "In My Name" mean??

We must realize that we can not just swing a Heavenly scepter when we want to and command whatever we want to and then end our prayer with: "In the Name of Jesus!" It is not a formula! It must not be a habit!



"In My Name/ In the Name of Jesus" simply means: "In My authority/ based on the work that I have done, who I am, what I have now. You do these things representing Me."

Acts 3:6, 16 *"6 But Peter said, Silver and gold (money) I do not have; but **what I do have, that I give to you:** in [the use of] the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!*

16 And His name, through and by faith in His name, has made this man whom you see and recognize well and strong. [Yes] the faith which is through and by Him [Jesus] has given the man this perfect soundness [of body] before all of you."

Acts 4:10 *"10 Let it be known and understood by all of you, and by the whole house of Israel, that in the name and through the power **and authority of Jesus Christ of Nazareth**, Whom you crucified, [but] Whom God raised from the dead, in Him and by means of Him this man is standing here before you well and sound in body."*

Jesus understood authority. He said: "I do what I do in the Name of the Father, I represent the Father, I am doing the will of the Father." Jesus always checked with the Father to make sure, "Father, what do You want Me to do here??"

We move in authority when we operate in the same way. We have authority in His Name when **we're confident** that we are **representing** His will.

1. SENT ONES.

Authority is the right – NOT THE POWER – to rule or to enforce something. Biblically, authority is about representation. One with authority represents the authorizer.

Represent means to present again. You are not doing what you want – you find out what the Authorizer wants and you re-present that. All of your authority comes from the One you represent or the One who sent you. The emphasis is on the **Sender** and not the sent one.

If you're a sent one you are representing Someone Else Who has all that is needed to back-up that representation.

When Moses was called by God to represent Him to Pharaoh, Moses asked: "Who should I say sent me?"

Moses knew he was talking to God. Moses wanted to be able to communicate that he was a sent one. "Almighty God has sent me to you."

If he went on his own he had no authority. He needed to be sent.

How did Jesus walk in this calling??

a) Jesus was sent by the Father.

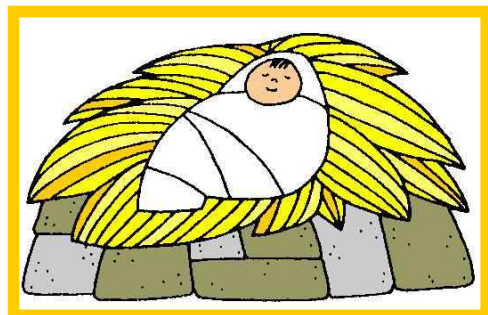
At least 40 times in the Gospel of John alone Jesus made mention that He was sent by the Father.

John 3:17 *"17 For God did not send the Son into the world in order to judge (to reject, to condemn, to pass sentence on) the world, but that the world might find salvation and be made safe and sound through Him."*

John 5:23 *"23 So that all men may give honor (reverence, homage) to the Son just as they give honor to the Father. [In fact] whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, Who has sent Him."*

Jesus did not do all the great works He did because He was God. He did it through the authority that the Father was giving Him and because the Father sent Him!!

Phil. 2:6-11 *"6 Who, although being essentially one with God and in the form of God [possessing the fullness of the attributes which make God God], did not think this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped or retained,
7 But stripped Himself [of all privileges and rightful dignity], so as to assume the guise of a servant (slave), in that He became like men and was born a human being.
8 And after He had appeared in human form, He abased and humbled Himself [still further] and carried His obedience to the extreme of death, even the death of the cross!
9 Therefore [because He stooped so low] God has highly exalted Him and has freely bestowed on Him the name that is above every name,
10 That in (at) the name of Jesus every knee should (must) bow, in heaven and*



*on earth and under the earth,
11 And every tongue [frankly and openly] confess and acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

He functioned as a human empowered by the Holy Spirit and authorized by Father God to do things. He lay His rights and privileges as God down.

Jesus did that as a **human-being** as the Son of Man – authorized by the Father, we can now move into that **same pattern**, in Christ’s authority, authorized by Jesus!

b) Jesus did the Will of the Father.

John 4:34 “34 Jesus said to them, My food (nourishment) is to **do the will (pleasure) of Him Who sent Me** and to accomplish and completely finish His work.”

John 5:30 “30 I am able to do nothing from Myself [independently, of My own accord—but only as I am taught by God and as I get His orders]. Even as I hear, I judge [I decide as I am bidden to decide. As the voice comes to Me, so I give a decision], and My judgment is right (just, righteous), because I do not seek or consult My own will [I have no desire to do what is pleasing to Myself, My own aim, My own purpose] but **only the will and pleasure of the Father Who sent Me.**”

John 6:38 “38 For I have come down from heaven not to do My own will and purpose but to do the will and purpose of Him Who sent Me.”

This is so important to understand because we can’t just run all over the place and think you can do whatever you want, asking what you want, demanding what you want, and deciding what you want.

When you operate as a **sent one**, all of your authority comes from the One Who sent you. As soon as I step out of that I am not moving under God’s authority anymore!! That is why prayers don’t get answered!!

“But Lord, You said I can ask for whatever I want!!”

We also said: In Jesus Name, Amen!!

Jesus always had to check with the Father before He did anything, He got His authority from the Father, it will not happen any differently with us!!



c) Jesus did the works of the Father

Jesus was sent by the Father to do the Will of the Father, He therefore accomplished the works of the Father.

John 14: 10 *"10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in Me? What I am telling you I do not say on My own authority and of My own accord; but the Father Who lives continually in Me does the (His) works (His own miracles, deeds of power)."*



Jesus said "There is not one thing that I do that isn't the Father's Will, purpose, plan, authority."

If Jesus was doing all He did because He was God, then as man I do not have a chance to live this kind of life. If I understand that Jesus accomplished this while living as a HUMAN-BEING and I BELIEVE THAT, then I will be able to move into His authority and do the same works He did!!

Jesus was never intimidated when they asked Him who gave Him authority to do what he was doing – He never allowed the attention to be focused on Himself – He would answer: *"It's not Me. It's the Father who sent Me and Who gives Me the authority to do what I do. I only do His Will and I always do His Will and anything He wants to do, he can do through Me."*

On occasion it appeared as if Jesus thought that He knew what the Father wanted, but after He had checked this out with the Father, He changed His course of action!

The Miracle – Water into Wine:

At the wedding feast, Jesus tells His mother He is not going to help the people when the wine ran out. He must have asked the Father only to find out that the Father wanted Him to do it!!



d) Jesus revealed the Father

Jesus said: "It's the Father that I am revealing – not Myself."

John 1:18 *"18 No man has ever seen God at any time; the only unique Son, or the only begotten God, Who is in the bosom [in the intimate presence] of the Father, He has declared Him [He has revealed Him and brought Him out where He can be seen; He has interpreted Him and He has made Him known]."*



John 14:9 *"9 Jesus replied, Have I been with all of you for so long a time, and do you not recognize and know Me yet, Philip? **Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father.** How can you say then, Show us the Father?"*

Will we ever come to the point where we will be able to say: "He who has seen me has seen Jesus?"

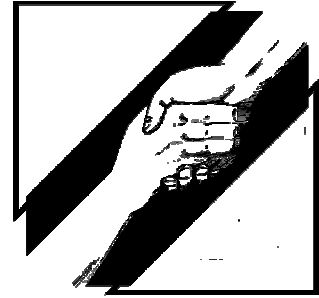
John 17:6, 26 *"6 I have manifested Your Name [I have revealed Your very Self, Your real Self] to the people whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, and You gave them to Me, and they have obeyed and kept Your word.
26 I have made Your Name known to them and revealed Your character and Your very Self, and I will continue to make [You] known, that the love which You have bestowed upon Me may be in them [felt in their hearts] and that I [Myself] may be in them."*

e) The Father was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself

2 Cor 5:18-21 *"18 But all things are from God, Who through Jesus Christ reconciled us to Himself [received us into favor, brought us into harmony with Himself] and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation [that by word and deed we might aim to bring others into harmony with Him].
19 It was God [personally present] in Christ, reconciling and restoring the world to favor with Himself, not counting up and holding against [men] their trespasses [but cancelling them], and committing to us the message of reconciliation (of the restoration to favor).
20 So we are Christ's ambassadors, God making His appeal as it were through us. We [as Christ's personal representatives] beg you for His sake to lay hold of the divine favor [now offered you] and be reconciled to God."*



21 For our sake He made Christ [virtually] to be sin Who knew no sin, so that in and through Him we might become [endued with, viewed as being in, and examples of] the righteousness of God [what we ought to be, approved and acceptable and in right relationship with Him, by His goodness].”



SUMMARY:

The Father intervened into the affairs of the world through Jesus and everything Christ did on earth, He was representing the Father- It was an extension of His Love, His Will, and His Works. In this was found the KEY to His authority.



THE CHURCH'S AUTHORITY

1. We have been sent

John 17:18 “18 Just as You sent Me into the world, I also **have sent** them into the world.”

John 20:21 “21 Then Jesus said to them again, Peace to you! [Just] as the Father has sent Me forth, so **I am sending you.**”

2. The Church does the Will of Jesus

Matt. 18:18-19 “18 Truly I tell you, whatever you forbid and declare to be improper and unlawful on earth must be what is already forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit and declare proper on earth must be what is already permitted in heaven.

19 Again I tell you, if two of you on earth agree (harmonize together, make a symphony together) about whatever [anything and everything] they may ask, it will come to pass and be done for them by My Father in heaven.”

1. The Church reveals Jesus

Matt. 18:20 “For wherever two or three are gathered (drawn together as My followers) in (into) My Name, there I AM in the midst of them.”

2. Christ is in the Church reconciling the world to Him



Mark 16:15 *“15 And He said to them, **Go** into all the **world** and preach and publish openly the good news (the Gospel) **to every creature** [of the whole human race].”*



Old Testament example of David who Understood Authority:

David gained the throne without paying the price of rebellion

During setting up the kingdom of Israel, God officially re-established His authority on earth. The Israelites entered Canaan, and asked for a king, God sent Samuel to anoint Saul as their first king (1 Sam 10:1).

Saul was chosen by God and set him up as His delegated authority. King Saul violated God's authority, rebelled against God and disobeyed His commandments. God took the mantle from Saul and anointed David (1 Sam. 15-16).

David was still under Saul's authority. He was one of Saul's subjects, a soldier in Saul's camp and later even became Saul's son-in-law.

There were two kings in Israel .

- One was still sitting on the throne,
- The other chosen but not inaugurated.

Saul often tries to kill David. David was in a very difficult situation. Saul chasing David in the wilderness of Engedi goes into a cave to sleep with David and his followers in the innermost part of the cave.

David's followers suggested that he kill Saul. He chose not to rebel against authority.

1 Sam. 24:4 *“4 David's men said to him, Behold the day of which the Lord said to you, Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hands and you shall do to him as seems good to you. Then David arose [in the darkness] and stealthily cut off the skirt of Saul's robe.”*

David repented of the act of merely dishonouring Saul.

1 Sam. 24:5-7 *“5 Afterward, David’s heart smote him because he had cut off Saul’s skirt.
6 He said to his men, The Lord forbid that I should do this to my master, the Lord’s anointed, to put my hand out against him, when he is the anointed of the Lord.
7 So David checked his men with these words and did not let them rise against Saul. But Saul rose up and left the cave and went on his way.”*

If he killed Saul, it would be rebellion against God's authority, because God's anointing was still upon Saul.

Although Saul had been rejected as the rightful representation of God, his **time** was not yet complete.

David denied his own self. He would rather see wait for God’s time to take dominion with the full blessing.

David gained kingship through submission and obedience and did not fail on the ground of rebellion. This is the same principle that Michael spoke about when he says that we should not dare to bring a reviling judgment against Satan.

Jude 1:9 *“9 But when [even] the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, judicially argued (disputed) about the body of Moses, he dared not [presume to] bring an abusive condemnation against him, but [simply] said, The Lord rebuke you! [Zech. 3:2.]”*

Authority is a tremendous matter!

Submission better than our work:

- If a man is to serve God, he must submit to authority.
- Submission is higher than our works of service.

This same principle of rebellion is shown to in the New Testament by Judas, who betrayed Jeshua for thirty pieces of silver (Matt 26:14-16).

Matt 26:14-16 *“14 Then one of the Twelve [apostles], who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests
15 And said, What are you willing to give me if I hand Him over to you? And they weighed out for and paid to him thirty pieces of silver [about twenty-one dollars and sixty cents].
16 And from that moment he sought a fitting opportunity to betray Him.”*

Offering cannot cover up rebellion.

David waited for God's time, He was willing to be submissive when David cut off the corner of Saul's cloak, he quickly repented. Backbiting, an evil eye, or a grudge in the heart may not be murder, but they are similar to the cutting off of Saul's garment, and come from a spirit of rebellion.

David knew God's authority from his heart. Although Saul chased him many times, yet he still submitted to God's authority. He considered Saul as the anointed of Yahweh.

Submission to authority is not submission to a person. It is submission to the anointing upon the person, the anointing which was upon him when God set him up as authority.

David knew of the anointing on Saul and acknowledged that Saul was God's anointed. David submitted to God's anointed as this was his responsibility before God.

David upholds God's authority in an absolute way.

God wants authority to be upheld in an absolute way. A similar thing happened in the wilderness of Ziph. Abishai wanted to kill Saul, but David forbade him.

This is the second time David spared Saul.

1 Sam 26:9 *"9 David said to Abishai, Do not destroy him; for who can raise his hand against the Lord's anointed and be guiltless?"*

He only took Saul's spear and water jug. He stayed submitted to God's authority.

1 Sam. 26:23 *"23 The Lord rewards every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the Lord delivered you into my hands today, but I would not stretch forth my hand against the Lord's anointed."*

Because David maintained god's authority, he was called a man after God's heart.

His kingdom has been preserved up until now, for the Lord is a descendant of David.

Only those who submit to authority can themselves be the authority.

We must uproot rebellion from our lives. In order to be in authority there must first be submission to authority.

We must submit to God's authority from our heart. Only then will the Body of Messiah be blessed.

The way ahead depends on us. We are here to spend out days in a sober way.

**The Lord's death was the highest expression of submission to authority – the cross meant the accomplishment of God's will!
His submission came from knowing Gods will. John 18:11**

SECTION IV: THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER:

THREE GOVERNMENTAL WORDS

Matt 16:17-18 *"17 Then Jesus answered him, Blessed (happy, fortunate, and to be envied) are you, Simon Bar-Jonah. For flesh and blood [men] have not revealed this to you, but My Father Who is in heaven.*

*18 And I tell you, you are Peter [Greek, Petros—a large piece of rock], and on this rock [Greek, petra—a huge rock like Gibraltar] **I will build My church**, and the gates of Hades (the powers of the infernal region) shall not overpower it [or be strong to its detriment or hold out against it].*

*19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you **bind** (declare to be improper and unlawful) on earth must be what is already bound in heaven; and whatever you **loose** (declare lawful) on earth must be what is already loosed in heaven."*



"I will build My "church" - "Ekklesia (1577)" – This was the first time that Jesus used this word.

It does not mean a building on a corner, a group of called out people...

This is a GOVERNMENTAL term; a word used by the Greeks to describe a parliament, an assembly set apart to govern the affairs of a state or nation, literally a parliament or a congress.



Jesus looked at them and said: *"I will build My parliament/government/legislator in the earth."*

The Body of Believers is to rule in the "spirit" and to influence the hearts of men and women to literally cause God's Laws and Will to be released in the earth.

To the Romans this word represented a group of people who had been sent to a conquered region to work on the culture, education structure, the government, the entertainment, etc, and change the conquered people until they looked and thought like Rome. This was the only way to take control.



If we interpret Jesus' words in this light then he said: "I will build My Church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it!"

"I am going to invade cultures with My Kingdom, I am going to change what is happening there, I am going to make it look like Heaven."

"The gates of hell" refers to the government of hell. Governing bodies met at the gates of the cities. "Gates" referred to a court sitting.

Jesus gave to His "Ekklesia" the keys of the Kingdom to bind and lose. Binding and loosing are legal terms.

"Bind" – "deo (1210)" means legally binding as in a contract, a court decision.

"Loosing" – "luo (3089)" legally dissolving a contract, to be released from a contract.

"My church will have My authority to make My decrees in the earth and reverse what up until that point in time had been happening. These people will have My authority, My Keys and I will release the authority of My kingdom through them!!"

David served God's Purpose

Acts 13:36 *"36 For David, after he had served God's will and purpose and counsel in his own generation, fell asleep [in death] and was buried among his forefathers, and he did see corruption and undergo putrefaction and dissolution [of the grave]."*



"purpose" – "boule" means will or counsel or purpose or intent, in Greek it means parliament/government. David served the government of God.

Serve – "hupereteo (5256)" which means "under rower".

Those rowing below was called "under-rowers"

The speed and the strength of the boat depended on the under-rowers rowing simultaneously. When a group of people row together, power is increased.

