

# **Reigning As Kings**

---

**Dr. Joseph Olarewaju**

*Dedicated to the KING of kings*

*Special recognition, to our faithful Brethren who organized the 2012 Believers' Prayer Conference where the Lord ministered the message in this book, to the Brethren at the River of Life Family Church in Houston who co-sponsored this publication, and to my partners at the New Covenant Church of Maryland,*

*Grace and Blessings.*

*To my daughter Seun who designed the back cover, to my wife Olabisi for her support and suggestions in the overall design, and to my son TiOluwa the resident technical expert, my love and gratitude.*

Joseph S. Olarewaju

*November 2012*

# Table of Contents

<i>Chapter 1: What Is Man?</i>	1
<i>Chapter 2: The Covenant</i>	15
<i>Chapter 3: Spoilt Principalities</i>	27
<i>Chapter 4: Not By Power</i>	36
<i>Chapter 5: Power and Authority</i>	43
<i>Chapter 6: Under Our Feet</i>	60
<i>Chapter 7: Son of My Right Hand</i>	67

# Chapter 1

---

## *What Is Man?*

**Y**ou are blessed. Blessed indeed, whether you know it or not; you're blessed beyond measure. If you're born again in Christ Jesus, you're a blessed one. You're blessed in your going out and blessed in your coming in. You're blessed from here on earth to the highest heaven above and blessed from here today to eternity beyond. God has commanded his blessings upon you, and His blessings no one can take away from you.

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Eph 1:3).*

The Scriptural passage above states that God the Father has blessed us. Who are the favored people, the "us" being referred to in this passage? It refers to you and me who have been born of God, those of us who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb and are children of God in Christ Jesus. We have been blessed.

To be sure, let us ask this question also: who did the Scriptures say has blessed us? This precious passage says “God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” is the One who has blessed us. The Almighty God, the Creator, and the Owner of All things has called us blessed.

When is He going to bless us? Well, the tense of the passage reveals the answer. The Apostle did not say that God will bless us, but that God has already blessed us. The blessing has already been pronounced and declared, and is as active today as it was yesterday. We can and should be enjoying these blessings today.

With how much blessing has He blessed us? The Apostle in the first chapter of Ephesians states that God has blessed us with “every” spiritual blessing in heavenly places. Every here, means all the spiritual blessings that are available in heavenly places. We must also be informed that spiritual blessings include all the things that we need in our natural lives down here on earth. We must not be so ignorant as to think that since the Scriptures call them spiritual blessings, they must be intangible, ethereal, and insubstantial. These blessings are things that are relevant to our day-to-day life here on earth. Another passage of Scripture complements this by saying that God's *“divine power has given unto us, all things that pertain unto life and godliness”* (2 Pet 1:3)

It is also important to note that the Scripture does not say that the original Apostles of the Lamb or certain special saints are the only blessed ones; the passage confers the blessings on every believer.

Now, if all of the children of God have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places, why is it that many of us do not see the manifestations of these blessings in our lives?

Why do many of us, children of God, live like beggars or

weaklings? Why do many of us act like followers when we should be leaders, and like borrowers when we should be lenders? And why do many of us act like slaves when we should be reigning as kings in this life?

Well, first of all, it's because we have an enemy opponent with supernatural resources who is working against us *tooth and nail*, with military intensity, to prevent us from getting that which belongs to us. And this enemy, together with his band of thieves, gang of burglars, and his pack of jackals and con artists, has one and only one agenda: cheat us out of what truly belongs to us in Christ Jesus. He and his cohorts work around the clock, 24/7, against us, lying constantly and manipulating facts and circumstances to deceive us and steal our inheritance from us, or at least prevent us from knowing what belongs to us. In fact, this enemy has set up a universal kingdom with principalities and powers whose purpose is to war against us and prevent us from entering into the blessings prepared for us.

These principalities and powers are akin to the seven kingdoms—the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Girgashites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites—that the Children of Israel had to contend with in order to enter their inheritance in the Land of Promise. These kingdoms, these principalities, were holding the land that Jehovah God had given to the Israelites as their possession. They were preventing them from entering into their covenant blessing, depriving them of their inheritance.

One bright Monday morning as the clock was about to strike eight, two coworkers, both believers, met in the lobby of their corporation's head office. They were on their way to check in for work on the first day of the week.

The first guy, seeing his friend coming in with his head down,

looking like a weather-beaten sailor, walked swiftly toward him. "Good morning, Tom," he said to his friend, who still had his head down and seemed to be sneaking into the building and heading for the elevator.

Startled, like one woken from a dream, Tom looked up and replied, "Oh, it's you! Good morning. I didn't see you."

"How are you doing today? What's going on?" the first guy asked.

Tom replied, "Well, I'm hanging in there. Under the circumstances, I'm managing. Things are not so good at the moment, but I'm surviving."

The narration above sounds so familiar, doesn't it? You don't have to be a minister or involved in any sort of spiritual counseling to know that the sad situation described above is true for many people today, and even for us, the redeemed of the Lord. Many of us children of God are just hanging in there and barely making it. Many are crushed daily by the "god of this world" and by the hostile environment and circumstances he has created.

But why? Why are things this way for humanity? Why are we under any circumstances at all? And more so, why are things this way for the child of God who has been redeemed from the dominion of Satan? Why are many of us like Tom, barely hanging in and cringing under hostile circumstances?

Did God say that any of us, His children, should be slaves to circumstances? Did God ever say that Satan has the authority to dominate any of His children? In fact, did God make man to be under any earthly circumstance or under any satanic power? The answer to all these questions is no.

When God made man, He made him ruler over the entire creation. God gave him dominion over the universe. God set

man above all created things. He made him lord and king over the works of His hands and put all things under his feet. Listen to what the Holy Ghost said in the Book of Psalms:

*"O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.*

*"When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;*

*"What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.*

*"Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet" (Psa 8:1-6)*

When God made us, He crowned us with glory and honor and put all things under our feet. In the mind of God, Satan and his cohorts, and all circumstances, are under our feet.

So, when any child of God confesses weakness like Tom did in the narration above, looking miserable and defeated by circumstances, God is saying, "What is my child doing? Why is he under any circumstance? Why is my child under anything? I have put all things under him. Why is he being overcome by evil when I've made him to overcome evil with good?"

Yes it's true that because of the fall, man lost the dominion and authority that God gave him. He became a subject of the devil and also submitted all of creation to the dominion of the evil one; Satan became the god of this world. But God through Christ Jesus delivered us from the dominion of Satan and restored to humanity what we lost in Adam. Therefore, all who have been redeemed by the Lord should not be under

anything. Christ has delivered us from satanic dominion and translated us into the kingdom; in this kingdom of God, the authority and dominion lost in Adam have been restored to the redeemed of the Lord. But we must exercise our spiritual authority to experience it today.

### **In the Beginning**

*“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

*“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

*“And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth” (Gen 1:26-28).*

The purpose of the book of Genesis is to reveal God's plan to us. It is to reveal His thought and purpose in Creation. The first chapter of the book therefore presents to us the layout of God's entire six days of creation. God created light, the sky, dry ground, and vegetation on the first four days, and on the fifth day He created all living creatures, as described in these three verses:

*“And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.*

*“And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.*

*“And the evening and the morning were the fifth day”* (Gen 1:21-23).

After five days of creation, the sea and all living things in it, the earth and all living things on it, and the sky with all the flying creatures were completed. But none of these creatures was like Him or possessed His nature, and none could fellowship with Him.

And so, on the sixth day of creation, God announced His intention to make man. In this announcement, recorded in the 26th verse of the first chapter of Genesis, God made two specific statements concerning man and the purpose for creating him.

What was the first announcement of God’s purpose concerning man? The first declaration concerning man was that he would bear the image of Almighty God and be in His likeness. The word *likeness* used in this passage, in the original, means “an exact duplication in kind.” Man is not equal with God, for the creature cannot be equal to its creator, but he partakes of God’s divine nature.

God declared, first and foremost, that man would be made in God’s image as a fellowship partner, whose number one purpose in life would be to fellowship and be in communion with God his Maker. God is Spirit, and therefore man, made in God’s image, is a spirit also.

*“This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;*

*“Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and **called their name Adam**, in the day when they were created”* (Gen 5:1,2).

The fifth chapter of Genesis re-summarizes the account of the creation of man. We are informed that when God created man, He created them "male and female." Man was created male and female, and on the day man was created, God *blessed them and called their name Adam*. In other words, God blessed male Adam, and God blessed female Adam, and named both of them Adam. *Adam* is the name God gave to humanity. It was Adam who named His wife Eve. And with God, who is Spirit, there's no difference between male and female.

God sees all men, both male and female, born of natural birth in Adam, and He calls them Adam. Everyone who has not yet experienced the second birth is in Adam, and their name is Adam; but all men born of the second birth or spiritual birth are in Christ Jesus. They are new creatures in Christ Jesus. *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"* (2 Cor 5:17).

The old creation is in Adam; the new creation is in Christ Jesus. All die in Adam, but Christ brought us life. *"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive"* (1 Cor 15:22).

The second declaration in God's announcement concerning man's creation was that man would have dominion. God said, *"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: **and let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping animal that creepeth upon the earth"* (Gen 1:26).

God made man to have dominion over the whole of creation. He was created as the king and god of the earth and delegated the necessary authority for the job. Dominion means

sovereign authority. It means power to rule, power to govern, and power to control the entire creation of God. Man was made the supreme ruler of things in heaven above, things on earth, and all things under the earth.

The things underneath the earth include all things in the lowest realms, typified by the living creatures swarming in the depths of the seas, including the fishes, the crocodiles, the sea dragons, and all the creeping things underneath the earth. The things upon the earth are typified by the cattle, all the earth animals, and all living and non-living things upon the earth. The things in the heavens are typified by the fowl of the air, including all forms of life in the heavenly realm above the earth. Man was king and lord over all the domains on the earth, beneath the earth, and above the earth. He was king and lord over all the powers of the air. God put all things under his feet.

*“And God blessed them, and God said to them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living animal that moveth upon the earth” (Gen 1:28).*

After God created man in His own image, He brought them into the Garden of Eden, blessed them, and gave them some instruction. God told man to go forth and bear fruit. He essentially gave man a mandate to fill the earth with fruit in the image of God after the same kind. His mandate was for man to multiply—not to add, but to grow exponentially and fill the earth with children in the image of God. Man was to cover the earth with the knowledge of God as the water covers the sea.

