

Authority

Adult Bible Class June 6, 2021
Part 1



Romans 13:1b, "There is no authority (*exousia*) except from God, and those which exist are established by God."

"Authority" (*exousia*): the right to control or govern; liberty of action to do or decide a particular thing.

"Power" (*dunamis*): the strength, ability, or capacity to do something.

Having the power to do something doesn't necessarily mean a person had the authority to do it.

Forfeiture of Human Authority

At Creation: The Charter of the Human Race, Genesis 1:28, "God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Noah: Human rule is not repeated after the Flood (Gen 9:1).

Job: Satan seems very busy on earth (Job 1:7-8).

During Jesus' earthly ministry, Satan possessed civil authority (Luke 4:1-13). Jesus also referred to Satan as the "ruler of this world" (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11).

By the end of Jesus' earthly ministry, all authority belonged to Him.

Authority Now Vested in Christ

Matthew 28:18, "All authority (*exousia*) is given to me in heaven and on earth." THEREFORE ...

"But He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD," (Hebrews 10:12)

BUT Paul says Satan is "the God of this world" (2 Cor 4:4), "the prince of the power of the air" (Eph 2:2), and Peter says, "Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." (1Peter 5:8).

Satan is still active in the world today.

God's Redemptive Plan

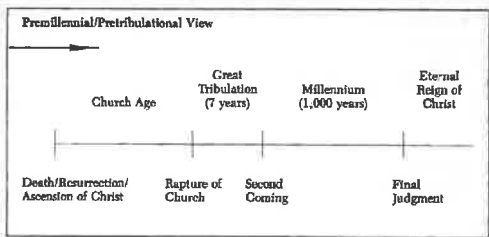


Prior to the beginning of the Millennium, God has determined to redeem men from every "tribe, tongue, people, and nation" (Revelation 5:9). "A partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in." (Romans 11:25).

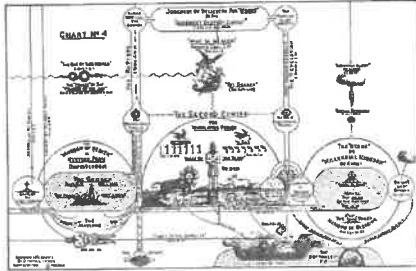
The Second Coming of Christ

Jesus' second coming will put a final end to Satan's power. "But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, ²⁴ then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has **abolished all rule and all authority and power.** ²⁵ For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet." (1 Corinthians 15:23-25).

Premillennial/Pretribulational Timeline



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Biblical Authority & Gospel Authority

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus' authority emanated from the Word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is inspired (breathed) by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

The power of God is in the Gospel: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." (Romans 1:16). See Psalm 51:10.

The Christian's Delegated Authority

Luke 9:1, "And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases."

Luke 10:19, "Behold, I have given you authority (*exousia*) to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you."

"To have authority 'to trample on snakes and scorpions' relates to the victorious work of Christ, who, according to the first promise of the gospel in Genesis 3:15, was to bruise (NIV, 'crush') the head of the Serpent, the devil." (Robert Utley Commentary)

"The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you." (Rom 16:20).

The Apostle's Use of Authority

- Peter & John released from jail (Acts 4:18): Boldness.
 - Paul and the viper (Acts 28): A sign miracle.
 - Philippian Jailer (Acts 16): The Gospel.
 - Paul's trials (2 Corinthians 12):

Imprisonment	Lack of sleep
Beatings	Hunger
Shipwreck	Cold
Multiple dangers	Thorn in the flesh
- "so that the power of Christ may dwell in me" (2Co 12:9 NAU)

The Necessity of Spiritual Warfare

- Luke 10:18, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning."
 Mission of the Holy Spirit: "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment." (John 16:8).
 Romans 10:13-15
 Ephesians 6:10-20
 Proclaiming the Gospel
- Pray
 - Prepare. Meditate on the Gospel.
 - Proclaim. Use tracts and the Bible for focus.

Further Study

- God has also delegated authority (derivative authority) which exists in:
- Government
 - Marriage
 - Home
 - Workplace
 - Church