David was a Godly righteous ruler serving the government of God. He could get a generation of under-rowers rowing together according to the government, the will, the counsel, the plan of God.



1 Tim 2:2 *"2 For kings and all who are in positions of authority or high responsibility, that [outwardly] we may pass a quiet and undisturbed life [and inwardly] a peaceable one in all godliness and reverence and seriousness in every way."*

God is looking for a generation of South Africans (of under-rowers) that will understand we are God's government in the earth – we have authority to influence human government if we will row together!!



We are a spiritual army with a spiritual government that has the authority to make decrees in the spirit and release a spiritual force of LIFE in the earth!

I am an ambassador of Heaven, I am a government official representing Heaven!!
We win the war on our knees!!

1 Pet 2:5,9 *"5 [Come] and, like **living stones**, be yourselves built [into] a spiritual house, for a holy (dedicated, consecrated) priesthood, to **offer up [those] spiritual sacrifices** [that are] acceptable and pleasing to God through Jesus Christ.
9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, [God's] own purchased, special people, that you may set forth the wonderful deeds and display the virtues and perfections of Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."*

We are a Holy Priesthood and a Royal Priesthood of the Melchizedek Order.

Melchizedek was an Old Testament picture of Jesus.
Melchizedek was both a King and Priest.

Gen 14:18, 22 *"18 Melchizedek king of Salem [later called Jerusalem] brought out bread and wine [for their nourishment]; he was the priest of God Most High,
22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lifted up my hand and sworn to the Lord, God Most High, the Possessor and Maker of heaven and earth,"*

Ps 110:1, 4 *"THE LORD (God) says to my Lord (the Messiah),
Sit at My Right Hand, until I make Your adversaries Your footstool.
4 The Lord has sworn and will not revoke or change it: You are a priest forever, after the manner and order of Melchizedek."*



Jesus is our High Priest and our King.

The functions of a priest and king are very different.

As King He represents the rule and the will of God.

As a Priest He represents the needs and the desires of people.

His Kingly role is down-wards – from Heaven to earth.

His Priestly role is up-wards – from earth to heaven.

His Kingly activity is God-centered. His Priestly activity is human-centered.

His Kingly function requires authority and power. His Priestly role requires love, mercy and grace.

Kings have a scepter – it symbolizes authority. A Priest uses a censure – it symbolizes and carries a fragrance of worship.

Jesus is manifested through the Church, we represent Him in His ministries, as a Royal Priesthood you proclaim the Excellencies of God!

Priests offer up sacrifices, Kings proclaim His superiority in the earth.

We need to understand Priestly intercession as well as Kingly intercession:

Priests offer up sacrifices, praise, petitions, requests.

Kings DECREE!!

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Who art In Heaven,

Hallowed be Thy Name,

Thy Kingdom come Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven!!

Give us this day our daily bread....



Ps 24 "1 THE EARTH is the Lord's, and the fullness of it, the world and they who dwell in it.

2 For He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the currents and the rivers.

3 Who shall go up into the mountain of the Lord? Or who shall stand in His Holy Place?

4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted himself up to falsehood or to what is false, nor sworn deceitfully.

5 He shall receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

6 This is the generation [description] of those who seek Him [who inquire of and for Him and of necessity require Him], who seek Your face, [O God of] Jacob. Selah [pause, and think of that]!

7 Lift up your heads, O you gates; and be lifted up, you age-abiding doors, that the King of glory may come in.

8 Who is the King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

9 Lift up your heads, O you gates; yes, lift them up, you age-abiding doors, that the King of glory may come in.

10 Who is [He then] this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah [pause, and think of that]!”

First praise then shift to decrees!!

Rev 8:1 “1 WHEN HE [the Lamb] broke open the seventh seal, there was silence for about half an hour in heaven.”

Power of Declaration:

Matt. 16:19 “19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind (**declare** to be improper and unlawful) on earth must be what is already bound in heaven; and whatever you loose (declare lawful) on earth must be what is already loosed in heaven.”



“Whatever you declare...” You are God’s ekklesia and you have the authority to decree.

Is 48:6-7 “6 You have heard [these things foretold], now you see this fulfillment. And will you not bear witness to it? I show you specified new things from this time forth, even hidden things [kept in reserve] which you have not known.

7 They are created now [called into being by the prophetic word], and not long ago; and before today you have never heard of them, lest you should say, Behold, I knew them!”

“Called into being through the prophetic word...” DECREE THE WORD OF THE LORD!!

The strongest weapon we have is the Sword of the Lord spoken from our mouth!!



PRAYER:

Lord, we ask You to please give us increased understanding of the fact that we have authority to declare, to bind, to declare this is unlawful, it MUST stop!!

To declare this is now what will occur in the earth. And to be You ambassadors, Kingdom Ekklesia, government, Boule, Your parliament, Your kings and queens.

God move us into greater and deeper levels of revelation! Move us into greater and greater levels of understanding of Your ways so that we can have the partnership that You want, so that you can have the under-rowers that You want on the earth that serve Your purposes in a generation. That we can change the courts, change governments, change nations as we understand the power of Your Word.

Teach us Your ways! Awaken us to the authority that You have given to us. Give us ears to hear so that we don't rush off and do this out of our own understanding, intellect and will and then wonder why we don't see any results.



Help us to so become in touch with You, in tune with You that we know that when we do these decrees, we declare and decree that we are truly releasing what is Your will You can back it up from heaven because it's what You want.

Lord, get us to that place where we think what You think, we hear Your thoughts, we live not for ourselves but we live for You.

We want to be Your government, Lord! We want to go all the way with this. We want to see the fear of God on the courts of South Africa again to where men and women serving our country will understand they are representing God in Heaven and they will be judged by a God in Heaven: Did they represent Him??

Help us as Your ekklesia to make this earth look like Heaven!!

We ask You all of this Lord, In Jesus Name,

AMEN!!

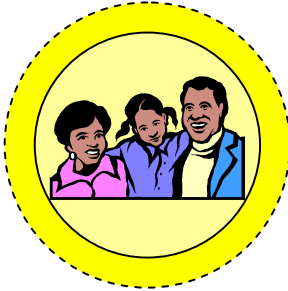


SECTION V: AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER:

WHAT DETERMINES OUR LEVEL OF SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

1. The Principal of Concentric Expansion

a) Your family



Those who are directly related to you, children and grandchildren, but also grandparents, in-laws.

b) Your Church



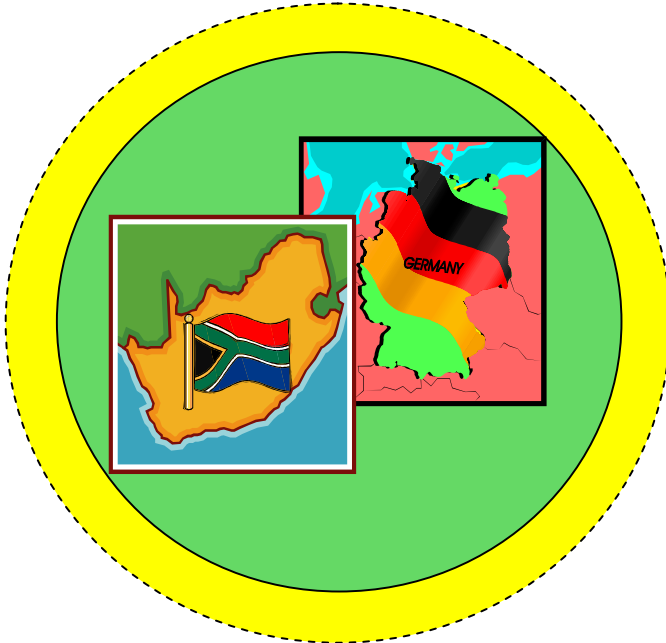
The community of Believers that fellowship in a specific area.

c) Your city



The greater metropolitan area.

d) Your country



The country where you were born.

e) The world



The continents where you have gained a foothold of relationships.

Generally speaking, the further that you move from the center of the circle, the less personal authority you have.

In the center of the family circle you have absolute authority over the following areas:

- the ability to pray for your family,
- the destiny of your family members,
- the ability to make righteous decrees over your life,
- the ability to lay hold of the promises of God for the blessings / provisions that are our inheritance in Christ.



God has ordained that we have a free will and freedom of choice.

The moment that you are born-again, you are entitled to rights, privileges and delegated authority in Jesus equal to any other believer – an entitlement that nobody can ever take that away from you.

As I operate in a larger circle of impact, my authority will be limited to my experience / anointing. For example: In respect of my wife and children, I have great authority. I do not have complete authority because she exercises her own free will, makes her own decision, etc. Nevertheless, I still have great authority over the family when it comes to warring against issues such as sickness, etc.



My authority to pray for my family carries greater weight because of my responsibility toward her than the weight of my prayers for other people.

The younger the children, the more authority a father will have. As they grow, they begin to pray, make wise decisions for themselves, etc. God transfers the authority from the father to the child when they come into the center of their own circle, i.e. at the age of initiation into adulthood.

The city where you live: Every person who lives in the city has authority **because** they live there, have rights, e.g. voting rights, etc. Everyone else in the city also has equal right in that circle and therefore it is wise to get Christians to stand together in prayer so that the purposes of God can prosper for your city.



Principle: Your authority diminishes the further you go out into the bigger circles of life.

Warning to Parents.

1 Sam 2:29 “29 Why then do you kick [trample upon, treat with contempt] My sacrifice and My offering which I commanded, and honor your sons above Me by fattening yourselves upon the choicest part of every offering of My people Israel?”



1 Sam 3:13 “13 And I [now] announce to him that I will judge and punish his house forever for the iniquity of which he knew, for his sons were bringing a curse upon themselves [blaspheming God], and he did not restrain them.”

2. Our assignment determines our level of authority.

All South African citizens have exactly the same rights and freedoms, etc in South Africa.

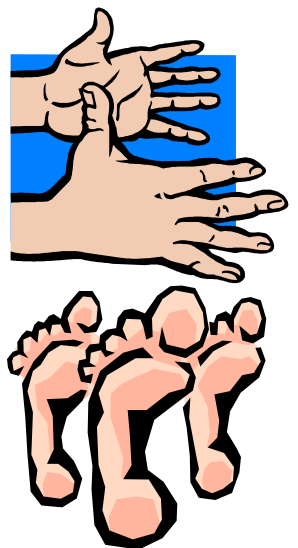
However, if one of those citizens is an ambassador in another country, anyone who is **not** the ambassador does not have the authority to go to that other nation and try to dictate / declare South Africa’s stance or position.

Obviously, the appointed ambassador always carries a higher level of authority.

God’s Kingdom works in the same way. We all have the same authority to pray, go to God’s throne with our petitions and authority over evil spirits, in personal areas of our life.

When it comes to specific assignments and callings, God delegates authority to **specific individuals** to complete that assignment.

Any other Christian who decides that he wants to take over your assignment, will not have the authority to complete the assignment. We do not all move in the same arenas of authority in God’s Kingdom. Paul talks of some who are feet, other are hands, etc.



It’s not who God uses that is the issue – it is **the assignment** that comes **with a level of authority**, just like an ambassador goes on a specific assignment. You need to be authorized by God to do what He has called you to do.

Paul tells us that certain believers carry more authority than others because of their assignment.

Paul says he has great authority to war over them, to bring down false thinking, and to deal with the demonic strongholds when he gets to the city.

2 Cor. 10:3-5 *“3 For though we walk (live) in the flesh, we are not carrying on our warfare according to the flesh and using mere human weapons.*

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood], but they are mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds,

5 [Inasmuch as we] refute arguments and theories and reasonings and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God; and we lead every thought and purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One),”



Paul goes on to explain that he has been given authority for specific cities that has been assigned to him – measured out to him.

He declares he does not have ALL authority but he was given delegated authority over the Corinthian Church.

We need to learn from Paul, just because we are born-again, it does not mean I can go anywhere and act as if I have all authority. I cannot just go and pray where I like and what I like because of my title, e.g. apostle!!

Paul clearly said even though he was an apostle, it still did not mean he had authority wherever he went. God had assigned to him to a specific sphere/region and he knew that he was moving under the delegated authority and assignment of God.

When I know that God has **sent** me (sending is an authority word), then I receive my authority to do what I have been assigned to do by the One Who has sent me.

When it comes to the citizenship of Heaven, I have the same rights in England as I have in South Africa – I can go before God and make my petitions known, I can claim any promise in the Word for myself – it does not matter where I stay, I have the same rights as a citizen of the Kingdom.



I do not however, have the same rights to DECREE God's principles in another nation **unless** God commissions me to go and do that. We must make sure God has sent us or else we can get very hurt and could even die!!



God will back you up when He sends you.

A serious word for leaders is that, if God gives you authority in an area and you do not use it, you will be responsible for the things that go wrong.

Aaron:

Ex 32:23 -25 *"23 For they said to me, Make us gods which shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.
24 I said to them, Those who have any gold, let them take it off. So they gave it to me; then I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf.
25 And when Moses saw that the people were unruly and unrestrained (**for Aaron had let them get out of control**, so that they were a derision and object of shame among their enemies),"*

If Aaron had risen up in his authority, God would have honoured it and done something whatever it took to back-up his authority.

Peter and Ananias and Sapphira

Acts 5 *"1 BUT A certain man named Ananias with his wife Sapphira sold a piece of property,
2 And with his wife's knowledge and **connivance he kept back and wrongfully appropriated** some of the proceeds, bringing only a part and putting it at the feet of the apostles.
3 But Peter said, **Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart that you should lie to and attempt to deceive the Holy Spirit, and should [in violation of your promise] withdraw secretly and appropriate to your own use part of the price from the sale of the land?**
4 As long as it remained unsold, was it not still your own? And [even] after it was sold, was not [the money] at your disposal and under your control? Why then, is it that you have proposed and purposed in your heart to do this thing? [How could you have the heart to do such a deed?] **You have not [simply] lied to men [playing false and showing yourself utterly deceitful] but to God.**
5 Upon hearing these words, Ananias fell down and died. And great dread and terror took possession of all who heard of it...
8 And Peter said to her, Tell me, did you sell the land for so much? Yes, she said, for so much.*

*9 Then Peter said to her, How could you two have agreed and **conspired** together to **try to deceive the Spirit of the Lord?** Listen! The feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out [also]."*

No other person (only Peter) there could have decreed that. God could only entrust that kind of authority to someone who had a great deal of wisdom, understanding, a keen ability to hear God's voice and a revelation to discern what the Holy Spirit said.

If I don't hear Him clearly, He is not going to delegate that kind of level of authority to me because I will make BIG mistakes!!

Paul turns around and says someone will be blind for a few days:

Acts 13:11 *"11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind, [so blind that you will be] unable to see the sun for a time. Instantly there fell upon him a mist and a darkness, and he groped about seeking persons who would lead him by the hand."*

3. My ability / talent will determine whether I move in revelation / authority.

4. My revelation of God's Salvation determines the areas in I will walk in authority.

5. My understanding of scripture, of God and His ways will determine the level of authority I will walk in.

6. My ability to discern God's will and my obedience to those commandments will determine the authority that I walk in.

7. My connection to God's heart – can He trust me to do what He wants and not what I want, will determine how much authority He will give me to function in.

8. My level of lifestyle purity will determine the level of authority that I exercise in prayer or any other aspect of Kingdom authority.

9. My level of faith in God, the Name of Jesus, and the Word of God, will determine my level of authority.



PART II: RANKING IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

How to live in our delegated authority.

PREFACE

I have written this part of the book to share some insights about spiritual warfare and to offer a word of discernment. I do so humbly, because I do not wish to imply that I have ALL the answers on spiritual warfare. I do not. I hope that you will avoid the unnecessary heartache that has befallen many intercessors and deliverance ministries over the years because of a lack of discernment and understanding of rank and file in the Lord's army.

The scope of Ranking in the Kingdom of God:

It is my belief that, unless you understand the parameters of our **delegated authority** and some practical guidelines on how to properly engage in spiritual warfare, there is a strong possibility that you could become an unfortunate victim of war.

It's my prayer that you will have a greater understanding of how to protect yourself, your family and your ministry teams from the unforeseen and unperceived spiritual attacks that have afflicted so many believers who have not worked according to these principles/guidelines/parameters.

In *Ephesians* Paul defines satan's structure/hierarchy according to rank and file:

1. Principalities
2. Powers
3. Rulers of darkness
4. Demonic hosts of wickedness.

However, God also has a structure:

- Old Testament: High Priest / Priest / Levites / People - Father / Family
- New Testament: Jesus / Five Fold Ministry / Church / People - Father / Family



With the different gifts and “callings” come different **responsibilities**. With each **responsibility** comes **accountability** and therefore **authority** is coupled to my gifting and then to my calling.

This is still in a developmental phase and we would, therefore, welcome feedback from those who have used it. Suggestions for improvement would be particularly appreciated, as would any testimonies resulting from you having used this book and applied it to your life.



SECTION A: All Aspects of Authority and Ranking

1. PARAMETERS/DEFINITE SPHERE OF GODLY AUTHORITY

Rightly engaging in spiritual warfare boils down to a simple issue of godly authority.