God used the three words *fruitful*, *multiply*, and *replenish* together in the same sentence in order to emphasize to us that

His plan is for man to fill the earth. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary renders the meaning of this word *replenish* as “to fill up again, to fill with persons or animals, to supply fully, to fill with inspiration or power, or to make good.” Man was given a mandate to do all these on the earth.

The second portion of the command given to man in the second half of the 28th verse is even stronger. God told man to subdue the earth and exercise dominion over it. He told man to exercise dominion and authority over the things in the sea, over the living things in the air, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth. This portion of the mandate from God requires a little attention.

*“Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth and **subdue it**”* (Gen 1:28). Let’s examine the word *subdue*. The Strong Dictionary renders the root of this word, originally from the Hebrew word *kaw-bash*, as meaning “to tread down, to conquer, to subjugate, to bring into bondage, to bring into subjection, and to keep under.”

Now, wait a minute! Man had just come on the scene. He’d just been created. Everything in the Garden of God was still perfect and in harmony with the Creator. Sin had not yet entered into man's experience, nor any of sin’s consequences. There was *no sin, no sickness, no sorrow. There was no death.* The Holy One, the Creator Himself, looking at the works of His hands after the fifth day of creation, was satisfied. He blessed His creatures and saw that everything He had made was good.

*“And the evening and the morning were the fifth day. And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.*

*"And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good" (Gen 1:23-25).*

If everything in the Garden of God was good when man was brought onto the scene, what then was there in the earth that needed to be *treaded down, conquered, subjugated, brought into subjection, and kept under by man*? What was there for Adam to subdue?

We also notice further responsibility given to Adam in the second chapter of Genesis in the 15th verse:

*"And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to **keep** it" (Gen 2:15).*

Strong tells us that the word *keep* used here is the Hebrew word *shaw-mar*, which means "to guard it, to hedge it, and to protect it." In checking the meaning of this word *keep* used here, we discover that it's the same Hebrew word used in the third chapter (Gen 3:24): *"So He drove out the man; and He placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword, which turned every way, to **keep** the way of the tree of life."* God placed a flaming sword at the east gate of the Garden of Eden to keep, or guard, the tree of life. It was the same word *shaw-mar*, meaning "to guard it, keep it, or protect it."

*To protect it from whom?*

If Adam was to guard the garden, then surely there must have been something around that was not in harmony with God or with man, who is in God's image. If Adam was to tread down and conquer things upon earth, it is self-evident that there were things that were hostile to God and to man. Who or what was this being that existed at this time and was an enemy of

God? Who or what was this potential intruder or burglar that Adam was to keep, protect, and guard the Garden from?

Of course we know what it was! It was that ancient serpent, that liar, that deceiver, that thief, that murderer, called the devil and Satan, who was already around in the beginning, of whom the Lord Jesus said:

*"He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it" (1 Jn 3:8, Joh 8:44).*

God committed to Adam the wisdom, power, and authority necessary to rule over the entire earthly kingdoms. Before him lay the whole earth, the seas, the heavens, all filled and swarming with creatures, and a plethora of life forms.

It is important to note that God did not say to man, "Just hang in there, be humble, and let the circumstances of life roll over you. Don't ever do anything about it. *Que sera, sera*; whatever will be, will be!"

No, a thousand times no! God didn't say that. He said subdue it! If anything gets out of line, you force it back in line. Man is the crown of God's creation. He made man to be the god over the earth. God created the earth, the cosmos, and the millions of billions of galaxies. It was all man's to rule over, within the guidelines given by God. God gave him a royal mandate to dominate the earth and to subjugate all the enemies of God under his feet.

*"The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's: but the earth hath he given to the children of men" (Psa 115:16).*

*"When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?"*

*"For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.*

*"Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:" (Psa 8:3-6).*

Man was created to bear the image of God. He was given the mandate and the authority to subdue every spirit contrary to God. His failure to exercise dominion over the old serpent was the beginning of his downfall.

### **The Fall of Man**

Then it happened! The serpent crawled in and deceived Eve. But that was really not the start of the offense. The offense began with disobedience. Adam disobeyed the mandate God gave him.

He was commanded to *keep* the garden, to *guard* it, to *protect* it, to put a *hedge* around it, and to *subdue, conquer, subjugate,* and *keep under* any and all things that as much as raised their heads against the will of God. God gave him the authority to do just that. He was given the dominion over all things, for God put all things under his feet.

But Adam disobeyed, was derelict in his duty, and allowed the serpent, the devil which is called Satan, to enter the garden unrestricted and to approach Eve.

*"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned ... For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous" (Rom 5:12,19):*

While the serpent approached Eve in the Garden, Adam should have confronted it, rebuked it, and driven it away. God

Almighty had already given him absolute power and authority to do just that.

If Adam had withstood the devil and commanded him, saying, "You intruder, you sneaky lying serpent, you—get out of here, in the Name of Almighty God, in the name of Elohim-ElShaddai, get out of here right now! And never come back here again!" he could have driven Satan off of the planet and out of the entire universe, in the Name of Almighty God, and ordered him never to return. That old serpent would have curled its stinky tail and shamefully crawled back into the disgusting hole or pit whence it came.

But what happened? Adam didn't do that. As far as the Bible tells us, Adam said nothing. Some people have rationalized that maybe he was not there when the serpent came by, or maybe he didn't know what was happening. Well, Adam was made in the image of God, who is the Spirit. He was born a spiritual being like God and walked in the realm of the supernatural, except that in addition he had a physical body to give an added advantage to contact the physical world. Nothing could happen without him knowing, because he was the god of the earth. Adam knew, but was simply irresponsible and disobedient, just like you and I are sometimes.

So the offense started with disobedience. It was Adam's disobedience that caused Eve to be deceived. It was because of his negligence that the creep, the devil, described as the serpent, crept in and deceived Eve. She ate the fruit, but not out of willful disobedience; she was deceived. However, Adam was not deceived. His offense started with disobedience and culminated in treason. He knowingly committed his.

*"For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression" (1 Tim 2:13,14).*

Let's pause here, turn the searchlight on ourselves, and reflect on the statements above. We need to consider this saying: "When you point an accusing finger at your brother, the other three are pointing in your direction." Yes, that's so true. We're pointing the index finger at Adam right now. And where are the middle finger, the pinkie, and the one between them pointing? For sure, they are pointing at you and me.

So then, what about you? What do you do when the devil, that old serpent, is intruding in the affairs of your life? Do you keep quiet and watch him? Do you keep listening to his lies while he speaks to you instead of commanding him to get behind you?

Our Father doesn't want us to just stand there before the devil looking like dummies while he's trying to rob us of our rights. We are to open our mouths and fire back and slash him with the word of God, which is sharper than any two-edged sword.

So, don't be a dummy! Open your mouth and shout at him. Command him in the Name of the Lord Jesus to get lost!

Tell him to get out of your face when he starts his lying.  
Tell him to get his hands off your family and off your business.  
Tell him to get his hands off your marriage and off your body.  
Command him to leave your property and your neighborhood, **and give him no room**. This is a mandate from the Lord our God.

Adam also had a mandate from God, but was derelict and disobeyed. His disobedience led to Eve being deceived and falling into transgression. Adam was not deceived, which made his own fall an act of rebellion and high treason.

But consider Adam's predicament for a minute, for the cunning serpent caught him in a serious dilemma. He was caught between the devil and the deep blue sea, so to speak.

Eve had already eaten the fruit and had instantly died (spiritually). Eve gave Adam some of the fruit. What was he going to do? It was due to his negligence, in the first place, that Eve was deceived.

He needed to make the ultimate decision—either leave Eve to perish alone, separated from God, from Adam, and from all that is related to the life of God and subjected to the agony of Death and Satan forever, all alone by herself, or join her and both die spiritually but hopefully resign themselves to the grace and mercy of the Most High God. But if he joined her, he would be giving the keys, the authority, the dominion over all of God's beautiful creation into the hands of that old ugly serpent, the devil, which is called Satan. What to do?

Adam decided to join Eve and in hope, resign himself unto the grace and mercy of God. He ate the fruit, and gave dominion over the whole of God's creation to the archenemy of God whom he was ordered to subdue. He gave the devil the keys, the dominion over all creation which God had given him. He had been outsmarted by the cunning one. But Adam did this in hope: I believe he did it reluctantly and in hope.

*"For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope." (Rom 8:20)*

And thus says the Lord: *"That the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God."* (Rom 8:21)

I believe Adam did it reluctantly, but he did it anyway. The bottom line is that Satan stole the dominion, and even Almighty God had to abide with this horrific transaction between Adam and Satan. God was essentially locked out of the earth which He had created, because He had given man absolute and sole dominion over the earth, and man had gone

rogue, sold out, and decamped to the enemy's side. The devil had become the holder of rule and authority over all of God's creation. He had the keys.

So, God had to start looking for a way to regain access to the earth. He had to look for a link and establish a connection with the children of men. He had to establish a covenant relationship with man.

# Chapter 2

---

## *The Covenant*

*"Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed" (1 Cor 2:6-8).*

**I**n the third chapter of the book of Genesis, we read God's first declaration of His plan of redemption. God told the serpent that the "seed of the woman" would break its head. This pronouncement from the Almighty God was great news for humanity. This announcement, which the devil understood, meant that someone was coming to earth who would put an end to the dominion of the devil over humanity. This passage of Scripture is a reference to the first word spoken by God concerning our redemption, and it was spoken immediately after the fall. Our God is indeed rich in mercy.

God made the earth for man to rule and reign over. He did not give the rights over the earth to any spirit being, not even to any of His angels. He gave it to man, whom He made at the climax to be the crown of His creation.

Satan is a spirit being, and spirits have no rights here on earth because they have no physical bodies. We first heard of him, when he came into the Garden of Eden in the body of a serpent. He had no legal access to the earth or any of the

things in it. And it would have stayed that way if Adam had stood his ground and exercised his authority.

At the beginning, only man had legal right and authority over the earth. God gave Him that right and authority. He had the right by the possession of a physical body with which he could interact with the earth. God made him that way so he could be rightful owner of the realm of the physical. Satan does not have that right; he had to use the body of a serpent to gain access to the earth and steal man's authority.

We also saw how the deceiver came in and deceived Eve, stole the dominion and man became a slave of the devil. We began to see that Satan has no place, no right, and no authority down here on earth. We began to see that Satan is an illegal alien here, with no proper papers, so to speak, and it's time for us to drive him out. He has nothing that rightfully belongs to him here on earth. All he has is stolen goods. He lied, cheated, and stole everything from man, and the time has come for us to cast him out.

