

SESSION 1: THE KINGDOM CONFERRED AND THE KINGDOM LOST

SESSION OBJECTIVES

Students who complete this session should:

- Realise that we have been called to reign in life.
- Pray to have revelation knowledge of Christ's authority and our authority in Christ.
- Understand how we lost our authority at the Fall and the consequences of that Fall.

WE ARE CALLED TO REIGN IN LIFE

- Understanding the victory of the Cross will change your life from one of defeat to one of victory.
- Jesus has legally destroyed Satan once and for all. All that He did, He did for the believer.
- This means that He has made every victory from the Cross, everything He purchased when laying down His life, available to us.
- Man has been given dominion and authority. Man has been released to reign!

Romans 5:17 (AB)

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, Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

Luke 10:19 (Scripture memorisation verse)

I have given you AUTHORITY TO TRAMPLE ON SNAKES AND SCORPIONS and to OVERCOME ALL THE POWER OF THE ENEMY; nothing will harm you.

A REVELATION OF CHRIST'S VICTORY

- God has provided a glorious inheritance for every believer. That inheritance includes dominion over all the works of darkness, including sin, sickness, poverty and spiritual death.
- But in order for us to take advantage of our authority in Jesus so we can successfully stand against the devil's strategies in every circumstance, the eyes of our spiritual understanding need to be enlightened.

- God has blessed us with *every spiritual blessing in Christ*; His divine power has given us *everything we need for life and godliness* – but without *revelation knowledge* of this we will never experience it (Isa 5:13; John 8:32; Rom 12:2)..

Kenneth Hagin¹

"God wants the Body of Christ to know that we aren't a DEFEATED church – we are a TRIUMPHANT Church.



Pray now for a spirit of wisdom and revelation to be released over your life.

HOW MUCH AUTHORITY DOES MAN HAVE?

- Many people think that because God is sovereign (has all authority) it detracts from God's sovereignty to speak of human authority and responsibility.
- However, the opposite is actually true. Because God has all authority, He has delegated authority to man, so that now man - and not God - is responsible for many of the things that happen in the world.
- There are three very important things to understand if we are going to walk in the authority of God:
 - God's original plan for man – man given Kingdom authority.
 - Christ's finished work on the Cross which restored God's original purpose – Jesus gives Kingdom authority back to man.
 - Our responsibility and privilege of enforcing the victory of the Cross - exercising our Kingdom authority.

GOD'S ORIGINAL PLAN –KINGDOM AUTHORITY GIVEN TO MAN

- The purpose behind creation was the Father's love for a family in His likeness. God wants mature sons and a mature bride who will rule the universe with Him.
- God's original plan was that we should all be priests and kings.
- Being a *priest* speaks of our *relationship* to the Lord; being a *king* speaks of our *rulership* and *authority*.

Genesis 1:26-28

Then God said, "Let us make man IN OUR IMAGE, in our likeness, and LET THEM RULE [TAKE DOMINION] over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

²⁷So God CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE, IN THE IMAGE OF GOD HE CREATED HIM; male and female he created them.

²⁸God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and SUBDUE it. RULE [TAKE DOMINION] over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

- From this Kingdom or Dominion Mandate we see that God: 1) made us in His image and likeness, and 2) gave us dominion or rulership over the planet (Ps 8:3-8).
- God did not give away *ownership* of the earth, but He did assign *authority* and *responsibility* to mankind (Ps 115:16).
- Man was to keep - guard and protect - earth as watchman and gate-keeper (Gen 2:15).
- Man was God's king, ruler, governor, manager, steward, mediator, representative, intercessor, or ambassador. He was the one in authority
- As God's agent of the Kingdom, man represented (re-presented) God's will on earth. In other words, *man as a king under the King of kings, extended the Kingdom on earth as it was in Heaven.*

Dutch Sheets

"Man was comparable to or similar to God – so much like God that it was illusionary. God was recognized in man, which meant that man "carried the weight" here on earth. Man represented God, presenting again His will on the earth. Man was God's governor or manager here. The earth was man's assignment – it was under man's charge or care. Man was the watchman or guardian. How things went on planet Earth, for better or worse, depended on man."

HOW DID WE LOSE KINGDOM AUTHORITY?

- Satan heard God give Adam Kingdom authority over all the earth which he wanted for himself.
- Satan realised if he could persuade man to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, God would legally be obliged to release all authority to him.

SATAN'S MODUS OPERANDI

- God's Word is attacked.
- "Did God really say?"
- God's goodness is attacked.
- Adam failed to exercise dominion.
- Satan usurped the authority meant for man (Luke 4:5-6).



How does knowing that the devil is actually responsible for much of what happens on earth affect you?

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN ADAM FELL?

- Adam died spiritually
- Adam lost true revelation knowledge of God when the five physical senses became dominant (Gen 3:7).
- Adam became self-conscious as his eyes were opened (Gen 3:7).
- He was fearful and hid from God (Gen 3:8).
- He who had been crowned lord of earth became a coward and liar (Gen 3:12 - NKJV).
- Man was alienated from God – fallen from His presence with a darkened conscience (Rom 3:23).

GOD’S LOVE PROMISES A REDEEMER

- Because of His great love for man, He chose to redeem us.
- It was not Adam who searched for God, but God Adam. God undertook an immediate plan of attack and redemption (Gen 3:8-9). His love would go to any length to restore man's fellowship and authority. But God's justice demanded that the penalty be paid in full (Rom 6:23).



In this session, what have you learnt and how will you apply it to your life?



Man was created to exercise Kingdom authority on the earth but lost it through the Fall.

¹ KENNETH HAGIN. The Triumphant Church. 1993. Faith Library Publications, pp. 143-144.