Let us **define Authority**:

'By whose authority do you do these things?' Mat 21; Acts 9.

Strong's Greek 1849 exousia ex-oo-see'-ah:

from 1832 (in the sense of ability); privilege, i.e. (subjectively) force, capacity, competency, freedom, or (objectively) mastery (concretely, magistrate, superhuman, potentate, token of control), delegated influence:--authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength.

Webster: Authority

AUTHOR'ITY, n. [L. auctoritas.]

1. **Legal power**, or a **right to command** or **to act**; as the authority of a prince over subjects, and of parents over children. **Power**; rule; sway.

2. The power derived from opinion, respect or esteem; influence of character or office; credit; as the authority of age or example, which is submitted to or respected, in some measure, as a law, or rule of action.

That which is claimed in justification or support of opinions and measures.

3. **Testimony**; **witness**; or the person who testifies; as, the Gospels or the evangelists are our authorities for the miracles of Christ.

4. Weight of testimony; **credibility**; as a historian of no authority.

5. Weight of **character**; **respectability**; dignity; as a magistrate of great authority in the city.

6. Warrant; order; permission.



'By whose authority do you do these things?' Mat 21; Acts 9.



7. Precedents, decisions of a court, official declarations, respectable opinions and says, also the books that contain them, are call authorities, as they influence the opinions of others; and in law, the decisions of supreme courts have a binding force upon inferior courts, and are called authorities.

8. Government; the persons or the body exercising power or command; as the local authorities of the country.

In South Africa, the justices of the peace are designated the civil authority.

Let us define **Warfare**:

Strong's Hebrew:

6635 tsaba' tsaw-baw'

or (feminine) tsbadah tseb-aw-aw'; from 6633; a mass of persons (or figuratively, things), especially reg. organized for war (an army); by implication, a campaign, literally or figuratively (specifically, hardship, worship):--appointed time, (+) army, (+) battle, company, host, service, soldiers, waiting upon, war(-fare).

Strong's Greek:

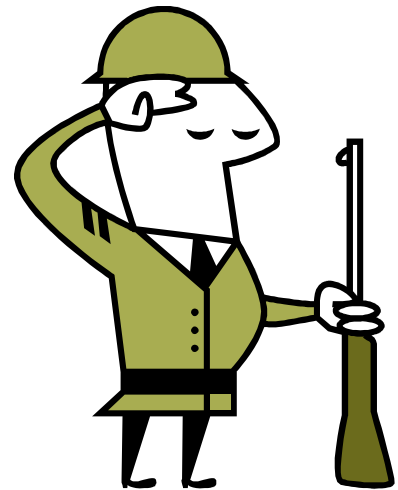
4752 strateia strat-i'-ah

from 4754; military service, i.e. (figuratively) the apostolic career (as one of hardship and danger):--warfare.

Webster: Warfare

WARFARE, n. [war and fare.]

1. Military service; military life; war.



1 Sam 28:1 *"The Philistines gathered their armies for warfare."*

2. Contest; struggle with spiritual enemies.

The weapons of our warfare are not carnal.

2 Cor 10:3-5 *"3 For though we walk (live) in the flesh, we are not carrying on our warfare according to the flesh and using mere human weapons.
4 For the weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood], but they are mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds,*

5 [Inasmuch as we] refute arguments and theories and reasonings and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God; and we lead every thought and purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One),”

WARFARE: To lead a military life; to carry on continual wars.

Before we can exercise our authority we need to:

- **firstly** understand under **whose** authority we operate,
- **secondly**, recognize and submit to the authority placed over us,
- **thirdly**, know the parameters / sphere / area for which we have a mandate of our structure/hierarchy/calling and
- **finally**, determine the rules of engagement (how to fight) so that our authority is not lost.



Having God's authority and using His power is wonderful. **But** it is easy to **misuse** one's authority. (This happens when we move in pride.)

We must use our authority correctly. We must not presume in advance what to do and then consult God, expecting Him to bless our actions.

Jesus showed us the proper way to use authority. He did nothing on His own authority, but only what the Father told Him to do.

John 5:19 “So Jesus answered them by saying, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, **the Son is able to do nothing of Himself**; but He is able to do only what **He sees the Father doing**, for whatever the Father does is what the Son does in the same way.”

2. GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY AS JUDGE

God reserves vengeance for Himself.

Heb. 10:30 “For we know Him Who said, **Vengeance is Mine, retribution** and the meting out of **full justice rest with Me**; I will repay, I will exact the compensation, says the Lord. And again, **The Lord will judge** and determine and solve and settle the cause and the cases of His people.”



God, and God alone, is able to punish satan. A future day is coming when God will destroy satan, who was created by God. Until then, God allows satan to exist. God has total dominion over His creation and He reserves judgment of the heavenly realms to Himself.

Is 27:1 *"In that day the Lord will deliver Israel from her enemies and also from the rebel powers of evil and darkness. His sharp and unrelenting, great, and strong sword will visit and punish **Leviathan** the swiftly fleeing serpent, Leviathan the twisting and winding serpent; and He will slay the monster that is in the sea."*

Job 41:1-11 *"Can you draw out the **leviathan** with a fishhook? Or press down his tongue with a cord? Can you put a rope into his nose? Or pierce his jaw through with a hook or a spike? Will he make many supplications to you, begging to be spared? Will he speak soft words to you to coax you to treat him kindly? Will he make a covenant with you to take him for your servant forever? Will you play with the crocodile as with a bird? Or will you put him on a leash for your maidens? Will traders bargain over him? Will they divide him up among the merchants? Can you fill his skin with harpoons? Or his head with fishing spears? Lay your hand upon him!*



Remember your battle with him; you will not do such an ill-advised thing again! Behold, the hope of his assailant is disappointed; one is cast down even at the sight of him! No one is so fierce and foolhardy that he dares to stir up the crocodile; who then is he who can stand before Me, the beast's Creator, or dares to contend with Me? Who has first given to Me, that I should repay him? **Whatever is under the whole heavens is Mine.** Therefore, who can have a claim against God, God Who made the unmastered crocodile?"

Paraphrase:

"Who are you to taunt Satan? Who are you to imagine that you can capture Satan? Who are you to make Satan your servant? Or tame Satan as if he were an animal? Or kill Satan by throwing harpoons at him? To attempt such things is full of presumption, vain imagination and false hope."

Remember, at one time, satan (a founder high ranking angel of great eminence and power) used the authority that God had given him wrongly. It led to **disobedience, rebellion and judgment.**

This time satan not only once used his God given authority incorrectly, but chose to move permanently in opposition to God.

3. THE WISDOM OF RESTRAINT

There are times when we feel invincible – armed and dangerous! However, adopting a **hero** mentality can encourage us to do things that at first may seem heroic, but later prove to be foolish.

Without wisdom and restraint, we can easily storm the gates of the enemy in a way that does not accomplish God's purposes. Instead, it causes physical and/or emotional harm to us and others around us.

In our zeal to advance the Kingdom of God, we can **often lack wisdom** when engaging in spiritual battles.

Some battles are necessary, such as when we are attacked and must defend ourselves, or when God commands us to attack demons that have harassed another person.

But to condone and to continue unnecessary losses due to **careless spiritual warfare** reveals a lack of strategic wisdom. We need to demonstrate greater insight, humility and restraint as we wage war to subdue the earth and advance God's Kingdom.

Restraint not only implies that an individual should seriously review whether he is equipped to advance in warfare but also that in every situation he should evaluate whether the **time to advance** is in fact **correct**.

We see a very good example of this principle in the life of Abraham. He is called out of the land of Ur, away from idol worship to the land of Canaan and to the worship of God as the One and Only God.

Abraham's purpose and destiny were to:

- a) **Live a righteous life** and
- b) **Bring spiritual purpose** to the land of Canaan.

Even though it was God-ordained (he had the authority from God to rule and reign in the land), **Abraham did not rush in.**



He used the initial time to go through the land where he:

- **built four altars to God,**
- **established the boundary where God's Presence** would be manifested and
- **established the purpose and destiny** of each of the following cities:

Bethel (*Gen. 12: 8*), **Shechem** (*Gen 12: 6,7*), **Beersheva & Jerusalem.**

Only after this platform had been established, did Abraham and his family of ±300 go to war to take the land.

4. THE ERROR OF REVILING

What do we mean by “Reviling”?

Strong's Hebrew 1421 gidduwph ghid-dooof'

from 1422; vilification:--reproach, reviling.

Webster: REVI'LING, ppr. Reproaching; treating with language of contempt.

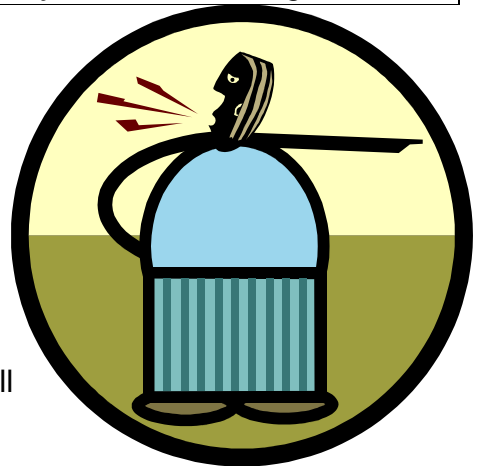
REVI'LING, n. The act of reviling or treating with reproachful words. **Isa 51.**

Isaiah 51:7 *“7 Listen to Me, you who know rightness and justice and right standing with God, the people in whose heart is My law and My instruction: fear not the reproach of men, neither be afraid nor dismayed at their revilings.”*

Reviling means: **Verbal abuse**, railing, scolding, quarrelling noisily, rebuking angrily.

Courtesy is the hallmark of God's Kingdom.
Discourtesy is the trademark of satan. When He contended with the devil, Jesus spoke firmly but with the utmost respect.
He did not revile when He answered satan's temptations.

Nor did Jesus speak rudely, disrespectfully, or call Satan demeaning names. Rather, Jesus simply quoted Scripture to rebuke the devil.



Jude 9 *“But when even the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, judicially argued about the body of Moses, **he dared not presume** to bring an **abusive condemnation** against him, but simply said, The Lord rebuke you!”*

As a former high-ranking angel of great eminence and power, satan is not to be treated lightly or with dishonour.

God created satan with a keen intellect and incredible authority and He gave him a position near the Throne (**Ezek 28**).

Although satan became evil and God removed his authority through our risen Lord Jesus, He did not remove his gifts because all gifts from God are irrevocable (**Rom 11:29**).

Recognizing satan's created giftedness, the archangel Michael, who also possessed high rank and authority, fought only in compliance with God's courteous nature.

If the Archangel Michael did not choose to revile satan, doesn't it seem foolish for us to do so?



5. A FALSE SENSE OF POWER

Many Christians who enter into deliverance or spiritual warfare assume that by reviling satan, they will somehow be assured of more power.

However, by displaying their ignorance this way actually defeats all of us.

Whenever we hurl insulting abuse or vent our anger at the enemy, we violate God's created order and invite **destructive counter-attacks**.

When satan fell, he took with him heavenly beings (**Rev 12:9**). Therefore, it stands to reason that many who fell with satan would also have held high rank.

For example, most of satan's followers who rebelled were probably those fallen angels **nearest to him** and under his authority. And just like satan, they fell from their lofty positions held in the **Third Heaven** down to the **Second** heaven due to the same sin of pride (**Is. 14:11-14, 1 Tim. 3:6**).

Satan would naturally have assigned them to positions of authority comparable to that which they had previously held in the **Third Heaven**.

The definition of the Third Heaven according to Adam Clarke's Commentary on the Bible: In the sacred writings **only three heavens** are mentioned.

1. The Atmosphere

What appears to be meant by “rekia”; the firmament or expansion.

Gen 1:6 “6 And God said, Let there be a firmament [the expanse of the sky] in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters [below] from the waters [above].”

2. The Starry Heaven;

Where the sun, moon, planets, and stars are; but these two are often expressed under the one term “shamayim”, the two heavens, or expansions.

Gen 1:17 “17 And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth,”



They appear to be both expressed by “ekia hashshamayim”, the firmament of heaven.

3. The Place of the Blessed, or the Throne of the Divine Glory.

Probably expressed by the words “shemei hashshamayim”; the Heaven of Heavens.

(However, Scripture is not clear on this subject and the reader should not rely on this distinction.)

God would not have withdrawn satan and his fallen angels' gifts and violate His own law. (**Rom. 11: 29**)

He only withdrew their right to the Third Heaven.

Moreover, we must be aware of the possibility and likelihood that these demonic beings possess gifts that may far out-smart and out-manuever us.

It is essential to see satan as a powerful, evil ruler and treat his power with respect by not reviling him or his demonic forces.

In this way, we leave God's Divine protocol (correct procedure) intact.

To rail against Satan carries a harsh penalty – needless suffering, destruction or untimely death.

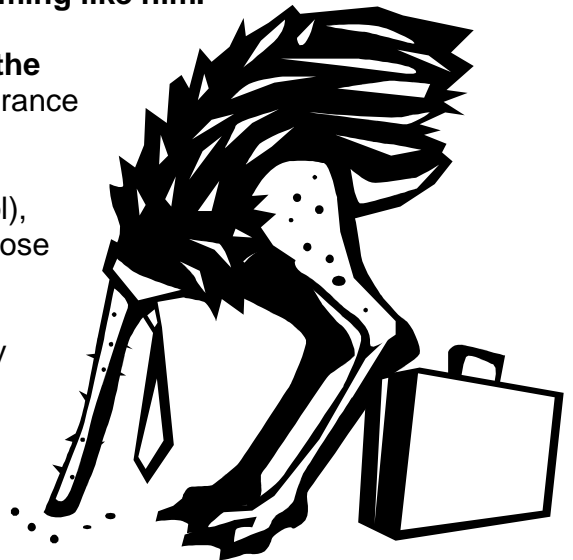
You are moving out of your ranking (area for which you have a mandate) if you do not understand these spiritual truths⁵.

We certainly do not defeat the devil by becoming like him.

Unfortunately in this situation ignorance of the enemy's power and rank is not bliss, as ignorance can result in a **stiff penalty**.

Ignorance (by not obeying God's divine protocol), can open spiritual doors (legal right), which expose us to attacks from satan.

Partial knowledge can sometimes prove equally deadly.



⁵ See examples SECTION III – AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER: HOW MAN'S AUTHORITY IS RESTORED

3rd Heaven: Spiritual

2 Cor. 12:2

...whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—he was **caught up to the third heaven**.

Eph. 2:6

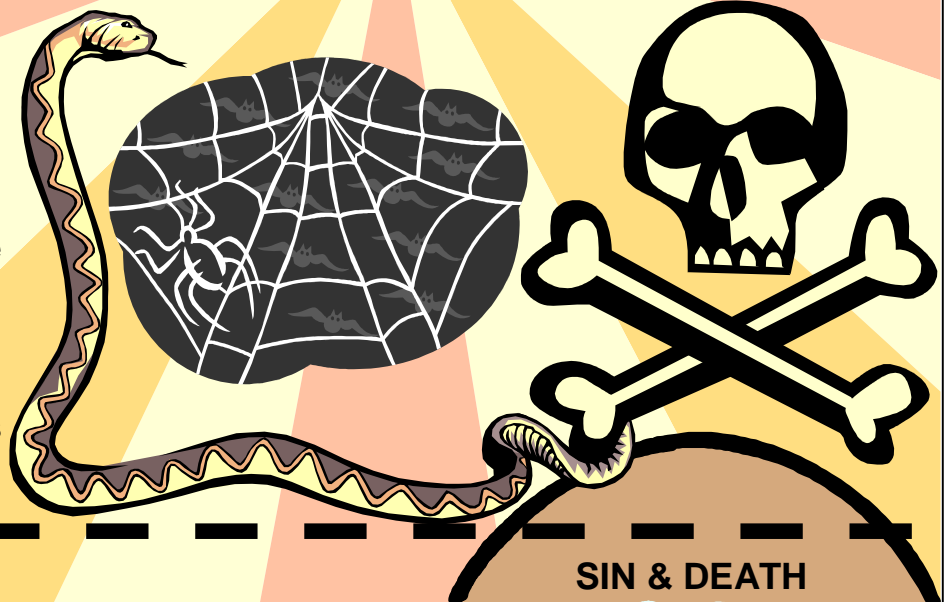
He raised us up together with Him and **made us sit down together** [giving us joint seating with Him] **in the heavenly sphere**...



2nd Heaven Spiritual

Eph. 6:12

...we are **not wrestling with flesh and blood**, but **against the despotisms**, against the **powers**, against [the **master spirits** who are] the **world rulers of this present darkness**, against the **spirit forces of wickedness** in the heavenly sphere.