Immediately after man fell, God began revealing His plan to redeem the entire creation, which man had subjected to corruption.

As discussed in the previous chapter, because God had given absolute and sole rulership and dominion over the earth to Adam, and Adam had sold out and transferred this to the evil one, God was locked out of the earth He had created. He was outside looking in. His enemy now legally held the dominion and authority over the earth which He had given to man. For God to get back into the affairs of earth, He had to find a man through whom He could gain access. God looked for one, and found Abram—and the plan for God to get back into the affairs of earth began.

God needed to establish a covenant with Abram. So God called Abram and made the proposition described in the 17th chapter of Genesis.

*“And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.*

*“And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.*

*“Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee” (Gen 17:1-5).*

A covenant is a strong agreement between two parties. In the olden days in Africa, Asia, and some other parts of the world, blood covenants were usually cut between two warlike tribes so they could coexist peacefully. It was a sort of strong peace accord, usually performed in a solemn or ritualistic ceremony, and held by two parties as divinely legal and binding. When two ancient tribes were in covenant relationship, they protected each other's families and properties against any attack. They became like extended families. If an enemy came to attack one family, their blood covenant friends would automatically join and fight for them. Whatever belonged to the first party also belonged to the other party in covenant with them, and either of the blood covenant friends would freely give anything the other needed, up to and including their lives if need be.

That is the strength of the blood covenant, and it's the strongest form of covenant on earth. This was the type of covenant God made with Abraham and his descendants. The seal of the blood covenant on Abraham's side was the circumcision, and on God's side, He confirmed it with an oath.

*"For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.*

*"For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath" (Heb 6:13,14,16,17).*

In the ancient days, when two native tribes wanted to cut a covenant, they would call a solemn assembly of both parties. Each tribe would choose a man among them, most likely their chief, and put him forward as their representative. Incisions would be made in the hands of the representatives from both tribes, and the blood flowing from the incisions would be collected and mixed with some drink or wine in a cup. This was shaken together properly and held up in the presence of both tribes. Then the head of the first tribe would come forward and say his prayers in the name of his gods, pronouncing the blessings from their gods that would come upon the other parties if they abided by the covenant. After the blessing was complete, he would then pronounce the curses that would fall upon the other party if they should break the covenant. When he was done, the head of the second tribe would come forward and do exactly the same in the name of their gods, pronouncing blessings and curses accordingly. After they were done with their prayers and the pronouncement of blessings and curses, they would now take the cup with the wine mingled with the bloods of the

representatives from both tribes and would both drink from the same cup. This established the blood covenant between the two tribes. They were now blood covenant friends.

Now that the two parties were in blood covenant relationship, if tribe A was attacked by an enemy, tribe B would immediately, before being requested, jump into the fray on the side of their covenant friends against the invader. Whatever belonged to tribe A was accessible to tribe B, and each would render help to the other as if it were for his family. The oath pronounced during the cutting of the covenant assured that their gods would enforce the covenant. If either side broke the covenant, the gods of the other party would ensure that all the curses in the covenant came to pass on the covenant-breakers. Their gods were the overseers and the enforcers of the covenant.

This was the type of covenant Jehovah God cut with Abram.

This covenant literally implies that what God had belonged to Abraham, and all that Abraham had belonged to God. Here is the wisdom of God in the blood covenant: if Abram fully committed to cutting a covenant with Jehovah God, Abram would have access to all that the Almighty possessed, and God Almighty would have access to all that Abram, the man, possessed. This would therefore give God legal access to the earth, and the road to our redemption would begin. This covenant would give God a legal entry through man into the earth so He could destroy the works of the devil, who had seized dominion and trampled down man and the earth.

*“As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.”*

*“And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee” (Gen 17:7).*

But for this covenant to be proven genuine and not considered a ploy to unfairly favor man, it needed to be proved as valid. God needed to prove to Satan and the court of the universe, who were watching closely, that man, Abraham, would and could keep his end of the covenant. It was clear to all in heaven, on earth, and underneath the earth, and to the devil, that God could and would keep His part. But what about man? A covenant is only valid if both parties are committed and capable of keeping their sides of the agreement. Man would need to prove beyond any reasonable doubt that he could keep his own side of the covenant; otherwise the covenant could not be truly valid. The devil would challenge it as God favoring man and breaking His own law by coming into the earth where he, the evil one, still had the lease of dominion.

God knew the devil would challenge the covenant if it was not proven that Abraham could and would perform his part. If Abraham failed, the covenant would be null and void.

Isaac, the son of promise, was involved in proving this. Abraham had just received the benefit of the covenant in his only son, born to him in his old age after waiting for decades due to the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. Then here came God with a strange request:

*“And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.*

*“And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.*

*“And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him” (Gen 22:1-3).*

Abraham had just gone through a lifelong struggle of faith. After waiting for a long time, Sarah, his wife, finally gave birth to a son, whom they called Isaac. This was the child of promise that he had been waiting for. Abraham was pleased and must have thought he had arrived at the end of all his battles, but not so, Abraham: not so. There was still a tough test he had to pass, and so much depended on passing this test. Abraham was not aware of this until he was faced with the strange request from God, who was his blood covenant friend.

God tested Abraham. It was a test to validate the covenant, to prove that Abraham would honor his own end of the covenant. If man would not honor his end of the covenant, God would not be justified in honoring His. Abraham had to pass this test so as to declare God's righteousness: *“That he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus” (Rom 3:26).*

So, God called Abraham and told him to go up on Mount Moriah and offer his only son as a burnt offering. Abraham, the true blood covenant friend, did not question the request. He woke up early in the morning, not giving himself time to rationalize things, took his son and two of his servants, and headed toward where God had told him to make the burnt offering.

On the way to Mount Moriah, Isaac, observing that they were missing the most important item required for a burnt offering, asked his father, "*Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?*"

In answering Isaac's question, Abraham without knowing spoke prophetically. He altered a dual-meaning prophecy. Abraham replied, "*God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering*" (Gen 22:8). The first meaning of this profound prophetic utterance from Abraham is "*God Himself will provide a lamb for the burnt offering,*" which meant that God would rise to the occasion and provide a lamb to be used for the burnt offering. The second meaning is "*God will provide **Himself** as the Lamb for a burnt offering.*" That is, God would provide Immanuel, "God with us," God manifest in the flesh, as the Lamb for a burnt offering. This statement, inspired by the Holy Ghost, went beyond the Mount Moriah sacrifice that Abraham and Isaac were facing, and reached out many centuries to the sacrifice of the Son of God on that same mountain.

*"And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood" (Gen 22:9).*

God had searched diligently for this man Abraham, and He knew Abraham would remain faithful even under extremely difficult circumstances. And so God called Abraham and asked him to offer his only son as a sacrifice. Abraham obeyed completely and kept his part of the covenant, and God called it done. The supreme court of the universe called it done.

Abraham did not actually kill his son, for God interrupted him and gave him a ram for the burnt offering instead, but God considered it done. In the mind of God, Abraham had

sacrificed his son, offered him as a burnt offering to his blood covenant friend on Mount Moriah. The Holy Spirit in the Book of Hebrews records the account as follows:

*“By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,*

*“Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:*

*“Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure” (Heb 11: 17-19).*

Abraham had satisfied all the requirements of the covenant to the maximum. The covenant was now proven legally valid beyond any shadow of a doubt. Abraham's obedience in offering his son made it possible for God to offer His own Son Jesus as the Sacrifice for man's redemption. Abraham gave his son when his blood covenant friend requested it; therefore, God was under covenant obligation to give His own Son to man (Abraham), even up to and including His son's life, if man's need should require it.

If Abraham had not given Isaac, God could not have righteously given Jesus. It would have been illegal for God to provide himself a Lamb. Abraham's prophecy has come to pass. ***“God will provide Himself a Lamb”*** is exactly what God did. God provided *Himself as the Lamb* for the burnt offering. God provided Immanuel as the Lamb for the sacrifice.

*“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Isa 7:14).*

God said this earlier on in the third chapter of Genesis when He declared that the Deliverer would be the seed of a woman

and not the seed of man. He was brought forth by a virgin with no trait of Adamic nature in him.

The covenant which God made with Abraham has blessings and curses. But Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the Lord, so that the blessings and the blessings alone can come to us. The blessings of Abraham were made by God for the seed of Abraham, and the seed of Abraham is Christ.

*"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.*

*"Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ" (Gal 3:14-16).*

The seed of Abraham is Christ. Christ is made up of the Head (Jesus Christ the LORD) and Body (the Church). The Lord Jesus Christ, who is God, did not and does not need the blessings of Abraham for himself. He had all things and created all things in the beginning. It's from Him that all blessings flow. When God made the blessings, He purposely aimed them at the members of the Body of Christ. The blessings of the Abrahamic covenant were prepared by God to bless all humanity who would be in Christ Jesus. All the blessings made by God in the old covenant, all in the New Testament, and all those in between were part of the covenant blessings that belonged to the seed of Abraham. The Church, the Body of Christ, is the seed to whom these blessings belong.

To reiterate, *the seed of Abraham* does not refer to Isaac: it refers to Christ, who is made up of the Head and the Body. The

Church completes Christ. Christ is not complete without the Church, just as your head is not complete without your body. The Church is the completeness of *Christ that filleth all in all*.

*"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], Which is His body, the fullness of Him Who fills all in all [for in that body lives the full measure of Him Who makes everything complete, and Who fills everything everywhere with Himself]" (Eph 1:22,23, Amplified Version).*

Christ Jesus is the Head; we are His body, His hands, and His feet. *"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!" (Isa 52:7).* Notice the tense the Holy Ghost used in this passage. "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of Him" is what the passage says, not "of them"! It is the feet of Him upon the mountains that this passage refers to as beautiful. The Spirit is talking about the feet of the many-membered body, the corporate body, the Church, the Body of Christ. This is the part of Christ that carries the Gospel, the Good News, to the nations of the world.

The Church is also His hands. Without us, the Church, Christ the Head has no access to the earth. It is true, first and foremost, that without Him we can do nothing. But also, He needs the Church. We are His ambassadors and instruments here on earth. We are His weapons of war.

*"Thou art my battle axe and weapons of war: for with thee will I break in pieces the nations, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms" (Jer 51:20).*

We must remember that Christ cannot do anything here on earth without us. It is with us and through us that He will defeat His enemies.

The Scriptures tells us that after our Lord Jesus Christ completed the work of redemption, God exalted Him and raised Him above all the heavens. The Head of the Church is today at the right hand of Majesty on High. God the Father told Him to sit down at His right hand until all enemies are made His footstool. He will remain seated there in heaven until the Body reaches the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ and subjugates the enemies of Christ, making them His footstool. The Body is not there yet, but we are on our way.

Christ is the Anointed One. God anointed Jesus Christ with the Holy Ghost and power. At the beginning of His ministry, when He entered the synagogue, they gave Him the scroll and He opened the 61st chapter of the Book of Isaiah and read the prophecy written about Him, saying, "*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings.*" Our Lord Jesus is anointed. His name, Christ, means "the Anointed One." The Head of the Church is anointed. If the Head is anointed, so is the Body. The same anointing oil that was poured upon the Head flowed down to the body. The Church is anointed with the same anointing with which Christ Jesus the Head is anointed.

We, the members of the Body of Christ, are indeed the anointed ones at the end-time. We are the instruments through which God will subdue the enemies of Christ under His feet. We are the anointed ones that will make His enemies His footstool. The name Christ, which means "the Anointed One" and belongs to Christ Jesus the Head, also belongs to the Body of Christ. That name that belongs to the Head also belongs to the Body. The Church is Christ, and the Church is the seed of Abraham to whom the promises were made.

Let's return to our meditation on the Abrahamic covenant. In the previous sections, we read how God in His wisdom proved Abraham to be capable and willing to keep his part of the blood covenant. Why did God tell Abraham to go offer his son as a burnt offering? God was setting the stage for the greatest manifestation of love ever known. He was preparing the legal ground that would allow Him to give His only Son for the salvation of the whole world. *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life"* (Joh 3:16).

Through the obedience of Abraham, God proved for all time and eternity that the blood covenant between Him and man was valid and would stand forever. Abraham performed his part very well, and God considered it done. It is certified by the court of the universe as a legal document that stands as a witness against Satan and all his demons, saying that Abraham gave his son to God, and on the basis of this covenant, God could send His own Son to earth to destroy the works of the Devil.

So we see that God and man were working together to destroy the kingdom of darkness. Man's earthly rights were needed to go along with God's mighty power to get the job done. All of creation must have been in breathless anticipation when Abraham was being tested, and all must have sighed in relief when Abraham made the right decision to sacrifice his son in obedience to God's request. Once that was proven, God swore by himself that the covenant would hold forever:

*"And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:*

*"That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand*

*which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies" (Gen 22:16,17)*

It important to note here again, that God said to Abraham, *"Thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies."* He said not "thy seeds" but "thy seed," as of one. God was talking about the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Seed—and not only Him, but also all who are to be born again in Christ Jesus. The Body of Christ is the seed. We are the seed of Abraham, and one of the principal blessings of the covenant is that we, the seed of Abraham, shall possess the gates of our enemies. If you are born of God, and you are a new creature in Christ Jesus, you are of the seed of Abraham.

God could not just come down here and destroy the works of the devil, or take back the authority the devil stole. He couldn't do that. It was illegal because God had given the dominion over to man, who sold out to Satan and transferred everything to him. Jesus had to come in the form of a man, with a physical body, and with human feelings. He had to face the devil as a man, defeat him, and then destroy his works.

*"For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Cor 15:21,22).*

*"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons" (Gal 4:4,5).*

# Chapter 3

---

## *Spoilt Principalities*

*“And He disarmed the principalities and the powers, which fought against Him, and put them to open shame, leading them captive in the triumph of Christ” (Col 2:15, Conybeare Translation).*

**H**e has delivered us. The Scripture does not say that He will deliver us, but that we have already been delivered from the control or dominion of Satan. He has no longer has any power over us unless we let him. Not only have we been delivered from satanic control, we have been transferred into the kingdom of God. If you have been born again, Satan no longer has power or dominion over you. You have been set free. Satan, sin, and sickness can no longer lord it over you. You have emigrated from Satan’s kingdom and have been reborn into the kingdom of Jesus Christ. You are now a citizen of the kingdom of God.

In the preceding chapters, we discussed how the devil stole the dominion and became the ruler over all of God’s creation, including the human race. He dominated everything like a ruthless despot. No one could challenge his dominion until the Son of God came.

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*

*“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (Joh 1:1-4,14).*

God put on flesh and came down to redeem us. *“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory” (1 Tim 3:16).*

Why did the Lord Jesus have to come in the flesh? Why was it necessary for God to put on flesh? Well, for anyone to have a legal right on this physical earth, the individual must have a physical body. And for anyone to redeem man and take back the dominion stolen by the devil, the individual must be born of woman. The fall came by man, and the resurrection must also come from a man. This could not be done by a spirit. It would not be legally binding.

Satan has no authority over this earth. *“The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and all that dwell therein” (Psa 24).* Satan is here illegally. He is a thief and a robber; he came in like a burglar. In John 3:3, the Lord told Nicodemus that *“Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”* This means that the gateway into the kingdom of God is new birth, and the Lord Jesus Christ is the door (John 14:6). With new birth, one enters into the kingdom of God, and there’s only one door; this is the second birth and it is spiritual.

With the first birth, natural birth, we enter the earth and there's only one door—that is Adam. With this birth we partake in Adam's God-given right and authority on earth. Only those born through Adam, of the flesh, have rights here on earth. Angels do not, spirits do not, and Satan most definitely does not. Even disembodied humans no longer have rights, and their possessions are shared among the heirs. God gave the earth to man, who is a spirit and has a soul but also a physical body.

The Lord Jesus in the tenth chapter of John said:

*“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber” (Joh 10:1).*

The door is the legal entry into a mansion or a hall. The Lord Jesus is the door to the kingdom of God, and Adam is the legal entry to the earth. All of humanity came into the earth through Adam, and in Adam all inherit death. All of the New Creation came in through Christ Jesus, and as in Adam all died, even so in Christ all are made alive. He that enters the earth by any other route but through Adam is a thief and a robber. Such a one has no legal right here on earth. When the Lord Jesus said this, He was specifically referring to the devil. He confirmed this in a later verse of the same Chapter where He said to the Jews:

*“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it” (Joh 8:44).*

And in the tenth chapter He continued: *“I am the door: by me if*

*any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (Joh 10:9).*

Satan is here illegally. He is a thief. He is a burglar and a bloody liar. He is the original murderer and the father of all lies. He is an illegal alien, and we're here to cast him out.

God had to put on flesh and become a human to be legally qualified to redeem man; to be our kinsman redeemer, He must of necessity be one of us. To have any right or authority on earth, He must be born of natural birth. This is necessary for God to *"be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus"* (Rom 3:26b).

Therefore God sent His Son to deliver us from the devil. He came down in the form of *"sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh"* (Rom 8:3). The Word of God took on flesh and died for us. It was this Word that became sin and in the process destroyed the power of sin. It was this Word that swallowed death in victory.

Remember Moses's rod in the courts of Pharaoh? God gave a shadow picture of what His Son would do in the camp of the devil.

Moses and Aaron went before Pharaoh, as commanded by God and demanded that Pharaoh should release the Israelites.

*"And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.*

*"And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go" (Exo 5:1,2).*

Pharaoh refused to listen. He even increased the burden of the Israelites because of this. God then sent Moses and Aaron back to the courts of Pharaoh and told them to show Pharaoh a miracle with the rod. They arrived before Pharaoh and cast down the rod of Moses before Pharaoh, and what happened? The rod turned into a serpent!

Pharaoh said, "That's nothing!, No big deal! Call my magicians!" And they brought in his magicians, who cast down their rods before Pharaoh, and all their rods turned into serpents.

But it was a trap! It was a setup! God Almighty had set Pharaoh up. In the same manner, when God delivered up His Son to death, God set the devil and his kingdom up for defeat and ridicule, and Satan had no clue.

*"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out" (Rom 11:34).*

*"But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:*

*"Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory" (1 Cor 2:7,8).*

So Pharaoh's magicians cast down their rods, and lo and behold, all their rods became serpents. But in a split second, before Pharaoh could say "There you go!" his magicians' serpents were all gone. Aaron's rod had swallowed them up. Aaron's rod had turned into a "king snake" that ate up other snakes. Pharaoh and his magicians had been shamed, right there in his own court, before his wives, his generals, and his ministers. The powers of his magicians were all gone, *for their*

*powers were in their rods.* The rods of their strength had been consumed by the rod of Moses and Aaron.

This incident in Egypt was a symbol of the Lord Jesus becoming sin for us that he might swallow the power of sin. He submitted to death, died, and *“swallowed death up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”* (1 Cor 15:57).

This shadow picture of Moses’ rod swallowing Pharaoh’s rods in Egypt shows us that sin and company are totally defeated and death has no more power over us. The sting of death has been neutralized. This was accomplished for us when Jesus our Lord submitted and allowed himself to be captured by Satan, and in the process defeated Satan and all his forces and took them captive. *“He spoilt principalities and power and made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it”* (Col 2:15). And *“what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh”* (Rom 8:3).

God sent His Son, the rod of His strength, into the midst of the kingdom of darkness, and there He overcame darkness. He swallowed death in victory. He *“disarmed the principalities and powers that were ranged against us and made a bold display and public example of them, triumphing over them”* (Col 2:15, Amplified)

The King James version of the Bible renders the first part of this verse as *“having spoilt principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”* This rendering is so King James, and we of this generation are not very familiar with some of the words used here. What the Spirit is telling us is that the Lord disarmed satanic

principalities and powers and rendered them powerless. Another version tells us that Christ put them to nought or neutralized them. The Philip translation renders this verse as *“Having drawn the sting of all the powers ranged against us, he exposed them, shattered, empty and defeated, in his final glorious triumphant act!”*

### **Principalities and Powers**

I am no etymologist or grammarian’s son, but an engineer, an applied mathematician who has very little training in the English language. You, my reader, probably have more understanding of this word than I do. But the dictionary tells me that the word *principality* comes from the root word *prince*, and that it means a sovereign state, ruled or reigned over by a monarch with the title of prince or princess. A parallel can be drawn between this word and *municipality* (e.g., the Municipality of Anchorage, AK), which is essentially an urban political unit usually with powers of self-government. This tells me, as a mathematician, that the prefix *pality* adds a field of influence, or a domain of authority, to the root word *prince* in the word *principality*.

Therefore, generally speaking, a principality can be understood as the territory or jurisdiction of a prince or princess, and it includes the total summation of all the authority that prince or princess possesses.