1st Heaven: Natural

Gen. 4:6-7

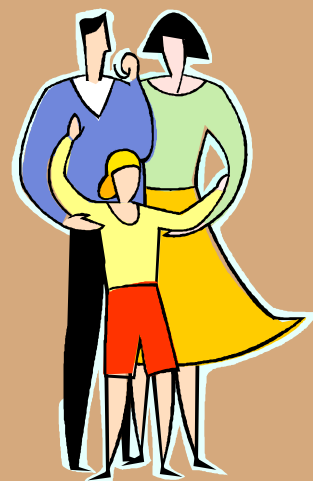
...And the Lord said to Cain, Why are you angry? And why do you look sad and depressed and dejected? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin crouches at your door; its desire is for you, but you must master it.

Rom. 6:12, 16, 23

2 Certainly not! How can we who died to sin live in it any longer?
16 Do you not know that if you continually surrender yourselves to anyone to do his will, you are the **slaves of him whom you obey**, whether that be to **sin**, which **leads to death**, or to **obedience** which **leads to righteousness** (right doing and right standing with God)?

23 For the **wages which sin pays is death**, but the **free gift of God is eternal life** through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SIN & DEATH



NATIONS OF FAMILIES

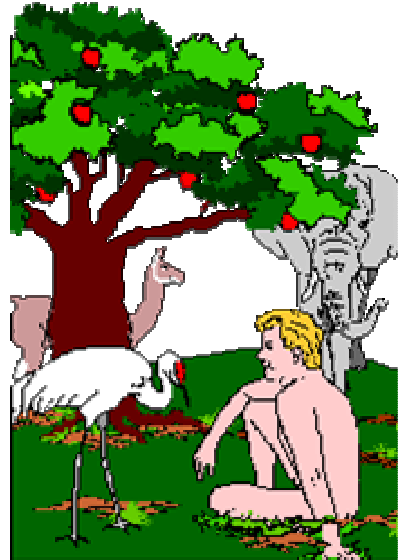
6. GOD'S DELEGATED AUTHORITY (RANKING)

God gave to both Adam and Eve authority to subdue everything that moved on the earth. Adam also had a mandate to subdue the land (**Gen 2:15**). The significance of this statement is a definition of responsibility and the necessary authority to accomplish the task for which he was created.

God also commissioned Adam to **name** the animals. To name an animal meant that Adam was assigning each animal **character**, **purpose** and **destiny** – in other words, naming something signified what that created being was destined to live out and become. We can only name that which we create.

God's principle is the same, whether it's naming animals or humans. Furthermore, **naming something gives authority over it**.

Authority does not have a disciplinarian view here but rather one of responsibility / proclamation ensuing purpose and destiny.



For example:

- God named Adam – He had authority over Adam.
- Adam named Eve and he was given authority over her.
- Parents name their children and they have authority over them until they are old enough to be responsible for themselves.

This authority / responsibility does not go away even though they are later responsible for their own actions, you continue to be held accountable to God for your own creation.

When Adam ate of the fruit, he did not become like God as the serpent had suggested. Instead, his God-given authority to subdue the earth was ripped away, usurped by the deceptive serpent.

By placing satan's words above God's Word, Adam became an underling in satan's kingdom and had subjected the earth to satanic corruption.

A child who refuses to honour his/her parents while they are still living in the home moves into the exact same situation.

Is 24:5, 6(a) *“The **land** and the **earth** also are **defiled** by their inhabitants, because they have transgressed the laws, disregarded the statutes, and broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore **a curse** devours the **land** and the **earth**, and they who dwell in it suffer the punishment of their guilt.”*

Rom 8:19, 20 *“For even the **whole creation**, **all nature**, waits expectantly and longs earnestly for God’s sons to be made known, waits for the revealing, the disclosing of their sonship.
For the **creation** was subjected to frailty, to futility, condemned to frustration, not because of some intentional fault on its part, but by the will of Him Who so subjected it.”*

Man’s authority restored by Jesus

After His death, Jesus descended into hell (**1 Pet 3:19**). There, Jesus stripped all authority from satan when He took the key of death from him on resurrection day, so that God’s authority to rule the earth was returned to man who, by faith, accepts the completed work of the Messiah.

Matt 28:18 *“Jesus...said...All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.”*

In other words, Jesus has legal authority in the heavens and on the earth. He restored to mankind the authority to subdue the earth.



So, satan has power but he does not have authority to stop what God had commanded the Church to do.

However, **satan retains the power of deception and seduction** which causes us to think that he has authority, even though he does not.

We are called to exercise our God-given power and authority to destroy the works of the evil one, by living a life of obedience to God’s commandments and renewing our minds so that we come in line with God’s view of our potential and purpose.

“Halakha” – the way we exercise our faith.

In **Matt 18: 18/19** we find the verse, which says: *“... the keys of the kingdom (authority), and whatsoever you bind on earth is bound in heaven and whatsoever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven”*

Within the Hebraic understanding of the verse we find something different to the commonly accepted message of binding & loosing the power of demons.

Accordingly, Jesus is passing on a degree of **authority** to His disciples so that they could make decisions with regard to the way in which we live out our faith in our daily walk.

The Bible/Torah does not give us exact detail on how to carry out all of God's commandments. Both at an individual and a corporate level today, decisions need to be made in the circumstances, as they currently exist.

The Bible/Torah is our basis of eternal truth. Every decision/ruling made should be in line with those principles so that the congregation could recognize the ruling authority.

In the Old Testament we find the structure set up by Moses with his group of elders, and in the New Testament, the Jerusalem Council as described in Acts.

In **Acts 15** the Jerusalem Council determines guidelines by which Gentiles/Pagans who come to the faith shall live out a life of holiness/obedience.

We therefore have authority (keys of the Kingdom) to determine current, relevant rulings in line with Biblical principles.



7. A HEAVENLY ARMY

God created countless numbers of spirit beings that are normally invisible to us (until God opens our spiritual eyes). Angels, known as **messengers** in the Greek and Hebrew, are commissioned to bring messages from God, to minister to people, or to administer the judgements of God.

Angels may relay specific instructions from God and have specific tasks to fulfil such as healing, strengthening or encouraging us.

Angels are mighty, powerful, intelligent and glorious supernatural beings.



2 Sam. 14:20 *"20 In order to change the course of matters [between Absalom and his father] your servant Joab did this. But my lord has wisdom like the wisdom of the angel of God—to know all things that are on the earth."*

Ps 103:20 *"20 Bless (affectionately, gratefully praise) the Lord, you His angels, you mighty ones who do His commandments, hearkening to the voice of His word."*

Mat 25:31 *"31 When the Son of Man comes in His glory (His majesty and splendor), and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory."*

The Third Heaven has a highly developed ranking structure. Angels and other heavenly beings have various functions, positions and characteristics.

Some angels minister to humans on earth, while others stand in the immediate presence of God

Luke 1:19 *"19 And the angel replied to him, I am Gabriel. I stand in the [very] presence of God, and I have been sent to talk to you and to bring you this good news."*

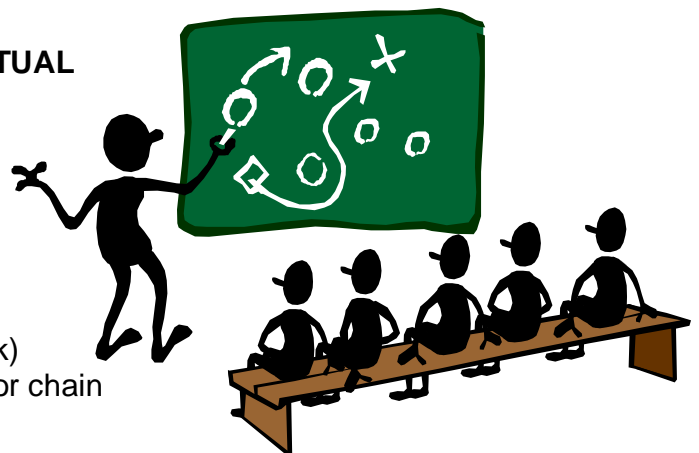
Regardless of their eminent ranking, the entire angelic hierarchy operates within God's authority structure. All are submissive to the Sovereign Will of God.

The church acting out its goals and purpose should be structured as a mirror image of the spiritual support structure created by God.

8. THE NEED FOR STRATEGY (SPIRITUAL MAPPING):

From the previous paragraph we see that God had put a multitude of angels into a ranking structure to help us move towards our purpose and destiny.

We also see (Preface: Scope of this book) that God had predetermined a structure or chain of command on earth.



These structures complement one another. From this structure it is obvious that any attack against the kingdom of darkness would need to follow the principles of strategic warfare.

This reinforces an earlier point (3. The Wisdom of Restraint) that individuals may not act on their own knowledge /perception except in the area of **personal ministry**.

Corporate issues (those of a town / city / province / state / area) need to be conducted within the framework of a corporate authority.

Such authority would be responsible to develop a successful **action plan/attack**. The following elements are all essential components of a plan at the corporate level:

- Information gathering (spiritual mapping)
- Definition of resources (making sure that we have all relevant parties activated)
- Definition of support services (activation of prayer / intercession groups, etc)
- Development of the Plan and Backup (God's Vision – Rhema - revelation of the moment)
- Coordination (communication systems and commitment of resource)
- Implementation (the event)
- Review the process (continuous evaluation of the activity of the event to determine new/changed facts.)
- Revision/Amendment (Rhema prophecy/Word)

Clearly this process requires that **leadership** at any level of corporate activity would need to be:

- united in the vision,
 - committed to the Plan,
 - involved in its implementation,
- to activate the required level of corporate authority needed

9. WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY?

The acts of God are issued from His Throne, and His Throne is established on His authority.

All things are created through God's authority and His authority maintains all physical laws of the universe.

Col. 1: 16 *"16 For it was in Him that all things were created, in heaven and on earth, things seen and things unseen, whether thrones, dominions, rulers, or authorities; all things were created and exist through Him [by His service, intervention] and in and for Him."*



God alone is the authority in all things; all the authorities of the earth are subjected to God.

There are levels of hierarchy of authority that descend from God the Father through Jesus the Son into every situation in the universe.

To challenge God's authority is a rebellion far more serious than that of offending God's holiness. The greatest of God's demands on man is not for him to bear the cross, to serve, make offerings or deny himself but simply to obey.

Heb 5: 9 *"9 And, [His completed experience] making Him perfectly [equipped], He became the Author and Source of eternal salvation to all those who give heed and obey Him,"*

Matt. 7: 21 *"21 Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven."*

1 Sam 15: 22 *"22 Samuel said, Has the Lord as great a delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."*

The will of God should be the main focus and not just stopping at redemption obtained through the crucifixion of Christ.

In serving God we are not called to choose self-denial or sacrifice, but rather we are to fulfill God's purpose; not to choose to stay at the cross, but to obey God's will.

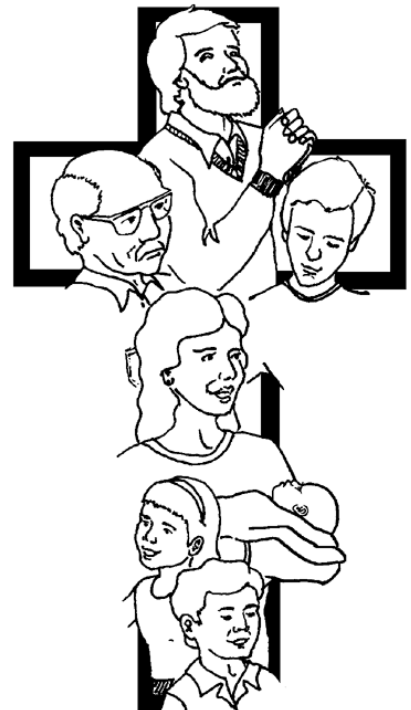
Paul and James clearly stated that we need to live a life reflecting the Glory of God – obedience to His commandment as an attitude of **love**.

In serving God we must not violate authorities placed over us unless those authorities are advocating acts contrary to the Word of God.

God has purposed to manifest His authority to the world through **the Church**.

God's authority can be seen in the coordination of the various members of the Body of Christ.

Examples from the New Testament include Barnabas and Paul, Paul and Timothy and Peter and Mark working together.



Some were called to a position of authority while others were called to a help ministry.

Warning: God has placed us all under authority, but He put a structure in place which allows each one to operate at his level of competency.

Whoever tries to serve without first meeting with authority is offering **strange fire**.

Anyone who says, *if he can, I can too*, is in a state of **rebellion**.

Rebellion changes the nature of the fire. Nadab and Abihu, Aaron's sons, worked apart from their father. The result was death by fire:

Lev 10:1-2 *"1 AND NADAB and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, and put incense on it, and offered strange and unholy fire before the Lord, as He had not commanded them.*

2 And there came forth fire from before the Lord and killed them, and they died before the Lord."



The meaning of strange fire is to serve without an order, to serve without obedience to authority.

Anyone who usurps authority moves out of his covering from the level above him. Equally anyone who refuses to allow those under him to function due to his own sense of fear or inadequacy is in rebellion to God's purpose.

There is no place for isolated individual service. In God's Kingdom all must serve in coordination.

Every ministry should always identify with a **local congregation**.

When going on ministry journeys, each person involved should be officially sent out from a local church and on his return, should give a report to the church that had sent him.

Paul and Barnabas established this practice in:

Acts 13:3 *"3 Then after fasting and praying, they put their hands on them and sent them away."*

Acts 14:26-27 “26 And from there they sailed back to Antioch, where they had [first] been commended to the grace of God for the work which they had [now] completed.
27 Arriving there, they gathered the church together and declared all that God had accomplished with them and how He had opened to the Gentiles a door of faith [in Jesus as the Messiah, through Whom we obtain salvation in the kingdom of God].”

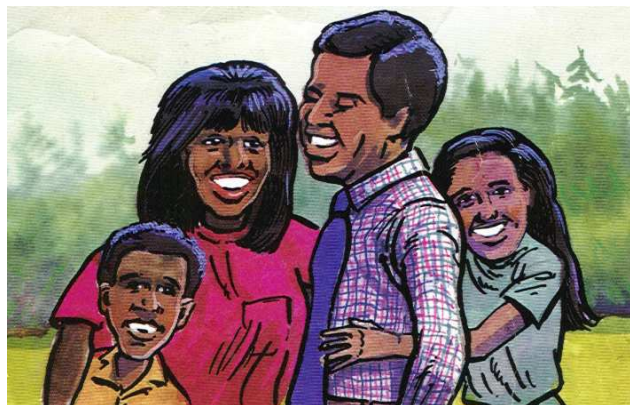
This practice ensures continuity in relationships, unity in purpose, prayer covering and the demonstration of leadership.

10. DELEGATED AUTHORITY (SPIRITUAL)

A delegated authority is to represent God's authority, **and not** to assume ones own authority. All we do is execute God's authority.

10.1 In the home

Eph 5:22-24 “**Wives, be subject to your own husbands** as a service to the Lord. For **the husband is the head of the wife** as Christ is the Head of the church, Himself the Saviour of His Body. As the church is subject to Christ, so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands.”



Eph 6:1-3 “**Children, obey your parents in the Lord** as His representatives, for this is just and right. Honour your father and your mother – this is the first commandment with a promise – that all may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth.”

Col 3:18, 20, 22 “**Wives, be subject to your husbands**, as is right and fitting and your proper duty in the Lord.
Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord.
Servants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not only when their eyes are on you as pleasers of men, but in simplicity of purpose with all your heart because of your reverence for the Lord and as a sincere expression of your devotion to Him.”

God has set the husband as the delegated authority of Christ, with the wife as the representative of the church.

It would be difficult for the wife to be subjected to her husband if she did not see the delegated authority vested in him by God. She needs to realize that the real issue is God's authority, not her husband.

If we honour the authority of the Lord in our lives, others will respect the Lord's authority in us.

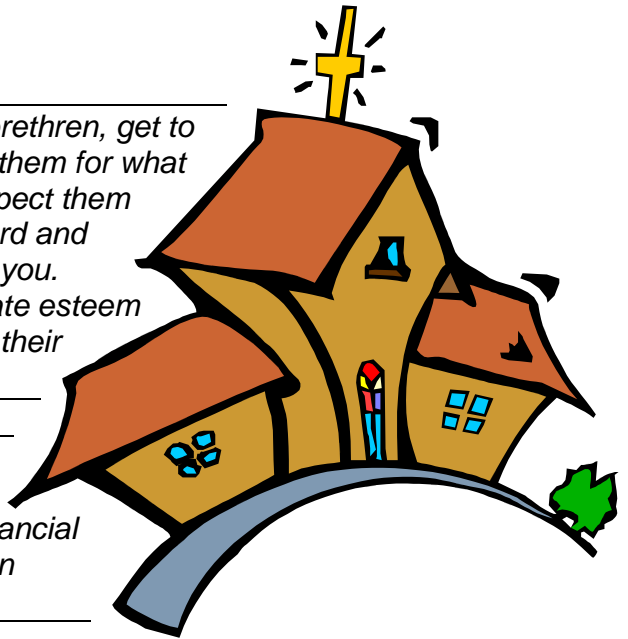
A man's family is the testing ground for his public ministry. When he can rule and minister effectively at home, he becomes a candidate for promotion to public leadership

1 Tim 3: 4-5 *"4 He must rule his own household well, keeping his children under control, with true dignity, commanding their respect in every way and keeping them respectful.
5 For if a man does not know how to rule his own household, how is he to take care of the church of God?"*

10.2 In the church

1 Thes 5:12, 13 *"Now also we beseech you, brethren, get to know those who labour among you, recognize them for what they are, acknowledge and appreciate and respect them all – **your leaders who are over you** in the Lord and those who warn and kindly reprove and exhort you. And hold them in very high and most affectionate esteem in intelligence and sympathetic appreciation of their work. Be at peace among yourselves."*

1 Tim 5:17 *"Let the elders who perform the duties of their office well be considered **doubly worthy of honour** and of adequate financial support, especially those who labour faithfully in preaching and teaching."*



Heb 13: 7, 17 *"7Remember those leading you, who have spoken to you the Word of God, whose faith follow, considering the end of their conduct...
17 Yield to those leading you, and be submissive, for they watch for your souls, as those who must give account, that they may do it with joy and not with grief; for that is unprofitable for you."*

It is clear that church leadership is expected to exercise authority and maintain discipline.