In the case of the passage above, and most passages in the Bible, when the words *principalities* and *powers* are used, they are almost exclusively used to refer to satanic principalities and powers, with the old serpent who is called the devil and Satan as the prince. The Scriptures refer to him as the “prince of the power of the air,” the spirit that rules in the children of disobedience.

When man fell and transferred dominion over the earth to Satan, he took over like a despot and set up his principality over the earth. He became the absolute monarch over the creation of God as the prince of the power of the air, and essentially made himself “the god of this world.” He ruled with absolute power and with ruthless hate and aggression over humanity and over all things that were originally under man’s authority. This was when the reign of death began, for the devil had the power of death.

We have defined *principalities*; now let’s talk about its tag-team partner *powers*. *Powers*, as used in the phrase *principalities and powers*, stands for the sum of all resources possessed by and available to Satan who is the head of satanic principalities and powers. For example, you hear of Western powers, and how the Western powers are pressing for democracy around the globe. The total summation of the human resources, military resources, economic resources, political resources, and natural resources possessed by the Western nations, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and Western European nations, all together form the force that is referred to as *Western powers*. The rulers of these nations (presidents, prime ministers, chancellors, etc.) are the princes of these principalities, and all the powers that these nations possess are vested in these leaders. That is the force behind them when they stand up to speak on behalf of their nations to the rest of the world. We shall discuss this further in the chapter on “Power and Authority.”

The devil had no power or authority over the earth before the fall. But after man sold out and transferred his dominion to the evil one, all the powers or resources that once were man’s became the devil’s legal possessions. That is the origin of the *powers* in the phrase *principalities and powers* in the Epistles to the Ephesians and the Colossians. These all came from

Almighty God, who originally delegated these powers to His child, Adam, who in turn committed high treason and transferred them to God's archenemy, Satan, the devious one.

As we discussed above, the devil originally had no authority over the earth. But after the fall, he seized the dominion from man and the reign of death began. He set up his government as a hierarchical structure with him at the top, ruling with the power of death over all of God's creation. He then organized his principalities and powers to control the kingdoms of earth and the universe that God created and gave to man.

These principalities and powers are akin to the seven kingdoms—the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Gergashites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites—that the Children of Israel had to contend with in order to enter their inheritance. These kingdoms, these principalities, were holding the land that Jehovah God had given to the Israelites as their possession. They were preventing the Israelites from entering into their inheritance, and the children of God had to fight.

Though we are in a battle with principalities and powers, we are the predetermined conquerors. God has already declared us "*more than conquerors*" through the blood of Jesus Christ and by the power of His love. The enemies we are fighting are those same ones that Christ disarmed during His work of redemption—those principalities and powers that He spoilt, neutralized, or rendered powerless.

*"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Eph 6:10-13).*

Here, the Holy Spirit through the Apostle Paul starts by telling us whom we are not wrestling against. We are not at war with human enemies like the Israelites of old. Our conflict is not with human enemies, corrupt government officials, or even militant religious terrorists who bomb churches and kill Christians. Our combat is with satanic principalities and powers, and against spiritual wickedness in high places.

We are in this war to win, depose these enemies, and take back the dominion that rightfully belongs to us. The Lord Jesus Christ has defeated these rebel holders of authority for us and has given us the authority and anointed us as kings and priests.

Adam's offense brought the reign of death. The reign of death brought us sorrow, pain, sicknesses, diseases, infirmities, plagues, oppression, depression, poverty, barrenness, famine, calamity, wars, devastations, defeat, mental anguish, fear and despair, and all manner of disasters that Satan, the despotic emperor, could dream of to unleash upon the earth and especially upon the human race, which is the object of his hatred.

But, blessed be God, we have received abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness, and we have the power to reign as kings by Jesus Christ our Lord, the Anointed One.

What does it mean to reign in life as kings?

It begins with reigning over the circumstances in your life. It includes a life of peace and security in the midst of the chaos that pervades this evil world. It means to, by the Word of God, live above sicknesses and diseases and to enjoy divine health in this world that is filled with infirmities of all sorts. It is to enjoy the abundance of divine provision that the El-Shaddai has kept in store for you and to live in prosperity all the days of your life. To reign in life is to exercise authority, to exercise

the powers vested in you as a child of God over the powers of darkness and over those satanic principalities and powers that have arrayed themselves against you with the sole purpose of preventing you from enjoying what God has given to you.

To reign in life is to reign over fear, and to exercise our rightful authority as ones seated in heavenly places with Christ, far above all principalities and powers. We reign in life when we live in divine wisdom and show forth the manifold wisdom of God unto the principalities and powers. We then become children that our Father God can be proud of.

# Chapter 4

---

## *Not by Power*

*“Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts” (Zec 4:6).*

**N**o matter how hard we try, we cannot attain this standard by our efforts. To reign in life requires the supernatural. It cannot be accomplished by the might which any human possesses. It cannot be achieved by any military or political might, even if all nations of the earth were to come together on the same side to help the Church. This can only be achieved by His Spirit. We reign in life through the omnipotent power of Almighty God.

*“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)” (Rom 5:17, Amplified Version).*

The central text of this book, quoted above from the Amplified version of the Bible, states that those who have received abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness shall surely

reign as kings in life through the Lord Jesus Christ. The sense of this verse is that we are to reign as kings in the midst of trials, in the midst of tribulations, in the midst of uncertainties, in the midst of all the issue and problem of life, by the enablement of God. We are never defeated by any of these: we rise above them all. And it is a dominion that comes to us through grace and righteousness—not by our effort, but by His grace and His gift of righteousness.

Israel was in slavery, God sent Moses to Egypt, and the grace of God appeared unto them and brought them deliverance.

*“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works” (Titus 2:11-14).*

It was the grace of God that brought us salvation.

It was the grace of God that sent Moses to the Israelites in Egypt.

It was grace that protected them from the plague in Egypt.

It was grace that protected them from Pharaoh.

It was grace that parted the Red Sea before them and brought them through the sea on dry ground.

It was grace that took them through the wilderness, protecting and guiding them for 40 years in the wilderness of Sinai.

It was grace that fed them with the bread of heaven in the wilderness.

It was grace that gave them water out of the flinty rock.

It was grace that took them across Jordan at the entrance of the land.

It was grace that pulled down the walls of Jericho before them.

It was grace that vanquished the enemy before them.

It was grace that defeated the giants, the Anakims, the Agagites, the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Girgashites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

It was grace that took them out of Egypt, and it was grace, the grace of God, that brought them into the land of their inheritance.

We must ask, then, what is grace? You've heard grace defined as "God's unmerited favor," "God's undeserved favor," or "God not paying us back what we deserve"; these definitions are accurate. But the aspect of grace we're meditating upon here relates to God's omnipotence.

Grace, therefore, is God's unlimited ability, given to us in Christ and dispensed into our spirit, to enable us to perform superhuman feats, to demonstrate supernatural wisdom, and to exhibit superhuman strength for His glory. Grace is God's divine omnipotence dispensed into our inner man, which propels us to superhuman achievement for the glory of His Name; this is not by our power, nor by our might, but by His Spirit.

*"That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom 5:21).*

Sin once reigned over us unchallenged. The Bible even tells us *"that the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound"* (Rom 5:20). This tells us that the law was brought in that transgression might increase, but that where transgression has increased, grace

has increased much more. Sin will never outgrow the grace of God. The Scripture tells us that this grace not only outgrows sin, but also reigns through righteousness over all things, and that we who have received this abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness are to reign in life.

This should be our experience today. This is not for a future time. This is not talking about our millennial reign with Christ Jesus. It's talking about our present-day experience.

To reign is to be a king. It is to subdue something or a territory and rule over it. It is to have a dominion or a kingdom. Our Christian life should not only be a victorious one: it should be a kingly life, a reigning life. We should live day by day as royalty, as princes and princesses, enjoying this life as the King's kids.

Our Father God desires that we grow in this living victoriously through grace and righteousness. Continual triumphant Christian living can only be realized by developing a close relationship with the Lord, because we are only able to reign in life through Jesus Christ the Anointed One.

He is with us in all His ability and strength, in all His completeness and fullness. He is with us; we cannot fail. His overflowing grace has been poured upon us, and we are therefore more than conquerors. He declares that we have become the righteousness of God in Him, and we know that we are what He declares us to be. We therefore reign as kings in the realm of life through Jesus Christ. Satan's dominion over us is forever broken. We are masters. We are kings. Jesus is the King of kings. We are lords and Jesus is the Lord of lords. In Christ Jesus *"dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and we are complete in Him. And of His fullness have we all received and grace upon grace"* (Col 2:9-10, Joh 1:16)

Yes, we have received abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness. What is righteousness? How did we receive this gift?

*“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor 5:21).*

Our right-standing or acceptance before the Father is not based on our good works, but based on the completed work of Christ. That righteousness became ours when we accepted Jesus as our Savior and confessed Him as Lord over our lives. Righteousness is the ability to approach God confidently, to stand in His presence without the sense of guilt or condemnation.

We have become the righteousness of God. Righteousness does not come from what we do: it is the nature that the Father God imparted to us. Adam lost his righteousness after the fall. He lost his privilege of fellowship and lost his dominion. The lost righteousness and fellowship are restored in the New Creation in Christ Jesus.

Lack of the sense of righteousness creates a weak believer. It leads to weak faith. Faith cannot work when one lacks a sense of oneness with God. Instead of exercising authority, the Christian will be struggling with sin and weakened by sin-consciousness. Lack of the revelation of righteousness will leave opportunity for the enemy to defeat the child of God, for he has the chance to punch holes in the believer’s faith. A lack of righteousness-consciousness leads to an ineffective prayer life.

Every child of God needs to know that we are accepted before Him not because of the works of righteousness we have done, but because of the completed works of Christ. It is He who was made sin on our behalf, and we have become the

righteousness of God in Him. This was settled 2,000 years ago, and remains established for all time and eternity.

A revelation of our righteousness is a necessity for a strong life of faith. Faith cannot work in a life dominated by guilt or sin-consciousness. Faith makes the child of God soar in the heavens, make him live an overcoming life, like a helium balloon that floats above earthly troubles; condemnation punctures that balloon and keeps him earthbound, defeated, left in the dust, dominated by all the troubles below, and totally under the control of the “spirit of the power of the air.”

Righteousness-consciousness is a necessity for reigning in life. Faith cannot work without it, and we cannot operate in the grace of God without faith. And it’s those that have received grace and righteousness who reign in life through Jesus Christ the Anointed One.

God has made His grace available to us. We need to receive it. We need to appropriate it. We need to be established with His grace. For the Spirit says:

*“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever. Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein”* (Heb 13:8-9).