In fact, where there is no leadership that performs these functions, it is not correct, according to Scripture, to talk about a church.

Leadership makes the group of disciples into a church:

Acts 14: 21-23 *“17 Let the elders who perform the duties of their office well be considered doubly worthy of honor [and of adequate financial support], especially those who labor faithfully in preaching and teaching.”*

The Greek word for “church” is “ecclesia” = **governmental assembly**.

God sets in the church authorities such as “the elders that rule well” and “those who labour in preaching and teaching”. They are the ones whom everyone should obey.

The question may perhaps be asked: ‘*What if the authority is wrong?*’

The answer I believe is, ***If God dares to entrust His authority to men, then we can dare to obey.***

Whether the one in authority is right or wrong should not concern us, since he has to be responsible directly to God unless the actions clearly disobey God’s Word.



The obedient needs only to obey; the Lord will not hold us responsible for any **mistaken obedience**, but rather the delegated authority for his erroneous act.

It is therefore clear that no human element is involved in this matter of authority.

If our subjection is merely directed to a man the whole meaning of authority is lost.

When God institutes His delegated authority He is bound by His honour to maintain that authority.

To reject delegated authority is an affront to God.

The entire parable recorded in **Luke 20:9-16** focuses on the matter of delegated authority.

God did not come personally to collect His due after He had rented the vineyard to the tenants. Three times He sent His servants and the fourth time He sent His own Son. These were all His delegates.

In God’s view, those who reject His servants reject Him. It is impossible for us to hear and obey God’s Word and not the words of His delegates.

It is the rebellious nature of man that makes him want to obey God's direct authority without being subject to the delegated authorities God had established.

11. THE AUTHORITY OF THE BODY

1 Cor 12:12-21 *"For just as the body is a unity and yet has many parts, and all the parts, though many, form only one body, so it is with Christ. For by one Spirit we were all, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, baptized into one body, and all made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one limb or organ but of many. If the foot should say, Because I am not the hand, I do not belong to the body, would it be therefore not a part of the body? If the ear should say, Because I am not the eye, I do not belong to the body, would it be therefore not a part of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God has placed and arranged the limbs and organs in the body, each particular one of them, just as He wished and saw fit and with the best adaptation. But if the whole were all a single organ, where would the body be? And now there are certainly many limbs and organs, but a single body. And the eye is not able to say to the hand, I have no need of you, nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you."*

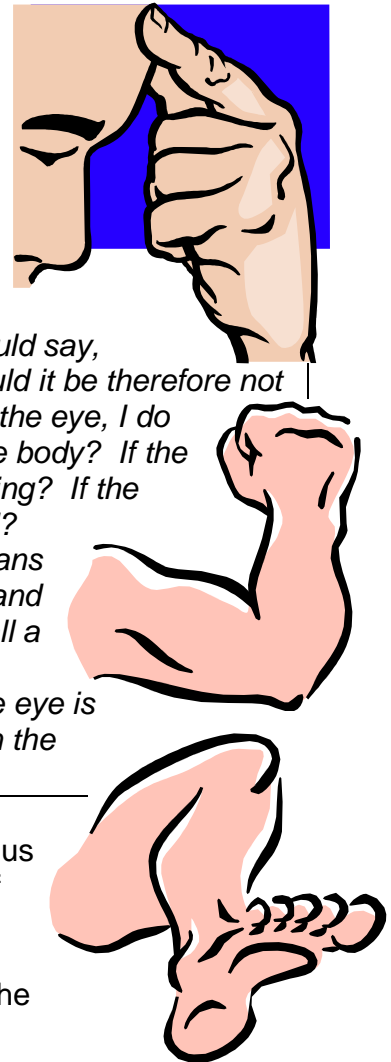
It is impossible for any member to be a whole body; each of us must learn to stand in the position of being a member and of accepting the functions and gifts of the other members.

To accept the functions/gifts of other members is to accept the fullness of the Head.

Only by accepting the functions of others – accepting their authority – does one receive the wealth of the whole Body.

Rebelliousness brings poverty, distrust, suspicion and anger. The confusion, which reigns when there is disunity, always causes loss to the entire Body.

We often misunderstand authority as something that oppresses us, hurts us and troubles us. God does not have such a concept.



He uses authority to replenish our lack. His motive in instituting authority is to bestow His riches on us and to supply the needs of the weak.

God places above you the brothers and sisters in the church who are spiritually more mature so that you may accept their judgment as your judgment.

This will then enable you to possess their wealth without you yourself having to go through their painful experiences.

Hence, authority brings in the riches of the church. To reject authority is to reject the means to grace and richness.

In **Eph 1:22-23** Paul also gives a second picture of God's people here on earth. He says, "*the church, which is His [Christ's] Body*".

In **1 Cor 12:27** Paul develops this theme: "*Now you are the Body of Christ, and members individually*".

He uses various examples from the physical body to emphasize that, as Christians, we are all interdependent and we all need each other.

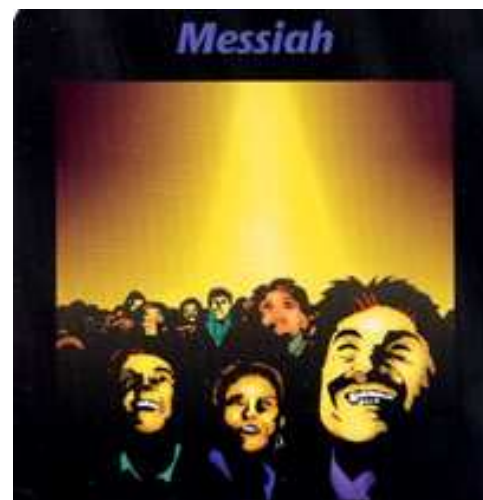
The most complete and authoritative picture of the church as the Body of Christ is given in *Ephesians*.

It is most significant, therefore, that throughout this epistle Paul consistently speaks of **Christians in the plural**. He has virtually nothing to say to or about individual Christians.

For example, in **Ephesians 1:3-12** Paul says the following:

- God has blessed us
- He chose us
- He predestined us
- He made us accepted
- We have redemption
- He has made known to us the mystery of His will
- We have obtained an inheritance
- We should be to the praise of His glory.

A careful reading of the rest of the epistle will confirm that this is its message from beginning to end. There are no promises and no prayers for any individual.



Only in the last six verses is there one brief exception: Paul closes by asking for special prayer for himself.

This focus on the collective Body of Christ comes to its climax in **Ephesians 6:10-18** where Paul speaks about **our** spiritual warfare.

Eph 6:12 *“12 For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the despotisms, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere.”*

In verse 12 all the key words are in the plural – both those that refer to God’s people and those that refer to the opposing forces: **We** wrestle against principalities – powers – rulers – hosts...

The spiritual warfare thus depicted is **not a conflict between individuals**, but a **vast war** between opposing **armies**.

There is no room here for “lone rangers” pursuing their individual goals.

Victory will require controlled and concerted action by God’s people working together as members of one Body.

This will demand **discipline** and a readiness to **submit** to scriptural authority.



12. THREE REQUIREMENTS FOR A DELEGATED AUTHORITY

12.1 A person must know that all authority comes from God

Man himself is not the authority, nor can anyone place himself in authority.

Only what comes from God constitutes authority and commands man's obedience. A delegated authority is to represent God's authority, never to assume that he too has authority.

We ourselves do not have the slightest authority in the home, the world or the church. All we do is **execute God's authority; we cannot create authority for ourselves.**

To be in authority does not depend on one having own ideas and thoughts but rather on **knowing the will of God. The measure of one's knowledge of God's will is the measure of ones delegated authority.**

12.2 A person must deny himself

Warning: Persons with many opinions, ideas and subjective thoughts are to be feared.

They prefer to act as counselors to all.

They seize upon every opportunity to **force their ideas onto others, to interfere with others' affairs.**

They pretend to **know everything in the church** and everything in the world.



Such a person has **never learned discipline**, nor has he ever been seriously dealt with. He apparently **knows all and can do all.**

Unless we are completely broken by the Lord we are not qualified to be God's delegated authority.

God calls us to **REPRESENT His authority, not to SUBSTITUTE His authority.**

Only after one is scourged by God does one begin to live in fear and trembling before Him.

12.3 A person must constantly keep in fellowship with the Lord

Anyone who offers opinions freely and speaks in the Name of the Lord carelessly is far away from God.

The nearer one is to the Lord, the clearer he sees his own faults. He has no confidence in his flesh.

John 5:19, 30

So Jesus answered them by saying, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, the Son is able to do nothing of Himself; but He is able to do only what He sees the Father doing, for whatever the Father does is what the Son does in the same way.

I am able to do nothing from Myself. Even as I hear, I judge, and My judgement is right, because I do not seek or consult My own will but only the will and pleasure of the Father Who sent Me.

13. DIFFERENT DELEGATED AUTHORITIES

The authorities that God had established:

- In the **family** are the **parents** in relation to their children,
- The **husbands** in relation to their wives,
- The **masters** in relation to their servants.
- In the **world** the authorities are the **kings** in relation to their subjects.
- **World rulers** in relation to God's people.
- The **workers** in relation to their work.

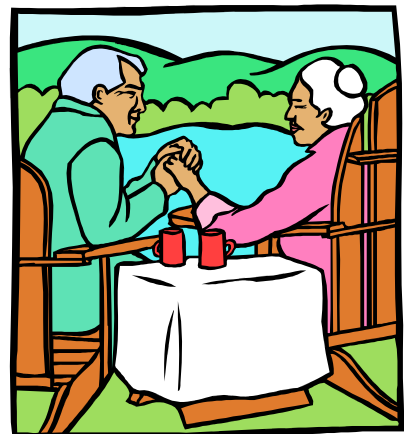


All these various authorities have their respective conditions.

13.1 Husbands

The Bible teaches that wives should be subject to their husbands; yet husbands should **exercise authority with a condition**.

Three times in *Ephesians 5* are husbands called upon to **love their wives even as they love themselves**.



Undoubtedly there is authority in the family; nonetheless those in authority need to fulfill God's requirement.

The love of Christ for the church sets the example for the love which husbands ought to have for their own wives.

As Christ loves the church so should husbands love their wives. The love of the husbands ought to be the same as the love of Christ for His church.

If husbands wish to represent God's authority they must love their own wives.



13.2 Parents

Unquestionably children must obey their parents; even so, the authority of the parents has its responsibility and condition too.

The scripture says, *Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath. (Eph 6:4)*

In spite of the fact that parents do have authority, they **need to learn how to control themselves before God.**



They should not deal with their children according to their whims, thinking that they have the absolute right to do so since they have begotten and do rear them. Even though God created us, **He has never ill-treated us.** It is not right to do to children what one would usually dare not do to friends, students, subordinates or relatives.

A paramount need for **parents is to control themselves, that is, to be able to control themselves by the Holy Spirit.**

There is a limit to what parents can do to their children.

The objective of all the authority parents have towards their children is to **"instruct and to bring their children up in the discipline and admonition of the Lord."** (Eph 6:4)

No thought of over lording or punishment is involved; the intention is for **education** and **loving protection**. (See teaching on Anger Management, available at Kanaan Ministries)

13.3 Masters

The servants ought to be obedient to their masters, yet to be a master is likewise conditional.

Masters should not threaten or provoke their servants. God will not allow His delegated authorities to act intemperately; they must have the fear of God within them.

They need to know that He who is both their Master and their servants' Master is in heaven and that there is no partiality with Him (**Eph 6:9**). Remember well that masters also are under authority.

Although people are under their authority, they themselves are under authority – the authority of God.

For this reason they cannot be unbridled. The more a person knows about authority the less ignorant and intimidating he becomes.

The indispensable attitudes of those in authority are **gentleness and love**.

If one menaces and judges others God will soon judge him. Therefore masters ought to tremble before God.

13.4 Rulers

We should be subject to the governing authorities.

Nowhere in all the New Testament is there any instruction on how to be a ruler. However, the Old Testament does describe to us the **conditions of rulers**. (**Ex. 18: 21**)

The basic requirements for governing authorities are righteousness, impartiality, justice and care for the poor.

These are the principles that rulers must keep. They are not out to support themselves but to maintain absolute justice.

13.5 Elders

The elders are the authorities in the local assembly. The brethren should learn to be subject to the elders.

One **essential quality** of elders, as explained in **Titus 1**, is **self-control**.

The lawless can never enforce the law and neither can the rebellious bring into submission.

The elders must first be strictly self-controlled.

The phenomenon of a lack of restraint is so prevalent among men today.

Consequently, only the highly-disciplined should be chosen as elders.

Since the elders are appointed in order to take care of the church, they themselves must first know how to obey and be under control before they can be examples to all others.

God never appoints anyone who likes to put himself first as an elder (such as Diotrephes,

3 John 9 *“I have written briefly to the church; but Diotrephes, who likes to take the lead among them and put himself first, does not acknowledge my authority and refuses to accept my suggestions or to listen to me.”*

Being the highest authority in the local assembly, elders must be self-controlled persons.

In **1Timothy 3 & 4** another essential quality of an elder is mentioned:

He must be able to manage his own household well. This household refers not primarily to parents or wives but especially to the children.

The children must be kept submissive and respectful in every way.

He who knows how to be a **good father** may be **chosen an elder**.

Only by exercising proper authority at home, is one qualified to be an elder in the church.

An elder must **not be a self-conceited person**.

He who becomes haughty when given authority is unfit for the elder hood.



The elders of a local assembly should not be susceptible to power-consciousness.

Whoever is conscious of authority is not fit to be an elder, nor can he manage the affairs of the church.

Only people suffering from rejection and inferiority are proud; they cannot bear either God's glory or His trust and use of them.

Hence, **a recent convert must not be chosen as elder lest he be puffed up and fall into the condemnation of the devil.**

[The Greek meaning of a novice is illustrated by a carpenter's apprentice who handles an axe for the first time].

13.6 Workers

The condition for workers as delegated authorities in the work is specified.

Titus 2:15 *"15 Tell [them all] these things. Urge (advise, encourage, warn) and rebuke with full authority. Let no one despise or disregard or think little of you [conduct yourself and your teaching so as to command respect]."*

Titus was not an elder of the church but served the Lord as an apostle.

Paul exhorted him: "These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no man despise thee."

In order not to be despised **one must live a life of sanctification.**

If one is no different from others in living and conduct (if one lives loosely and without discipline), one cannot escape being despised.

It takes a lifestyle of holiness to draw respect from others and to qualify oneself as God's representative. Paul speaks to Timothy in the same vein.

Though it is true that a worker does not seek glory and honour from men, he still cannot allow himself to be despised through his lack of sanctification.

Only two books in the entire New Testament are written to young workers.



In both, Paul exhorts that they do not let themselves be despised because of their youth; on the contrary, they should set an example for the other believers.

They must reject all human criteria that might cause them to be despised, because only God's criteria are important.

To be in authority is costly; such ones need to be sanctified from the rest and be ready for a lonely life.

Those who are examples differ from the rest in having sanctified themselves.

Now no one should lift himself up, yet neither should he allow himself to be despised.

14. IN THE MIDST OF ABOUNDING LAWLESSNESS

One feature of the **close of the present age** that Jesus warned His disciples about was an **upsurge of lawlessness**.

Matt 24:12 *And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.*

Jesus indicated that many Christians would be infected by this prevailing lawlessness and as a result their love for God and His people would grow cold.

The **essence of lawlessness is a rejection of authority**. This has become an obvious feature of our contemporary culture.

There is a widespread contempt for any rules or regulations that interfere with each person's individual liberty.



People are very forceful in asserting their "rights", yet very reluctant to acknowledge their corresponding responsibilities.

At times, the consequence is a condition bordering on anarchy. As Christians, we have to guard ourselves against this kind of attitude.

We are required to show our respect for legitimate secular authority.

But first and foremost, we must cultivate and maintain an attitude of respect and obedience toward God our Father and toward Jesus our Saviour.