*“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death”* (Rom 8:1,2).

Christ the Son has set us free, and whosoever the Son shall set free is free indeed. He has set us free, and we are kept free by Him who is the Truth.

The Scripture in continuing this says, *"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall **make** you free"* (Joh 8:31,32). He set us free when we took Him as Lord and Savior, and He has given us His word, which, if we continue in it, will give us the knowledge of the truth, and the truth will keep us as freemen. He set us free; His truth will keep us free.

Only freemen can be kings. Only freemen can reign. Only freemen can rule and reign as kings in life. Bondmen and slaves are ruled over. Christ has delivered us from the authority of darkness and translated us into the Kingdom of God. In Him we have redemption and we are freemen. We dwell in the presence of the Most High God; we live and move in the presence of the eternal Spirit. And where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty, and in His presence is fullness of joy.

*"For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; **much more** they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ"* (Rom 5:17).

Do you have sins and trespasses that weigh you down? There is much more grace, abundant grace.

Do you have sickness and disease threatening you? There is much more grace, abundant grace to make you every wit whole.

Or is it lack and being in need that's the issue in your life? There is much more grace, abundant grace to meet all your needs.

Do you have the devil, like a roaring lion, bullying you? There is much more grace, abundant grace to show who you are in Christ.

Do you have death or fear of death looming over you or your close ones? There is much more grace, abundant grace; much more is the abundance of grace, much more is the life—the eternal life—that is now yours in Christ Jesus.

*May His mighty power be released into your spirit to propel you into a supernatural and overcoming life so that you will dominate every circumstance you face every day of your life.*

*May His omnipotent power be at your disposal, dispensed into your spirit, emanating and beaming out effortlessly through you and causing you to reign as a king in the realm of life. Begin to reign as a king, today, over everything that pertains to your life, in Jesus' Name.*

# Chapter 5

---

## *Power and Authority*

*“And Behold, I give unto you power (exousia) to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power(dunamis) of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you” (Luke 10:19).*

**A**postle James, in his Epistle, admonishes us to submit to God. This is the beginning and source of our victory. A similar message was already set forth by the Psalmist where he said, *“The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever”* (Psa 111:10). For us to reign as kings in this life, we must first allow God to reign supreme in us. We first submit to God; then, through the power of God, we confront the devil, and he will flee before us. It is when our obedience is fulfilled that we’ll be ready to revenge all disobedience (2 Cor 10:6 paraphrased).

The complete admonishment from the apostle James is found in the fourth chapter of his Epistle: *“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you”* (Jam 4:7,8).

When we submit to Him, there is no limit to the power and authority that we can exercise in this world. When God reigns in us, we are able to reign as kings in life by Jesus Christ.

We are not to be unruly and disobedient children. We are children of obedience. We honor our Father God. We love Him and revere Him.

The Apostle then admonishes us on what to do with the Devil. We are not to respect him: we are to resist him. We are to oppose him in everything and at all times. God expects us to use His authority to resist, confront, and withstand the devil. He expects us, by virtue of the authority delegated to us, to exercise dominion over Satan and put him to flight.

God needs to reign supreme in us so we can reign as kings in this life; we shall be ready and qualified to avenge all disobedience only when our own obedience is complete.

*"For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ" (Rom 5:17).*

All that we have, all that we are, and all that we'll ever be comes from the Lord Jesus Christ. Outside Him we are nothing, amount to nothing, and can do nothing. But by His grace and His gift of righteousness, we have authority to reign in life.

He is head over sicknesses and diseases.

He is head over principalities and powers.

He's Lord over the living and the dead.

He is Lord in heaven, on earth, and underneath the earth.

He is Lord both in this world and in the world to come.

It pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell.

And God the Father has made Him Head over all things for the benefit of the Church. And the Church is His body and is the fullness of Him that fills everything everywhere.

The Almighty God has highly exalted our Lord the Christ and

set Him in the highest position in the heavens. He is the Head over all things. He is also the head of the spiritual Body of Christ. Jesus Christ of Nazareth, who died for humanity and became the Savior and Lord of the human race, is the head of this spiritual body, also called the Church or the *ekklesia*. The Lord Jesus Christ is a member of this Body, just as the head of a man is part of his body. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, and the rest of us, born-again believers, form the rest of the Body.

Therefore, when God raised Christ from the dead, what All-wise, omniscient God was doing was raising up the whole Body in him. When He was nailed to the cross, in the mind of God the whole Body was there. When He was buried, the whole Body was there. When He suffered in Hades, the whole Body was there. When God raised Him from the dead, the whole Body was there. When He arose and spoilt principalities and powers and made a public display of them, the whole Body was there.

When God exalted Christ and set Him in the highest place in the heavens, far above all principalities, far above all powers and dominion and every name that is named in this world and in that which is to come, the whole Body was there in Him, and exalted in Him. When God set Him at His own right hand in heavenly places and put all things under His feet, the whole Body was there in Him. The Head was exalted and seated above all, and so are the hands and feet, which are part of the Body. And all things are underneath the feet, which are the lowest parts of the Body.

Let's re-emphasize these facts, because they are very important for us in this race that is set before us. And let's personalize the message so we can walk in these redemptive facts.

*When Christ was crucified, I was in Him; I was crucified with Christ.*

*I died with Him.*

*I was buried with Him.*

*I overcame the devil in Him.*

*When He was justified in the Spirit I was there in Him; I was justified with Him.*

*I was quickened, made alive with Him.*

*I was raised together with Him and made to sit with Him in heavenly places.*

*I am seated in Him far above all principalities, far above all powers, far above all might and every name that is named.*

*I am seated in Him at the right hand of Majesty in the heavens, and all things are under my feet.*

This is the grand design in the great plan of redemption. God the great Architect wisely and painstakingly incorporated man in all the victory that the Lord Jesus accomplished through the work of redemption from start to finish, so that man can share in His glory and exaltation. In fact, *share* is not the correct word: *totally benefit* or *receive all benefit* is more like it. The Lord Jesus Christ did not and does not need any of the accolades or exaltation He earned from the work of redemption. All the authority, dominion, exaltation, accolades, and the Name above all names that He received as a result of His work on earth, He passed to His Body. He became Head over all things for the benefit of the Church. He made all the sacrifice and received all the glory and honor after completing the work for the benefit of humanity, especially those who would accept Him as Savior and believe in His name.

He earned all the glory and honor so He could transfer it all, totally, to those who would be members of His Body. They became the heirs of salvation and the co-heirs of all that

rightly belongs to the eternal Son of God.

Therefore, what belongs to the Head also belongs to the Body. What belongs to the Head of the Church belongs to the Body of Christ. The Name of Jesus belongs to you and it belongs to me.

If your name is John, without any debate you would agree that the name John belongs to your feet as much as it does to your head. We probably won't call your head John and call your feet Thomas. You are John, head and all.

To be sure, the Name of Jesus in usage and operations belongs to the Body more than it does to the Lord Jesus the Head. The Lord Jesus doesn't need to use His own Name. We do. We, the members of His Body, are the beneficiaries of the power and authority that is stored by the Almighty God in that Name. The Lord Jesus gave us His Name to use for Him. He never needed to cast out evil spirits in His own Name, but we do, and we will continue to use that Name to frighten the living daylights out of the devil and his cohorts and drive them away in terror. We, the Church, will continue to use the power in that name to heal the sick, to deliver the oppressed and the afflicted, and to set captives free. The Name of Jesus is principally for us.

The devil is hoping we won't know these things. He hopes we don't know that he is indeed defeated and under our feet. He is hoping that we don't know that he has no true right here on earth, and that he, a perpetual thief, stole whatever authority and dominion he's been exercising down here. He's hoping we don't know that he's not god over everything and everyone down here.

He is doing everything within his power, creating smokescreens, muddying the waters, circulating deceitful propaganda, and creating every manner of distraction to confuse us and prevent us from knowing what belongs to us in Christ Jesus. But he will never succeed! He will never prosper!

God is at work in His Church. The Church is marching on, and the gates of hell cannot, and shall not, prevail against us.

### **I Will Build My Church**

Before we continue on the key message of this section, let consolidate the thoughts in the last sentence above.

*“And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.*

*“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I **will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**” (Mat 16:17-18).*

First of all, we know who is speaking here. The Lord Jesus Christ made this divine pronouncement concerning the Church so the devil and all his principalities and powers would hear. The Lord said He was preparing or building something. What was He building?

“I will build my Church,” He said. Who is building the Church? Whose Church is it? I leave you to answer both these questions. There is only one Church, one Lord and owner of that Church, and one and only one who can and is building her. The rest of us are co-laborers in His vineyard, working with Him through the anointing of the Holy Ghost to arrive at the overcoming and victorious Church without spot and without wrinkle.

Who or what is the Church the Lord said He’s going to build? The answer is clear. He’s referring to His Body, the *called-out-ones*, the *ekklesia*. Members of this Church are present in every nation of the earth, scattered among all the congregations (earthly churches) around the globe. They are the born-again ones distributed as lights in the world, among every group, every tribe, and every tongue on the face of the

globe. This corporate body is the Church, and she's growing, both in number and fervency. Soon and very soon, the Spirit says, her members will cover the earth with the knowledge of the glory of God as the water covers the sea.

The pronouncement of the Lord above indicates the presence of a conflict, and seems to indicate that one of the purposes for building His Church is for this confrontation. His statement also declares who the winner of this conflict will be.

To be sure, every conflict must of necessity involve at least two opponents. In this confrontation, we understand the parties in the fray are the Church versus the kingdom of Satan. The battle is between the Kingdom of God's Son and the kingdom of the evil one. The battle is between the Army of the Lord and the principalities and powers over which Satan is prince.

So there's a confrontation between the Church of Jesus Christ and the kingdom of darkness headed by Satan, the "god of this world."

It's a conflict, all right, but the statement indicates there is an intimidator. Can you identify who the intimidator in this conflict is? Who is attacking?

In the days of kings and monarchs, when a king desired to extend his empire or the domain of his dominion, he would gather his army, led by his special forces, and march belligerently to the city or state he planned to conquer. He would surround it, since most cities in those days were enclosed by walls, and would besiege it. This king's special forces would then attack the gates of the city to break them down and to take the city.

We see Joshua taking the children of Israel across Jordan, led by the priest carrying the ark of God, and the whole congregation crossing the River Jordan to the other side. We see them

marching silently around Jericho every day for six days, and on the seventh day we see them marching around the walls of Jericho seven times. And on the seventh time, we see the seven priests blowing their seven trumpets and the people shouting, bulldozing the walls of Jericho and taking the city by the power of God. The children of Israel were the attackers and the gates of Jericho did not prevail.