This will be expressed in a corresponding attitude of respect and obedience towards God's Word, the Scriptures.

John 14:23-24 *"Jesus says, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word ... He who does not love Me does not keep My words."*

We may claim to love God and we may even pray long and eloquent prayers or preach long and eloquent sermons.

However, we do not honour and obey God by going through religious actions without having a lifestyle of holiness.

In the midst of prevailing lawlessness it would be appropriate for each of us to make a fresh affirmation of our unreserved and total submission to the authority of Scripture.

2 Tim 3:16 *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God."*

15. OUR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

One main area in which our submission to God and His Word will be tested is that of our personal relationships. Jesus laid down some very strict rules.

For instance, He says concerning **forgiving** other people:

Mark 11:25-26 *"And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."*



Again, at the end of the pattern prayer which Jesus taught His disciples in

Matthew 6:9-13, He added only one comment: *"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses".*

We always need to remember that forgiving another person is not an expression of emotion but an act of self-discipline. For this we can depend upon the Holy Spirit, who is a Spirit *“of power, of love and self-discipline”* (2 Tim 1:7).

Self-discipline is also required to produce the kind of attitude Paul describes in **Ephesians 5:21**: *“submitting to one another in the fear of God”*.

This attitude of **mutual submission** is the key to right relationships both in the home and in the church.

Christians who refuse to forgive others or to submit to one another are in defiance of Scripture. Their root problem is **lawlessness**.

They have opened themselves up to the spirit prevailing in the world around them.

It will inevitably make them vulnerable to the evil angels who are their relentless enemies in the heavenly places.

16. THREE UNCOMPROMISING DEMANDS

We are confronted with three areas in which Scripture reveals clear, uncompromising demands of God, that apply to all Christians.

1. **Respect for Christ's authority** operating in and through **each local congregation**.
2. **Unqualified forgiveness** for all who have wronged us or harmed us.
3. An **attitude of submissiveness** toward all our fellow Christians.

Obedience in these three areas provides Christians with a **covering** of scriptural authority that protects them from the attacks of satanic forces/demons in the heavenly places.

Conversely, disobedience inevitably makes Christians vulnerable to such attacks.



Clearly one needs to understand that attacks could also arise from:

- a) Involvement in wilful, unrepented sin
- b) A trial or tribulation set by God (Job)

On the basis of many years of experience in the Body of Christ, we as prayer leaders are convinced that the consequences of disobeying these three requirements of Scripture can be tragic in the extreme.

We believe that it is one main reason why many fine, dedicated servants of the Lord have become casualties.

We pray that God may grant us all a new respect for the authority of Christ vested in His Church and that He may renew in each of us an attitude of forgiveness and submissiveness.



SECTION B: PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF AUTHORITY AND RANKING

INTRODUCTION: Possessing your Birthright

God designs us as highly talented individuals then He inserts us into the stream of human history. He uses a multitude of means to reveal to us who He made us to be and to spur us on to develop those abilities.

As we respond rightly to the problems of life we learn, develop those abilities and experience fulfillment.

But there is much more to life than just the warm fuzzies of "winning" or accomplishing. Life has more meaning than merely avoiding the feeling of futility as we age and die.

We believe that as we use the **skills** God placed in us to solve the problems God gave us to solve, we will **possess our birthright** as individuals.

Think of it in terms of **Israel and the Promised Land**. They experienced a strange paradox that applies to us as well.

God told them repeatedly that He was going to **give** them the land of Canaan. He also told them repeatedly that they were to go in and **take** possession of it themselves, through war and hardship.

It was a gift, yet they had to take it by **force**.

Each side of the paradox has application to us as we possess our birthright.

When God **gives** us something, it gives us **legal right** to solve that problem.

Israel was forbidden from taking land in Egypt, Moab, Ammon or Edom.

Those people were adversarial in their stance toward Israel as were the Amorites and Canaanites.

On paper those nations may have looked like a legitimate problem to solve, but God had not given them legal right to invade those countries.

Each of us has specific parameters in our life.



We are permitted by God, licensed by God and authorized by God to remove certain obstacles and not others.

Paul was quite attuned to that. In **2 Corinthians 10:13-15** he talked about the boundaries God had placed around him.

Paul wanted to go farther afield than God had allowed him up to that time, but he recognized his limits.

He improved his gifts and skills to a state of excellence over time; he could theoretically apply it universally, but Paul did not have permission from God to decide where he was going to preach nor when.

God specifically chased him out of Jerusalem one time, prohibiting him from preaching there even though Paul pleaded with God for Him to change His mind (**Acts 22:17-21**).

Another time, he went on a trip and tried to take every road to the east only to have God block him and force him to go west instead (**Acts 16:6-10**).

God precisely proscribed Paul's ministry.

He was not authorized to work in the whole world. Paul's heart for ministry was endless.

His motivation was pure. His energy level was great. Nonetheless God limited him. There were certain problems he was assigned to solve and he had to focus on those problems since there were not enough hours in the day.

Similarly when God "gives" us something, it simply means we have a legal right to go after it.

Legal right however needs to be supplemented by power. When God commands us to solve a particular problem (or **take** land in the case of the Israelites) He is also promising to provide the necessary support.

Our abilities are rarely enough to do anything God has called us to do therefore He invests deeply in helping us when we are solving the problems He has originally designed us to solve.



He withholds His power long enough for us to develop our abilities, but then when we have achieved the desired growth, God provides His power to complete the task.

He could have done that at the inception of the problem, but it would have robbed us of the growth experience.

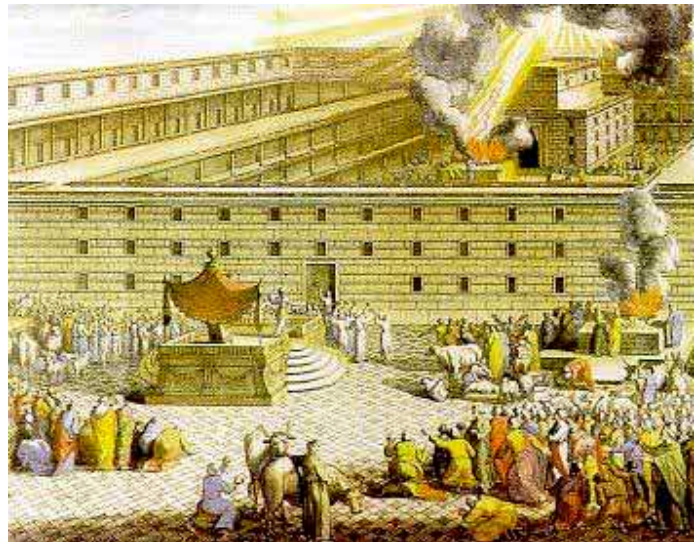
The Win/Win Proposition

Having developed our God given abilities and tackled the problems God "gave" us to tackle, and been victorious through His power at work within us, we will find not only personal fulfilment but we will, in that place, receive the greatest riches God has for us.

Canaan was not just a place where Israel could exist. It was a superb place, a place of wealth, influence, comfort and prestige.

They moved from trying to obtain something, to being in a position of stewardship where they gave spiritual and natural treasures to the needy nations around them.

When we are doing what we were designed to do, we are making the greatest possible contribution to advancing the Kingdom of Heaven.



God has been portrayed at times as someone who advances His Kingdom at the expense of the church and then He rewards in eternity those who sacrificially serve Him here on earth.

While we **are** called to take up our cross and follow Him, in most cases the sacrifice is merely a season in the larger process.

In broad strokes we can say that in doing the greatest good for the Kingdom, we are doing the greatest good for ourselves as well.

In possessing our birthright, we are receiving the blessings God has for us while being positioned to be a blessing in the section of the vineyard that is our responsibility.

It is the win/win plan God intended from the beginning.

Identifying Your Birthright

Many people wonder what their birthright is; yet most of us cannot accept that information even though we think we want to know.

Romans 12:2 talks about our arriving at a place where we can test and approve what God's will is. Most of us simply cannot "approve" of God's will for our lives because of our damaged self-image.

Think about where you are today. Most of the people who would read this kind of article are in a much larger place today than where they were ten years ago.

If God had told you ten years ago what He was planning for you today, would you have been able to wholeheartedly approve of what God revealed? Most of us, myself included, would have to say "no."

In the same vein, if God were to tell many of us what He has in store for us ten years hence, many of us would have a hard time embracing that revelation.

God knows all that, so He **grows** us toward the objective He has in mind (our possessing our birthright) without explaining to us how everything He is doing fits into the master plan.

His most basic tool to move us toward our birthright is to systematically send us precisely designed problems.

We will have to grow to be able to embrace each of the problems He sends us. **That growth consists of discovering and developing the abilities God placed in us that we have not used up until now.**



If we will embrace the problems He sends even when we don't understand them, our growth will move us in a process of increase toward using all the gifts He has placed within us, which will eventually result in our possessing the treasure that God has for us to steward.

That is how we can move toward possessing our birthright even when we do not have a clue what it is. Somewhere down the road is a treasure that God wants us to use to benefit the Kingdom.

In order to properly administer that treasure we have to unleash our potential.

We do that by embracing Father-filtered problems.

1. RANKING: IS IT BIBLICAL?

2 Cor 10:12-18

Verse 13 – *We, on the other hand, will not boast beyond our **legitimate province** and **proper limit**, but will keep within the **limits that God has allotted** us as our measuring line and which reaches and includes even you.*

Verse 14 – *For we are **not overstepping the limits** of our province and stretching beyond our ability to reach, as though we reached not (had no legitimate mission) to you, for we were [the very first] to come even as far as to you with the good news of Christ.*

Verse 15 – *We do not boast therefore, beyond our proper limit, over other men's labours, but we have the hope and confident expectation that as your faith continues to grow, **our field among you may be greatly enlarged, still within the limits** of our commission.*

Each one of us has received a measure (“metron”) of ranking.

Examples from the Word

1. Samson

Judges 13:5

...the child shall be a Nazirite to God from birth, and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hands of the Philistines.

The Philistines were the top ranking; the strongest of the nations that God had left **to test and to prove Israel's obedience (Judges 3:1-4)**. They had the right to be there and God needed someone to act against them and to redeem back the land that they controlled.

God **allowed** Samson to marry a Philistine woman:

Judges 14:4 *“4 His father and mother did not know that it was of the Lord, and that He sought an occasion for assailing the Philistines. At that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.”*

That gave him **legal right** in the midst of Israel's enemies.



For his training Samson first had to face a young lion and then had to slay 30 men:

Judges 14:5-6, 19 *“5 Then Samson and his father and mother went down to Timnah and came to the vineyards of Timnah. And behold, a young lion roared against him.*

6 And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and he tore the lion as he would have torn a kid, and he had nothing in his hand; but he did not tell his father or mother what he had done.

19 And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon and slew thirty men of them and took their apparel [as spoil], and gave the changes of garments to those who explained the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father’s house.”



His wife was given to his best friend (betrayal) and he was sinned against but he was given power and authority to fight.

In **Judges 15** he catches **foxes** and **jackals** (symbols of betrayal) and makes torches of their tails and sets alight the grain fields of the Philistines.

They, in turn, burnt his wife and her father. Again, this gave him power and authority because of this great sin committed against him. He smote a great number of men

Judges 15: 8 *“8 And he smote them hip and thigh [unsparingly], a great slaughter; and he went down and dwelt in the cleft of the rock of Etam.”*

Samson is betrayed by his own brothers.

Judges 15:11 *“11 Then 3,000 men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock Etam and said to Samson, Have you not known that the Philistines are rulers over us? What is this that you have done to us? He said to them, As they did to me, so have I done to them.”*

He slew 1000 men with a moist jawbone of a donkey.

Judges 15:15 *“15 And he found a still moist jawbone of a donkey and reached out and took it and slew 1,000 men with it.”*

The time had come when Samson moved into **redeeming the land** by taking hold of the **city’s gates** and two posts, pulled them up – bar and all

Judges 16:3 *“3 But Samson lay until midnight, and [then] he arose and took hold of the doors of the city’s gate and the two posts, and pulling them up, bar and all, he put them on his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that is before Hebron.”*

The lords of the Philistines.

Judges 16:5 *“5 And the **lords of the Philistines** came to her and said to her, Entice him and see in what his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him that we may bind him to subdue him. And we will each give you 1,100 pieces of silver.”*

Samson had thus climbed in rank and was now facing the high-ranking leaders in the enemy’s camp.

Samson’s eyes were bored out:

Judges 16:21 *“21 But the Philistines laid hold of him, bored out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza and bound him with [two] bronze fetters; and he ground at the mill in the prison.”*

He had lost his strength and the Philistine lords were gathered together to offer great sacrifice to Dagon, their god, for giving Samson into their hands.

The house was full:

Judges 16:27 *“27 Now the house was full of men and women; all the Philistine princes were there, and on the roof were about 3,000 men and women who looked on while Samson made sport.”*

All the Philistine princes were there together with 3000 men and women.

Samson cried out to God and placed both his hands on the two middle pillars that carried the whole house, and pushed!

His authority was restored and he slew more people at his death than during his whole lifetime. He thus conquered the top structure of the Philistines.



We clearly learn from Samson’s life that his authority grew **progressively** from when he started by conquering the lion until he destroyed the Philistine lords.

2. David

As a young shepherd boy he was anointed as king over Israel but didn't step into that role immediately. He **progressively** had to "grow up" in the anointing and call upon his life.

Every test placed in front of him determined whether he would go to the next level.

First it was the **lion**, then the **bear**, then **Goliath**, then he was made leader over a few men until, as he passed the tests, he eventually reached his destiny as king over Israel.

We learn much from the life of David:

- his heart of worship,
- he was quick to repent,
- he had a broken and contrite spirit,
- he was humble and
- much, much more.
- He was a man after God's own heart.



As children of God in the New Testament we are given an **inheritance as kings and priests**. We are called to rule and reign and to subdue the earth.

We have been given power and authority over all the power of the enemy. BUT, just like David, we have to "grow up" in our callings and destinies. We will also go through many tests, trials and tribulations (**James 1**).

God will be testing our character, our heart and our **obedience** to His commands. Our level of faith must grow.

2. PRACTICAL APPLICATION

How do I grow in authority and ranking?

The first principle that determines our level of authority in prayer is simply our relationship to Christ – our salvation.

While each believer moves in different levels of authority for some activities, everyone has equal authority to access the Father in Jesus Name.

No Christian has any more authority to go before the Heavenly Father than you do.

No one has more access to the provisions procured for us by Christ than you. God has no second-class children. We all stand on equal ground and have the **exact same potential level of authority** when it comes to petitioning the Father in Jesus Name and requesting of Him the Biblical Promises made to us.

While we all have equal access to our Heavenly Father in Christ's Name, there are factors that can alter this.

They have to do with our **OBEDIENCE** to His Word and our **FREEDOM FROM SIN**. These can and will affect our right to approach the Father for His blessings.

The Bible is filled with passages indicating that our level of authority and favour with God is linked to our level of purity.

Ps 24: 3-5 "3 Who shall go up into the mountain of the Lord? Or who shall stand in His Holy Place?

4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted himself up to falsehood or to what is false, nor sworn deceitfully.

5 He shall receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation."

Ps 1:1-3 "1 BLESSED (HAPPY, fortunate, prosperous, and enviable) is the man who walks and lives not in the counsel of the ungodly [following their advice, their plans and purposes], nor stands [submissive and inactive] in the path where sinners walk, nor sits down [to relax and rest] where the scornful [and the mockers] gather.



2 But his delight and desire are in the law of the Lord, and on His law (the precepts, the instructions, the teachings of God) he habitually meditates (ponders and studies) by day and by night.

3 And he shall be like a tree firmly planted [and tended] by the streams of water, ready to bring forth its fruit in its season; its leaf also shall not fade or wither; and everything he does shall prosper [and come to maturity].”

1 John 1:5-10 *“5 And this is the message [the message of promise] which we have heard from Him and now are reporting to you: God is Light, and there is no darkness in Him at all [no, not in any way].*

6 [So] if we say we are partakers together and enjoy fellowship with Him when we live and move and are walking about in darkness, we are [both] speaking falsely and do not live and practice the Truth [which the Gospel presents].

7 But if we [really] are living and walking in the Light, as He [Himself] is in the Light, we have [true, unbroken] fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses (removes) us from all sin and guilt [keeps us cleansed from sin in all its forms and manifestations].

8 If we say we have no sin [refusing to admit that we are sinners], we delude and lead ourselves astray, and the Truth [which the Gospel presents] is not in us [does not dwell in our hearts].

9 If we [freely] admit that we have sinned and confess our sins, He is faithful and just (true to His own nature and promises) and will forgive our sins [dismiss our lawlessness] and [continuously] cleanse us from all unrighteousness [everything not in conformity to His will in purpose, thought, and action].

10 If we say (claim) we have not sinned, we contradict His Word and make Him out to be false and a liar, and His Word is not in us [the divine message of the Gospel is not in our hearts].”