In the revelatory and prophetic statement of the Lord Jesus being discussed here—*"I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"*—who is the intimidator? Who is the attacker? Yes, you're right, it's the Church!

This is what the Spirit wants to tell every child of God. The devil is not the intimidator. Not anymore. We have been delivered and given authority over him. The bully has been emasculated. The hunter has become the hunted. The predator has become the prey.

In essence, the Lord Jesus is saying:

*I will build my Church and my Church will war against the kingdom of darkness.*

*My Church will take the battle to the gates of the enemy.*

*My Church will bombard the gates of hell.*

*My Body, "the feet company," will boot down the gates of hell.*

*My Body, "the hand company," will smash and axe down the gates of the enemy, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against her, for she is my battle axe and my weapons of war.*

For those who have been redeemed and translated into the Kingdom, the devil is no longer the intimidator. In the mind of God the devil has been defeated, and you and I are the overcomers. In the mind of God, anyone who is born again in Christ Jesus has the dominion, stolen by the devil, restored back to him or her.

This has been part of God's grand design all along. Remember, this dominion over the gates of the enemy is part of the Abrahamic covenant blessings, which, as we traced down, belong to the Church. Let's read the pronouncement of this specific blessing again:

*"And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:*

*"That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; **and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies**" (Gen 22:16,17).*

This blessing of being the conqueror over the enemy is part of the original covenant blessing that God made for the seed of Abraham. And, as we meditated upon in the earlier chapter, this "seed" refers to Christ the Head and His Body. In the Matthew passage that we're discussing above, the Lord Jesus essentially transferred this blessing to His Body the Church.

In the same manner, the Lord transferred the power and authority acquired by Him through the victory of the cross and over the grave unto us, the Church. After He overcame and became Lord of all—that is, Lord in heaven, Lord over the earth, and Lord over all things underneath the earth—He came to His disciples and said:

*"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*

*"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Mat 28:18-20).*

The word used by our Lord in the 18<sup>th</sup> verse of Scripture above translated in the King James as “power” is actually the Greek word *exousia* (ἐξουσία) and not *dunamis* (δύναμις). This word, *exousia*, specifically means authority rather than power. The Amplified Bible translates this verse as saying “*All authority (all power of rule) in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.*” The American Standard Version renders the verse as saying, “*All authority hath been given unto Me,*” and the New English Bible (NEB) also renders it correctly as saying, “*Full authority ... has been committed to Me.*”

After the Lord made this statement, He then turned to His disciples and said, “Go therefore ...” In essence He was turning the “absolute authority” that had been given unto Him over to His Body, His Ambassadors, to accomplish the task He gave them to do. And the task was to “*teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.*”

He has given us all the authority that has been given to Him, to use in the ministry to which He has called us. We are His delegates, His messengers, His servants, sent to accomplish a task, and given the necessary authority to get that job done. He has given us the power, *delegated power*, to get the job done.

Before we continue, let’s include another passage of Scripture in this meditation. In the Gospel of Luke, the Lord Jesus said:

*“I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you **power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy:** and nothing shall by any means hurt you”* (Luk 10:18,19).

The word *power* is used twice in the verse quoted above. The first is the “power” that the Lord Jesus gave to us, and the

second is all the other forms of “power” that belong to the enemy. However, the translator of the King James version mixed things up here again for us, for the words used here are different.

The first word translated as “power” in the verse above is the Greek word *exousia* discussed above, which was used in Matt 28:18. This first word should be translated as “authority.” The second use of “power” in Luke 10:19 is the Greek word *dunamis* (δύναμις), which means “ability, power, or strength.” This one is correctly rendered. So what the Lord Jesus Christ was saying is this: That He has given unto us **authority** (*exousia*) *to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power* (*dunamis*) *of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt us.* Strong’s dictionary of the original Greek words used in these passages and a couple of other translations, including the Amplified Bible, confirm this.

But why does it matter if these words are rendered as *power* or *authority*? What is authority? And what is power?

Let’s begin the meditation on the answer to this question this way. Let’s conduct a thought experiment. Consider two individuals in your mind: the first one is a physical specimen like a bodybuilder or wrestler, say, Hulk Hogan in his prime, and the second is a United States president, say, James Madison. The first one possesses an amazing physical ability. He’s got some incredible force and ability in his being, to fight and do things. That is power.

The second individual, James Madison, was only five feet four inches tall and weighed around 100 pounds. In comparison with Hulk Hogan, Madison did not have any power. But if Madison were president of the United States today, and were to get up and speak or do anything, the whole world would keep quiet and listen. A word of command from him, five feet

and all, could wipe out an entire nation of belligerent terrorists, and could achieve feats greater than a thousand Hulk Hogans could. That is authority.

When the president of the United States speaks or performs an action, it is not the inherent power in his being that he's exercising, but the authority vested in him as the head of state, or the prince, or the commander in chief of the United States.

Authority is *delegated power*. The value of someone's authority is determined by the sum total of the powers of the kingdom that backs him or her. The value of the U.S. president's authority is the sum total of the United States' military resources, human resources, economic resources, natural resources, wealth, political resources and influence around the world, etc. This is what backs up the word of a United States president when he opens his mouth to speak or performs an action as president.

Power is great—Samson had some super-power—but there is a limit to the amount of power that can reside in a mortal man. However, authority can be almost unlimited. Authority is power, but it is delegated power. It is that power that the traffic officer uses to stop moving traffic. Heavy buses, 18-wheeler trucks, heavy equipment trailers, all heading toward her with enough momentum to crush her like a fly, but when this traffic officer steps into the middle of the intersection and raises her hand, they all stop.

That's not power. This traffic officer doesn't have the physical power to stop even a little old lady riding a tricycle if she were to decide to run her over. Yet they all stop. That's authority. The traffic officer has delegated power vested in her by her state department of transportation. The power of the government is behind her when she raises her hands. She may be smaller than Madison, and the trucks may be loaded with

lead and mercury and moving at 40 mph, but when the drivers see the hand ordering them to stop, they all must obey. The traffic cop is the master, and they all must swiftly obey her command and only go when she says so. That is authority.

Now you are beginning to see the implication of accurately identifying the specific word that the Lord used in the passage above. The Lord said all authority in heaven and on earth has been given unto Him. Think of it this way. God Almighty has gathered all powers, including all the ones that the devil stole from man and whatever he had in his kingdom in hell, and all the powers on earth, and all the powers in heaven, bundled all these up as a package, given the package to Christ our Lord, and made Him Lord over All. Then the Lord Jesus turned around and gave the package to us, the Church, His Body. He delegated these powers to the Church.

We understand from above that the value of authority is determined by the force or the resources possessed by the kingdom behind it. What is the value of the Church's authority? All powers in heaven, on earth, and underneath the earth, and all powers that the Name of Jesus contains, are vested in the authority given to the Church. So, the power available to the Church is far beyond what she can contain or comprehend. The power available to the Church is therefore without limit, because the Almighty God and His unlimited resources are the force behind her authority.

In the passage above, the Lord Jesus gave us authority over all the powers or supernatural abilities of the enemy. Notice that on the enemy's side, they only have powers, limited powers. If the devil sends out a demon, the demon can only exercise power to the limit of what the devil gives it; the powers of the kingdom of darkness are limited and also waning and declining. His kingdom and powers are typified by the house

of Saul, which the Scriptures tell us about in the second book of Samuel:

*“Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: but David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker” (2 Sam 3:1).*

The kingdom of Satan is waxing weaker and weaker while the Kingdom of Christ the Anointed One is growing stronger and stronger, and the paths of the righteous are growing brighter and brighter unto the perfect day.

Let’s get back to our discussion about authority.

### **Speak the Word Only**

The Devil understands and respects authority. Because he’s a spirit being, he complies with spiritual authority and is compelled to obey higher authority. We, the beloved of the Lord, must know our position and exercise our authority confidently.

*“And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.*

*“And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.*

*“The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.*

*“For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.*

*“When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel” (Mat 8:5-10).*

Now, that was a man who understood authority. The centurion was a military man, a commander of one hundred soldiers. He was under authority, and also was an authority, with officers and soldiers under him. He had come to the Lord Jesus to request healing for his servant. The Lord Jesus replied that He would come and heal the servant.

But this military man told the Lord Jesus that he was not worthy to be inviting the Lord into his house, and that it was not even necessary for the Lord to come all the way to his house to do this. He told the Lord that all He needed to do is to speak a word of command, and as with a military commander, the devils that caused the palsy in his servant would obey immediately and the palsy would be healed. He was telling Jesus that he understood that the Lord Jesus had divine authority over all spirits and over sicknesses and diseases; and that demons, evil spirits, and the devil himself were under him, and Christ was their commander. And thus, He did not need to go all the way to the centurion's house in order to cast the devils out, but *speak the word only*, and the devils would obey immediately.

The centurion understood authority. Whenever he spoke or gave orders, his subordinates obeyed without question. He didn't need to shout or travel to where they were for them to obey him; he just needed to utter the word of command and the hundred soldiers under him carried out his order without delay. That's the implication of what he said to the Lord. And the Lord Jesus commended his faith and *"said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour"* (Mat 8:13).

We need to understand our authority in Christ. We need to speak with authority against the devil and put him in his place. God has given us authority to reign as kings in this life.

God has raised us up with Christ, set us in heavenly places far above all circumstances, and given us authority. We are not weary pilgrims trudging through this world: we are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. We are not to be under the control of circumstances. We are not even to be under the control of what tomorrow may bring. We were created and given the authority to change tomorrow in the Name of Jesus.

No doubt about it, this is beyond us. This is why the Spirit of God tells us to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. It is not by our power, nor by our might, but by His Spirit. He is not telling us to depend on or be strong in ourselves or our might, but to be strong in the Lord and to depend on the power of His might. He is the Almighty God. To be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might is to be proficient in the exercise of our authority. Remember, authority is delegated power, and the Might of the Almighty is backing our authority. When we exercise the authority that Christ gave us, we are essentially using the “power of His might,” which is vested in the authority given to us.

Our Father God expects us to be strong and competent people in this world when it comes to our dealing with the enemy. That’s why His word tells us to overcome the devil.