We must not be deceived into believing we can do as we please, live contrary to God's Laws, and still be welcome before our Father, let alone move in significant intercessory authority for others.

The Church at Thyatira

They were compromising with the spirit of Jezebel. God was angry with them because they were tolerating this spirit; He challenged them to change this.

Rev 2:26-27 *“26 And he who overcomes (is victorious) and who obeys My commands to the [very] end [doing the works that please Me], I will give him authority and power over the nations;*

27 And he shall rule them with a sceptre (rod) of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, and [his power over them shall be] like that which I Myself have received from My Father;”



God unquestionably links our authority level to our purity level. If we choose to compromise or allow a particular spirit to operate in our life, it will diminish the level of authority we possess, both when petitioning the Father for ourselves and for others.

Key: Obedience; doing what you know to do; not just hearing but **acting out** and **applying** what you learn every day from the Word of God.

You have been given authority over **seven areas** in the following order:

1. Personally

You need to deal with personal battles first, e.g. smoking, addictive patterns, negative thoughts, finances, lust, etc. Once you've overcome these levels you are given ranking for the next level.

2. Family

Now you have authority to deal with family attacks and battles, e.g. marriage, children, sickness of family members, etc. Once you have gained victories in these areas and you have been found faithful, you are "promoted" in the spirit.

3. Church

The family is strong and stable with God's order in place and so the family is used in cell groups or different ministries in the church. As you are found faithful in the ministries at the church and your gift has made room for you (*Prov 18:16*) you are then promoted to pray for the Church of Jesus Christ in your area.

4. Area

Do spiritual mapping, spiritual walking, etc. in your neighbourhood. As the Body of Christ comes together and works in unity in the different areas of the city or town, then one can start to pray for your city.

5. City

This, in turn, leads to cities standing together in the form of prayer groups praying for our country.



6. Country

Praying for your country leads to worldwide prayer.

7. International

This is the ultimate level.

Remember: Having won some battles on the different levels doesn't mean that you'll never have some battles there again. You have to be faithful and deal with the enemy every time he shows up and keep your guard for God's Kingdom.



Warning: Be careful not to move out of your ranking or authority level. (We have had to minister to many who have done so and had been seriously attacked by the enemy).

Examples:

1. A young man, full of zeal for the Lord, but without wisdom, had tried to bind the strongman over the city of Vereeniging (SA) and was paralyzed for a week until we ministered to him. He repented for having acted in pride and presumption and we pulled him back under the protective covering of the Lord.

Jesus Christ is the Commander of His army and if He does not call us into a specific battle with Him riding on ahead, DO NOT GO! Do not act on presumption.

The “elders” of the city or town are called by God to sit in the gates of the city. Sitting in the gates is a spiritual principle of who is in authority over the city (see Course 6 and Crushing Every Opposition by Kanaan Ministries).

A “foot” soldier cannot tell a “general” to get off his chair of authority!

2. A lady who had a strong ministry amongst the farm workers in the Standerton district (SA) went insane after standing in the gap for all the witchdoctors in South Africa! After a very long time of ministry we got her mind clear enough to repent of what she had done and then we pulled her back under God's protection. Today, she is back in her right mind and ministering again, but very careful as to what levels she is attacking in warfare prayer.

3. AUTHORITY IN THE AREA WHERE YOU LIVE

God has given you authority in the house and the street where you live. The church has been given authority in the area of where it is situated. Church leaders of the areas have been given city authority. City leaders again, have been given national authority and world leaders have international authority.

You can't just suddenly arrive in a city or town to do spiritual warfare as you "feel led". You have no legal right in the spirit to do so and you will be severely counter-attacked by the enemy.



Only if you are invited by the church of that town or city and given authority by those leaders, can you then minister.

[Obviously, this doesn't apply to places where there is no church at all, as in missionary work. In this case you would have to have clearly heard from God before going to any village / area to plant a church. Much warfare will be needed to make a way open in the spirit before taking ground in the physical.]

4. INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY

International authority is a mantle that is given by God to His ambassadors. This mantle acts as a passport in the spirit. These passports have already been issued in Heaven, but they cannot be delivered until the "fullness of time" (until you have grown in authority to International level.).

God places a call on your life and then the training process starts. God then determines the time and season in your life and will release an international mantle upon you, which then will open doors for you to other nations.

(You never force doors open or try to promote yourself/market yourself/your ministry to other nations.)

There are many mantles and you can never receive a mantle for a particular nation unless you are called and commissioned by the Lord to go there.

Many try to go to a nation using their own mantles or authority and, trust me, the demons can tell the difference! On the one hand the demons will just laugh at you or ignore you. On the other hand they might decide to use you for target practice!

When you are truly called to a nation, you receive a certain authority in that nation.

5. AUTHORITY AND RANKING IN THE OCCULT

Satan is a copycat and copies patterns that he had observed when he was one of the archangels in God's throne room before his rebellion.

God is a Father and has promised blessings for thousands of generations.

Satan, as a false or counterfeit father, also works with the generations and has a legal right to do so because of the curse pronounced by God in the Word.

The sins of the father will be visited upon the children and children's children, upon the third and fourth generations.

Is 24:5, 6 *"The **land and the earth also are defiled** by their inhabitants, because they have transgressed the laws, disregarded the statutes, and broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore a **curse** devours the **land** and the **earth**, and they who dwell in it suffer the punishment of their guilt. Therefore the inhabitants of the **land** and the **earth** are scorched and parched [under the curse of God's wrath], and few people are left."*

Ex 34:7 *"Keeping mercy and loving-kindness for thousands for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but Who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the **iniquity of the fathers** upon **the children and the children's children**, to the **third and fourth** generation."*

Ranking in the occult is mostly predetermined by the inherited calling and gifts received through the bloodline. Most "healers", "shamans", clairvoyants, etc. inherit their abilities.

It is possible to train up outsiders if they are perceived to possess "gifts".

Ranking or the level of authority or power of the gift often becomes stronger as it is passed on to each new generation.

The **practicing** of the occultic gifts by each descendant **strengthens** the power and calling in the occultic gifts.



Power and abilities can be increased through extreme acts of devotion to the powers, etc. but these descendants are normally motivated by the inherent tendency (inherited occultic abilities) within the person.

Normally one is **limited** to the **specific level** accorded already in the womb, as is the Godly calling that is activated in the womb. (*Jer 1: 5; Ps 139: 16*)
Dedication, initiation and covenant type rituals strengthen existing ranking and calling.

These ceremonies will inevitably lead to some type of control given over to these influencing powers and may lead to temporal possession, this will strengthen and increase ranking in the present and future generations.

In the cult, ranking is determined through inheritance and the “favour” of satan.

This ranking is reinforced by rituals and ceremonies.

The more gruesome, painful and destructive the rituals the more powerful they are perceived to be.

These types of rituals will invoke the most powerful type of spirits and thus lead to an increase of power in the respective person.



SECTION C: TERRITORIAL WARFARE⁶

1. PROCLAMATIONS VERSUS WARFARE OVER TERRITORIAL AREAS

A **proclamation** is an announcement, declaration, decree or notification.

Proclamations can be done by every child of God, irrespective of the level of maturity or position in the Body, and at anytime.

This strengthens the ability of God's Heavenly structure to engage at God's command. You proclaim the Word of God to the principalities and powers.



You declare what the Word says about the Lordship of Jesus Christ. You speak the Word into each situation.

Warfare is when you actually address the principalities and powers and bind them.

This is where the army is needed, e.g. when the evidence of an evil force (rape, violence, drug trafficking, etc.) come to a point in an area/location/town/city where it seems that it is gaining momentum and trying to take total command, the corporate Church must decide to stand on God's promises and move into warfare.

The gates of hell will be pushed back and the Church will claim back the territory for God.

This is a time when war is declared and we will stay in the battle until the Holy Spirit leads us to stop.

Even those who are not actively involved in the battle will feel the effects of war.

⁶ See "Crushing Every Opposition", available from Kanaan Ministries.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Eph. 3:10-11 KJV “...to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be **made known** by the Church to the **principalities and powers** in the **heavenly places**, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 3:10-11 (AMP) “10 [The purpose is] that through the church the complicated, many-sided wisdom of God in all its infinite variety and innumerable aspects might **now be made known to the angelic rulers and authorities** (principalities and powers) in the **heavenly sphere**.
11 This is in accordance with the terms of the eternal and timeless purpose which He has realized and carried into effect in [the person of] Christ Jesus our Lord,”

Rev. 12:7-8 “7 Then war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels went forth to battle with the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought.
8 But they were **defeated**, and **there was no room found for them in heaven** any longer.”

heaven: Greek Strong's: ouranos oo-ran-os' – THIRD HEAVEN

perhaps from the same as 3735 (through the idea of elevation); the sky; by extension, heaven (as the **abode of God**); by implication, happiness, power, eternity; specially, the Gospel (Christianity):--air, heaven(-ly), sky.

οὐρανός ouranos; a prim. word; heaven:— air(9), heaven(218), heavenly*(1), heavens(24), sky(22).

Eph. 6:12 KJV “...principalities and power in **high places...**”

Ephesians 6:12 (AMP)
“12 For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the despotisms, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the **heavenly (supernatural) sphere**.”

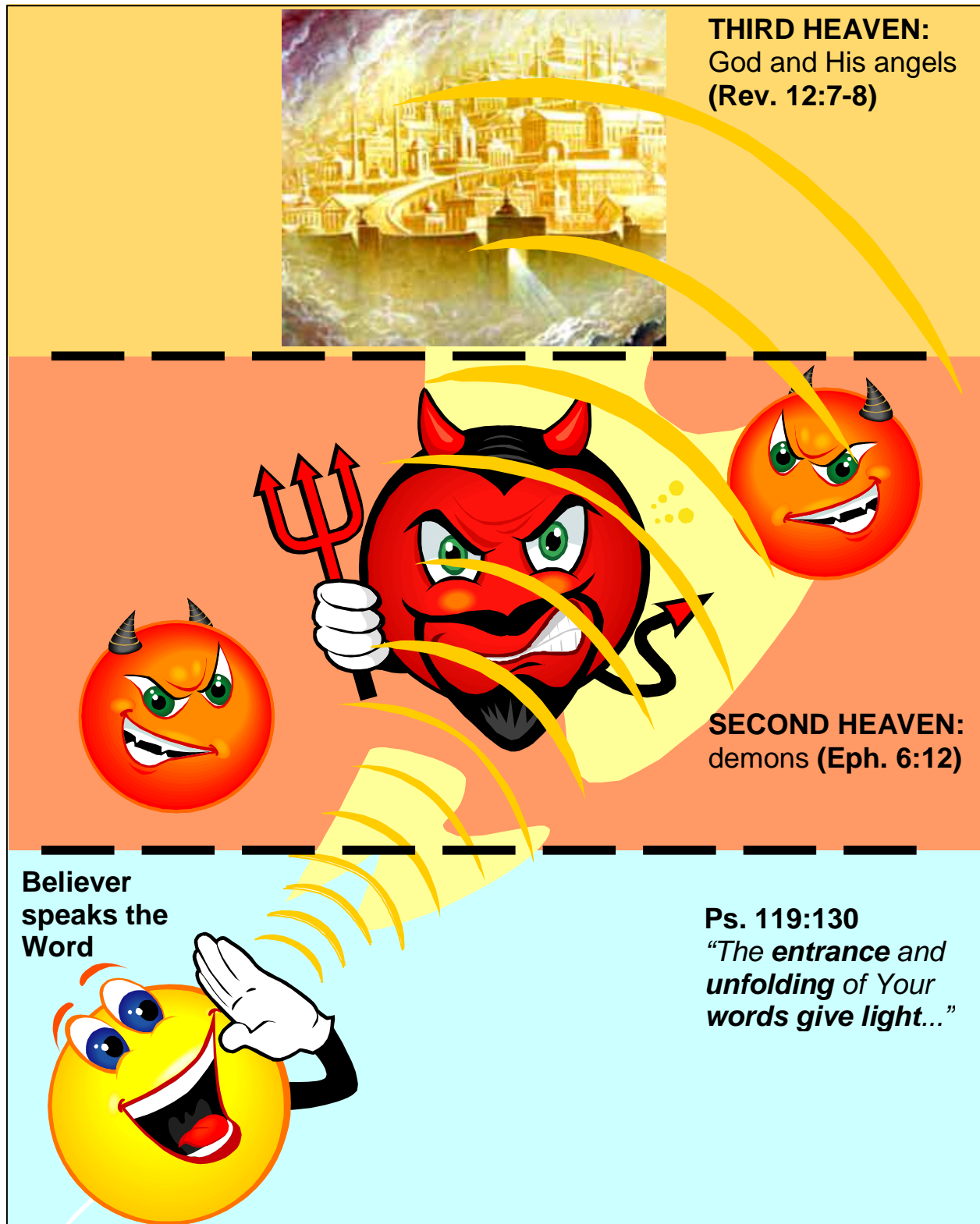
heavenly / high: 2032 – Greek 2032 epouranios ep-oo-ran'-ee-os – SECOND HEAVEN.

from 1909 and 3772; above the sky:--celestial, (in) heaven(-ly), high.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN:

THIRD HEAVEN:
Hosts of God (Rev. 5)

SECOND HEAVEN:
Hosts of satan



2. TERRITORIAL WARFARE (territories, nations, cities, etc.)

Every great general and every conqueror knows that, in order to take a kingdom, it is necessary to enter the city, do away with the previous government and establish a new one.

The **city** is a **structure of government**, a stronghold in a developed society. It represents a place of **political**, **religious** and **social** influence and it is here that important decisions are made.

Unlike a village, a city has within its limits a much greater complexity in all its organization, development and infrastructure.

The city is the most complete symbol for representing the Kingdom of God in the Bible. We see this in the glorious heavenly city, described by the apostle John in Revelation.

This city, "The New Jerusalem", speaks to us of the great eternal reign of God with man.

We have to realize that each part of it, its walls, its gates, its towers, its foundations and everything that is in it are symbols that represent the Supreme King of the universe in His majestic Kingdom.



God showed Himself to David as a **castle**, a **strong tower**, as a **fortified wall** and all these structures are attributes of the great strongholds in cities in days gone by.

It is essentially important to know a city in all its aspects with great precision because this is what opens the panorama for us to understand the large range of concepts in the spiritual realm.

Cities represent the **seat of a throne**, **dominion** or **specific government**. In the old days they would put walls and ramparts around their cities to fortify them and keep them from their enemies.

An attacking army can win all the battles in the field, but as long as it does not take the city, the enemy government will prevail.

In order for the children of Israel to possess the Promised Land, Joshua had to penetrate the stronghold of Jericho.

God gave him the strategy, and the walls fell down. Only then could the Israelites destroy the enemy's government – only when they had taken the city, which was the seat of the opposing power.



Taking cities was the necessary tactic for conquering the land of Canaan. This is important for really understanding the spiritual reality behind the bloody wars of the conquest period under Joshua in Israel's history.

Knowing the effectiveness of this strategy, it is essential for us to comprehend how satan, being only an imitator of God, has taken ownership of this concept to build his own kingdom and how building strongholds in the spiritual realm is the way he governs nations, cities, towns and districts.

3. FOUNDATIONS OF THE STRONGHOLD

How and with what does the devil build? In the natural world, the first thing one does in building anything is to prepare the ground and lay the **foundation**. This same principle is equally applicable to the spiritual realm.

After the great flood the earth became repopulated through the survivors of Noah and his family.

Unfortunately, the seed of evil was still sown deep within man's heart.

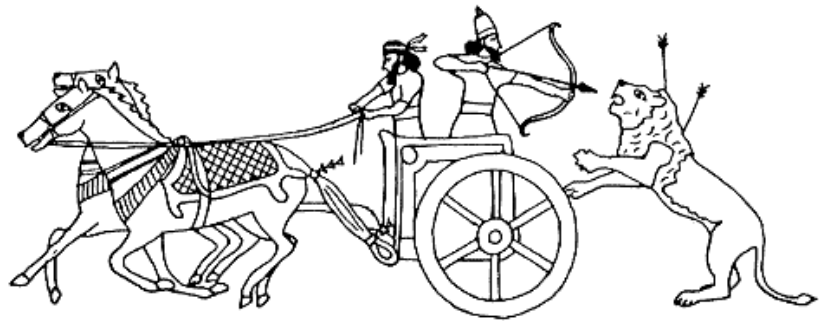
Noah's son, **Ham** made fun of his father and vexed him because of Noah's unintentional nakedness.

In turn, his father, Noah, cursed one of Ham's sons, Canaan. From that branch, in the course of time, a strong man called **Nimrod** was born – a man who became a symbol of evil for all time.



The Scriptures tell us that Nimrod was a “mighty warrior” and a “mighty hunter” (**Gen. 10:8, 9**).

Neither the name Nimrod, nor the phrase, “mighty hunter”, had been well understood.



The basic meaning of **Nimrod** is “**rebel**”; and according to ancient, Jewish tradition he is the man who raised his fist in anger, in challenge to the Lord.

Nimrod established cities in Shinar (see **Gen 10:10**), which became centers representing man's **pride** and **arrogance** against God:

Gen. 11:2-4 *“As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. They said to each other, “Come, let’s make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth”.*

This city, **Babylon**, is the origin of the whole idolatrous system of the devil, the cradle of all false religions, idolatry, occultism and all the current philosophies that influence our civilization for evil today.

4. TOWER OF EVIL

The **Tower of Babel** (see **Gen 11:9**) in Babylon is a physical reflection of what Satan had built in the spiritual realm through the abominations of men.

Stone, which was usually used for construction, symbolizes that which comes from, God, while the man-made brick symbolizes the desire to replace what comes from God with what man has created.

In the spiritual realm, brick and tar symbolize the work of sin that man gives to the devil as building material.



Nimrod, full of the satanic mind-set, wanted to establish the idea in this world that man can reach heaven through his own deeds.

Through him, Satan established his control of the fortress, because there was already a stronghold in the spiritual realm that the devil used to rule all the inhabited earth.

The Tower of Babel was, therefore the visible manifestation in the natural world of the stronghold the devil had built.

To this day, the world is filled with such towers of evil – strongholds in the heavenlies – reflected on earth as cities filled with corruption, ruled by principalities, powers and rulers of darkness.

As a result, millions of human beings are controlled like puppets.

5. CITY AND MOUNTAIN OF GOD

Although the devil has established strongholds that seem indestructible to the human mind, Christ came to establish the City of God on the earth.

This city is the most powerful structure in the whole universe, because it's founded on Jesus Christ and is built up, not with man-made bricks, but from living building blocks – men and women filled with the Spirit of God.

This is the city built on a high mountain, **Mount Zion**.



Mountains are a symbol of kingdoms and they are among satan's favourite places to set up his governments and structures.

But Scripture says that a Holy Mountain is being manifested, a Mountain that will flatten every high mountain of satan:

Is 2:2 *"In the last days the Mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it."*

We must leave behind our childish fears and see the truth: Satan is not in control; God is in control!

Satan has built strongholds over all the earth, but the time has come for the Mountain of God to be gloriously raised up above every other mountain.

It is time for the Church to take up its position of authority and to tell every mountain to “be cast into the sea”

Mark 11:23 *“23 Truly I tell you, whoever says to this mountain, Be lifted up and thrown into the sea! and does not doubt at all in his heart but believes that what he says will take place, it will be done for him.”*

The mountains will have to fall and the governments of the devil will have to fall, because a glorious Church is being raised up.

There are men and women of God clothed in a power so great that they are pulling down satanic strongholds, decreeing **like Zerubbabel**:

Zech 4:7 *“What are you, O mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground.”*

Zech. 14:4 says of the Lord: *“On that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, ... and the Mount of Olives will be split in two.”*

God is raising up prophets, warriors of God who know that the **feet of the Lord crush the mountains, crumble the kingdoms of the devil**. We are seeing the fulfillment of what the Lord told Joshua:

Josh 1:3 *“I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.”*

No human foot with a sole exists that can undo the devil's government and give us the earth for Christ.

Only the holiness from the Sole of the Foot of Jesus Christ expressed through His servants can make His enemies a footstool.

The Lord is working through His disciples.

Their soles are being used to trample the mountains – satanic strongholds; they have so completely denied themselves of self that nothing of them remains.

The torrent of God's life and power can flow only through the feet of those who practice such **humility** and **self-denial**.



Brothers and sisters: Never stop being willing for something great to happen in your life, because God is raising up prophets with the feet of Christ – men and women who will not only make the heavens tremble but the earth as well!

We have previously mentioned that **man's sinful actions are what give the devil material with which to build.**

From the fact that all truth is parallel, we can arrive at interesting conclusions if we view individuals as the basic units that make up a society.

As we shall see, we are still suffering from **pacts** that our ancestors made with demonic forces long ago.

Man is essentially a spirit that lives inside a body and communicates with the outside world through the soul.

Likewise, a **nation is a “spirit”** that is established in a **territory** (its “body”) and that expresses itself to the **outside world** through the **personality** of its people (its “soul”).

In the same way a human's soul is affected by hurts, violent impacts, rejection and occult and idolatrous practices and covenants.

The soul of a people, for lack of a better expression, also receives the same impacts from such practices, bringing **damage** and **demonic oppression** over the land.

We see this truth in the Bible when God refers to Israel or one of her tribes as if it were a person bound by evil or hurting:

Hosea 13:12 *“The guilt of Ephraim is stored up, his sins are kept on record.”*

And again He declares in **Is 54:6, 11** *“The Lord will call [Israel] back as if [Israel] were a wife deserted and distressed in spirit – a wife who married young, only to be rejected. ...O afflicted city, lashed by storms and not comforted.”*

God also describes the restoration of Israel in personal terms:

Micah 4:6, 7 *“In that day’, declares the Lord, ‘I will gather the lame; I will assemble the exiles and those I have brought to grief. I will make the lame a remnant, those driven away a strong nation.”*



Throughout history some nations have been so hurt by **social injustice** and marred by horrible **crimes of racism** that many were driven to the point of extinction by indescribable acts of genocide.

Nations are hurt by tyranny and by corrupt governments headed by people who are in covenant with the devil.

Such acts result in nations actually being wounded by the Hand of God, as He wounded Israel so long ago.

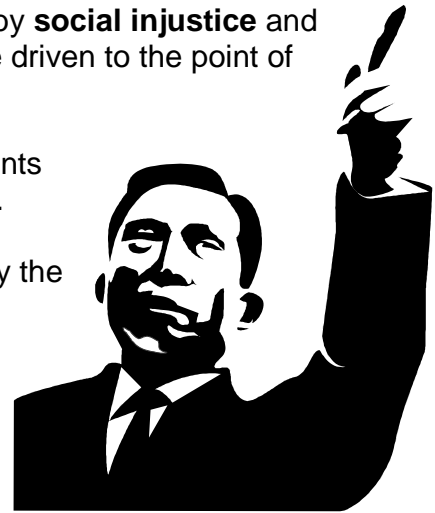
All this evil prevails while God's people don't act, while we don't come to a full awareness of the spiritual condition of our cities and countries.

We strongly believe that today the Holy Spirit is trying to awaken us to the profound truths that critically affect our countries.

There is among us **unconfessed sin, sinful covenants and oaths** that have not been broken.

Ancestral doors that were opened to invite foreign gods to take possession of our land have not been closed.

The power of **blood sacrifices** that have not been cancelled by the atoning Blood of Jesus Christ continues to give the devil **legal right** to work in our nations.

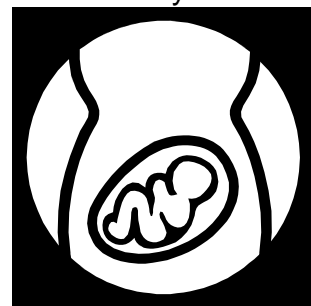


6. EVIL ROOTED IN HISTORY

To rid the land of such evil, it is of fundamental importance that we analyze a **city's history** from its **foundation**.

Just as the time of gestation of a fetus in its mother's womb and the first years of life determine the development of a person, so the principles upon which a city is built determine its later development.

Just as the **soul of a child** can be profoundly marked by circumstances that occur while it is in the **womb**, so the spiritual foundations that will govern a city are forged when it is established.



Certainly the prayers of individuals who honestly seek God can have an effect on the lost.

But the Spirit wants to open our eyes and lead us to understand that not only individuals, but cities and nations are also bound by Satan's chains.

We all bear some of the guilt. And if we do not confess these sins at the **family level, at the group level, at the local level** and even at the **national level**, identifying ourselves with God as His true priests, **these sins will continue to bring death.**

They will increase in the Body just as wounds that have never healed spread their infection in the individual's body.

For these reasons the earth is cursed and sick. The land cannot be healed by the repentance and devotional life of isolated individuals.

Corporate sins, those committed by people groups, must be dealt with at the **corporate level** by identifying ourselves with and including us in a specific category of human beings and asking forgiveness for the sins of the nation or group.



Daniel was not a man given over to sin. Far from it; he lived a life of service to God.

But the Lord showed him that his **personal intercession** for the nation of Israel was the key for delivering it from captivity and slavery.

To intercede is to identify with the sinner, to put oneself in the sinner's place, to stand between God and the transgressor.

Of course, this is effective in the spiritual realm only if those who repent on behalf of their nations have in humility already confessed their own sins (**generational sins**).

7. GOD'S ARMY IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

The role of prayer warriors

For years we have been mobilizing the Church to pray, since prayer is the most powerful way for God's supernatural intervention to be manifested in changing the course of human events.

We see the Holy Spirit leading us into a **more precise type** of prayer and causing each prayer warrior to find his or her **correct place**.

Because of this, prayer warriors are making incredible strides and are destroying the devil's strongholds as never before.



Together with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which brings the prophetic mantle, a glorious awakening of God's army is coming.

As never before we are seeing prayer groups, spiritual warfare squads and massive meetings of intercession being raised up.

The spiritual battle that is upon us is stirring hundreds of Christian writers, leaders and preachers.

Amazing revelation is being given to those who are taking up the challenge of combating the forces of hell until they are subdued.

It is as though a wave of **divine wisdom** is revealing the marvelous secrets of God that have been set aside for the last days.

It has been prophesied that **scientific advancements** will increase during the last centuries; and together with this monumental development that we are seeing in the natural world, the knowledge of God will continue to be opened up in a glorious way in the spiritual realm.

Meditating upon the **progressive work of restoration** that is being done by the Holy Spirit, we can observe how God is more and more putting His enemies under the feet of Christ:

Hebrews 2:8 says: "[God] put everything under His feet. In putting everything under Him [Jesus], God left nothing that is not subject to Him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to Him."

The writer goes on to say in **Heb. 10:12, 13**, that Jesus “*sat down at the right hand of God. Since that time He waits for His enemies to be made his footstool.*”

These verses clearly show that the spiritual battle, the subjection of the devil's empire to the kingdom of God, is a **process** being carried on throughout time.

Although Jesus completely finished the work of redemption on the cross of Calvary, He gives us the privilege of being part of His great victory, clothing us in His power so we can take the whole satanic army captive.



Truly “*His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms*”
(**Eph 3:10**).

Acting in presumption.

Ps 19: 13 “...and keep Your servant back from presumptuous sins; do not let them rule over me; then I shall be upright, and I shall be innocent of great transgression.”

Praying and doing spiritual battle has to be a work led by the Holy Spirit.

We must not enter the spiritual world in a casual way and without direction. Dr. C. Peter Wagner tells of two missionaries who, against the advice of local Christian natives, decided to cut down a tree at which different kinds of satanic ceremonies took place.

Both were struck dead on the spot.

(C. Peter Wagner and F. Douglas Pennoyer, eds., *Wrestling with Dark Angels*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1990, p.87).

This should impress upon us how **dangerous it is to occupy a position of battle for which we have not been trained.**

In any army there are positions that require rigorous training and deep internal preparation.

Although we should not glorify or overstate the power of the devil, which is no more than a defeated foe, neither should we **underestimate** his astuteness (insight, good judgment and perception) or capacity for battle.

Recognizing our human weakness let us in **humility** come into a place of **complete dependency** on God. Although the power of Satan is limited, he is without any doubt the master of deceit and evil.

It is written that in the last times evil will multiply upon the face of the earth, and there will come a weakening of faith that will cause some, even among the chosen, to be deceived.

Jesus asked in **Luke 18:8**, *“When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”*

Without a doubt, Satan is attacking with all he has in these last days.

This is one of the primary reasons why it is so important to define the **functions of an army** and the **strategies** for each battle.

The generals in the battle:

God is equipping modern-day **prophets** for the role of directing spiritual warfare, just as **generals** in the natural realm are equipped to direct armies.

The ministry and mantle of the prophet are absolutely necessary in coordinating the spiritual army and revealing God’s **strategy** for the battle.

This ministerial office and that of the apostles form God’s **covering** for His army.

They **lead, guide** and **protect the army**, in **wisdom** defining the strategies of attack and the **right timing** to carry them out.

In order to fully comprehend what the Holy Spirit wants to do and when He wants to do it, we need to have vision and understanding.

Imagine facing an enemy stronghold with a whole army trained for war; then a group of gullible soldiers, because of simple enthusiasm, decide prematurely that now is the time to attack.

If “now” is the moment that the enemy is best prepared and on guard, the small squad would certainly be defeated.



On the other hand, if God revealed through His prophets the moment when the stronghold is weak, with many of its troops away on another mission, the enemy fortress could be easily taken and victory guaranteed.

The prophetic ministry, with its officers and intelligence corps, can **discern the timing and strategies** of the Supreme General – Jesus Christ.

The intelligence corps

God's intelligence corps consists of **His spies**, who **examine history** and are aware of all the attacks the devil wants to undertake.

Soldiers in the divine intelligence corps are up-to-date with the latest news in the **mass media**. They **analyze maps** and discover the places where the devil has established what we call pillars of iniquity – places of intense sinful activity within the population. These are the soldiers who do the **spiritual mapping**.

The commandos

Among the officers are squads of commandos (Green Berets, as they are called in some countries). These are **highly specialized soldiers** who launch **specific missions** to take strongholds.

Their main task is to bind and tear down the **strongman** or strongmen who control a city.

God's commandos are ministers with **prophetic characteristics**; they are **effective intercessors** who are gifted with great courage to confront principalities and powers face-to-face.

They move in key places shown to them by the Holy Spirit and, like the prophets of the Old Testament, obey the voice of God, even to the point of death and no matter how ridiculous the divine order may seem. These groups include soldiers who are in **major deliverance ministries**.

The artillery brigade

God's army includes a brigade that is in charge of weapons of massive attack. In the natural world, the light artillery consists of grenadiers and those who carry the cannons, machine guns, etc.



In the spiritual world, these are **ministers of praise**, groups of **tambourine players** that encourage the fighters and ministers of **war dances**.

The heavy artillery in the natural world is made up of armoured tanks, submarines and bombers.

In God's army, the artillery consists of intercessors with a prophetic anointing who groan in the Spirit with such power that their prayers are true bombs.

Within these ranks we will see caravans of cars that surround cities with intercession and prayer walks.

This strategy is used to pull down spiritual walls of iniquity in a territory and to mark the boundaries of areas that are being taken for Christ.

Prayer watchers also make up part of the artillery corps, since it is through powerful prayer that God weakens strongholds that His people are trying to capture.

It is utterly important to consider these troops in the execution of a strategy against the forces of satan.

The infantry

An army's infantry consists of the foot soldiers. In some armies they are armed with bayonets and rifles.

These are the soldiers charged with making the actual advance on a city.

In the case of a highly protected stronghold, they enter into action once the commandos have captured the strongman and the gates to the city have been pulled down either by the commandos or heavy artillery.



They also make up a defensive corps that besieges fortified cities.

In God's army, these are the people who fight hand-to-hand, so to speak. It is the **evangelistic action** and the work of **personal deliverance** that snatches souls one by one from the devil.

This brief description of an army could be described in far more detail.

The point is that we must understand the diversity of positions that make up an army and the important part that each type of warrior plays in the success of a war.

Even those we would consider the least significant can have great revelation and spiritual power, and in the past some of them have stood out as great heroes in battle.

Conclusion:

Over the years this world – the ever-increasing darkness of this world has taken words with Godly meaning/purpose and has corrupted these **words**.

Today because of our history of war, hurt and deceit, we experience a word such as “**authority**” in a negative light – we see domination, control, even the terror of Nazi Germany or the South African apartheid system.

God’s meaning of the word has the element of compassionate, Godly leadership with the heart of a servant.

The right understanding of God’s purpose and the implementation of God’s plan, the functions of the Body in unity without any personal ambitions, would mean that every one inside the Body would feel safe to submit and to function to their maximum ability.

This degree of freedom would unleash tremendous power, energy and direction in the war against the forces of darkness.

We know that as darkness becomes greater so does the Light. We know that the Church will grow from Glory to Glory and therefore we have faith that God’s order for His Kingdom will fall into place.

In Revelation we see the Second Coming of the Messiah.

We see that He leads an army. We see that there is a **strategy** and a **plan** – we see the **resources** lined up for use at the right time – we see the **end time result**.

The Messiah will reign and all will bow their knees – **Praise God – the time for war will be over – we will always live under His Authority!!**

AMEN.



RESOURCES:

1. Bevere, J. Under Cover. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers; 2001.
2. Méndez, A. Shaking the Heavens. Ventura, California, U.S.A.: Renew from A Division of Gospel Light; 2000
3. Watchman, Nee. Spiritual Authority. New York: Christian Fellowship Publishers, Inc.; 1972
4. Jackson, J.P. Needless Casualties of War. North Sutton, New Hampshire: Streams Ministries International; 2000
5. Possessing your Birthright Arthur Burk
6. Dutch Sheets Authority in Prayer CD Series
7. Derek Prince Authority and Submission
8. Arthur Burk Short Extract taken from Possessing Your Birthright