Consider God as a Father whose children used to be weaklings and punching bags for every bully, but who has trained them and given them the resources to overcome all the big bullies in a fight. Now He sends His children out and watches them whip the bullies if and when challenged. God has given us authority and wants to see us whip the devil silly. God expects this of every believer, for He has given this authority unto every member of the body of Christ, from the new born-again child to the oldest among us.

We are here on earth, left here to occupy till He returns. We are here to do the work which He started. We are here to overcome. We are here to reign and rule. We are here to subdue His enemy and put him and his cohorts under His feet. We are acting in His stead. We are taking His place.

We as the church have had a wrong conception of our place in Christ and of our dominion. We have been filled with fear. We have played victims of circumstances, victims of fear, victims of Satan. We have heard so much preaching about weakness and failure and defeat, so much that they have become a part of our very consciousness. Our preachers and teachers have told us so many testimonies of failure, of lack, of unworthiness, that we have come to have faith in those negative things from which Christ has redeemed us. We have not listened to what He said: *"That Ye are of God, my little Children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you than he that's in the world."*

We have not understood that the "us" in this passage refers to you and me, the body of Christ. We have not realized that "he that's in the world" referred to the devil, "the god of this world." And it has not yet dawned on us that we have indeed overcome him and all his cohorts.

*We are masters. We are lords, We are kings. And we are mediators for humanity here below, for we are priests. Let's restate the above: We are masters and Jesus is the Chief Master and the Master of masters.*

*We are lords. He is the Lord of lords.*

*We are kings. He is King of kings.*

*We are priests. He is the High Priest after the order of Melchisedek.*

*We are overcomers. He is the Chief Overcomer, the Pre-eminent One who overcame and is seated with His Father on the throne.*

The moment we get the right mental attitude of being victors instead of being conquered, we are going to take our place. Yes, we have problems, we have issues, we have seemingly insurmountable, Everest-sized mountains—but He has said that in *“all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us”* (Rom 8:37).

Not by our power, not by our might, not by our ability, not by our education, not by our skillset, but by His Spirit. Our victory comes from Him who overcame for us. Our help comes from the Lord who made the heavens and the earth. He is our strength, He is our wisdom, He is our ability, He is our righteousness, He is our sanctification, He's our redemption, He is our rock, He's our refuge, He's our might. The Lord is the saving power of His anointed, and of His fullness have we all received and grace upon grace.

Through this abundance of grace, He has empowered us to reign as kings in this realm of life. He has put all things in subjection under our feet and gave Jesus our Lord to be Head over all governments of this world for the benefit of the Church. *“He gave Him to be head over principalities and powers for the benefit of the church.”*

God our Father wants us to become overcomers. He wants us to triumph always and over every satanic attack. That's why when we were slaves, conquered, defeated, and under satanic domination, He sent Jesus to redeem us, set us free, and transfer us from the domination of darkness into the Kingdom of His beloved Son. And now we are in the kingdom. Now, we are the beloved of God. In Him we have redemption, we have kingdom blessing, we have kingdom authority, and we have kingdom inheritance.

Therefore, by the strength of the revelation of the spirit above, take authority over the power of the devil over everything in

your life. Exercise authority over the enemies in the lives of your sons and daughters. Exercise authority over your situations, financial, professional, health, and over everything that pertains to your life and godliness. Exercise authority over the enemy in things pertaining to your loved ones; demand that he take his dirty hands off them and everything that pertains to them. God's plan is for you to rule and reign over everything in your life.

*Therefore, begin to reign as kings; you have the authority.*

*Tell the devil to take his hands off your family.*

*Command him to take his hands off your children.*

*Tell him to take his hands off your finances.*

*Tell him to take his hands off your work, your vocation, your business, your professional life, and tell him to get out of your neighborhood, for he's not welcome there.*

This is exercising authority and demanding the things that God has already given to you as your right. When you demand your rights, you are demanding them of the "god of this world," the enemy whose goal is to withhold these things from you. And if you're quiet, conciliatory, and compromising about it, he will never allow you to get the things that God has given you.

Don't forget this. The enemy will put up some resistance. Stand your ground. Apostle Peter put this accurately when he said, "*Whom resist steadfast in the faith*" (1 Pet 5:9). Yes, we must resist the Devil steadfastly in our faith. We cannot be soft or civilized about this. We are not to negotiate with him. He is a deceiver and a con artist with millions of years of experience. We are not to listen to anything he has to say: we are to rebuke him and to command him with authority, and he will flee as in terror from our presence.

To wrap up this chapter, we remind ourselves by

paraphrasing what the Lord said:

*All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth. **Go ye therefore and use this authority.***

*Go therefore, **in my name ye shall cast out demons,***

*In my Name dominate the Devil, put him under,*

*In my Name heal the sick,*

*In my Name set the oppressed free,*

*In my Name preach the Good News,*

*And he that believes and baptized shall be saved.*

*And behold, I am with you, until the end of the age.*

# Chapter 6

---

## *Under Our Feet*

*"And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all" (Eph 6:22,23).*

**I** am more convinced today than yesterday, and now than ever before, that unless we exercise the authority given to us by our Lord Jesus over the enemy in these last days, we are in for surprises. But if we know what the Word of God says, and we know how to take advantage of our authority in Christ Jesus, then we'll surely live as overcomers in this life.

Let's summarize what we've discussed so far. God created all things. He made the earth, the fullness thereof, and gave it to man. Adam was god over the earth, including the cosmos and the hundreds of billions of galaxies that God made. God put him in charge and gave man the mandate to *keep it, watch over it, hedge around it, exercise dominion over it, and subdue* anything that might act contrary to God in or around it.

Then it happened! Man disobeyed God, was derelict in his duty, and allowed the serpent to enter in and to deceive Eve. Adam then committed high treason, fell, and died spiritually. Man became a slave of the devil and took the whole creation with him, bringing all under the dominion of the evil one.

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His infinite love for humanity, sent His Son to deliver man from the dominion of Satan and to translate man into His kingdom. And so God became flesh and dwelt among men. *“We beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten, full of grace and truth.”* The Son of God came and became sin for us, and in the process broke the power of sin. He partook of death with us and in the process destroyed him that had the power of death, even the devil. *“He spoilt principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it”* (Col 2:15).

After He had completely paid the price of our redemption, God raised Him up from the dead and gave Him the Name which is above every name. God *“raised Him from the dead and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church”* (Eph 1:20-22).

The Holy Spirit continued this message in the second chapter of the Epistle to the Ephesians, that when God raised Christ from the dead, He raised us up at the same time with Him. The message continues saying:

*“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins. Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus”* (Eph 2:1,5,6).

God raised Christ from the dead and set Him at his own right hand in heavenly places and put all things under His feet. And when we were dead in trespasses and sins, He raised us up

together with Christ, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

*Where is Christ seated?* Answer—At the right hand of God above all principalities and powers, with all things under his feet.

*Where are we seated?* Answer—We are seated where Christ is seated. We are seated in Him far above all principalities and powers, and all things are under our feet.

The devil specifically, and all his demonic forces, are under our feet. We are to tread over them and rule over them the way they have trampled over humanity for these several thousand years. We are to reign as kings in life. We are to reign over sickness and disease, reign over contrary spirits and over circumstances, reign over poverty and lack, and reign over every negative thing that used to hold us in captivity.

*“Behold I give unto you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you”* (Luke 10:19).

The serpents and scorpions here are symbolic of satanic power. They are other forms of the power of the enemy, as the statement indicates. The Lord says He has given us authority to trample over and tread upon all forms of the power of the enemy, including serpents, which are one form of his powers, and scorpions, which are another.

To tread upon is to walk all over and to dominate completely and permanently. To tread upon is not occasional victory, but victory all the time. It is to permanently subjugate the enemy and exercise authority over him.

In the book of Genesis, the first time we came across the evil one was when we found him in the form of the serpent, contradicting God Almighty.

*“Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”* (Gen 3:1).

This verse tells us quite a bit about the character of the old serpent which is called the devil and Satan.

The Lord Jesus also specified another type of satanic manifestation: He stated that he has given us authority to *tread upon scorpions*. The power of scorpions is in their stings, and the sting of a scorpion can be devastating. The Lord says He has given us authority to overcome this also without any harm coming to us. God gave Ezekiel similar promises when He sent him to the house of Israel:

*“And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house”* (Eze 2:6).

The words of backbiters, slanderers, attackers, and wrong accusers may sting like scorpions, but the Lord has put all these under our feet also. We are to tread over them.

*“Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet”* (Psa 91:13).

In the 91st Psalm, God adds to the list of satanic forces that have been put under our feet. In the first part of this great Psalm that contains many promises from the Lord, God says that we shall tread upon the *lion and adder*. We have already been discussing manifestations that are related to the ones

symbolized by the adder: *adder* stands for a nest or a whole brood of serpents and cobras. It would symbolically represent a whole tribe of demons and unclean spirits, and we have authority over these ones also.

Let's take a look at the first symbol, *lion*, used in this verse. The Lord God says to you and me, "*Thou shalt tread upon the lion.*" Lions generally represent natural forces that are fierce and ferocious. There are two classes of lions talked about in Scripture.

The first is the "Lion of the Tribe of Judah." This is the symbol used to represent the Messiah, the King, the Son of David, the One who will sit upon the throne of David and reign forever. This is *Shiloh* to whom belong the Kingdom, and the Glory, and Power forever. Jacob prophesied in his old age while blessing his son Judah, saying:

*"The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be"* (Gen 49:10).

The Lord Jesus Christ is our soon-coming King. The book of Revelation closes with an account of His return:

*"And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*

*"And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS"* (Rev 19:14).

The second class of lion spoken about in Scripture usually represents the king of the jungle, or the king in the earthly realm. In the passage above from the 91st Psalm specifically,

God is referring to the king of the jungle which the earth has become: in other words, the devil. This lion is the king to all those that live in and are of the jungle. No wonder the apostle refers to Satan as the “god of this world.” It is important to note that this lion, or the devil, is only king over those that are of the jungle. He is only god over those that are of this world. We, the redeemed of the Lord, are in this world but are not of this world system. Therefore, he is not god over us or king over us. Our King is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah; He is our *“Shiloh, and unto Him shall the gathering of ‘we the people’ be.”*

This is also why the Scriptures say that the devil prowls around as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. He cannot devour everyone. Let’s read the full text from the Epistle of Peter:

*“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith” (1 Pet 5:8,9).*

Peter the apostle admonishes us to be sober and vigilant. In other words he’s telling us to be discreet and watchful, because we have an active enemy. The devil is our adversary. The Spirit, through the apostle, tells us the devil walks about like a roaring lion. For us children of God, the devil is no longer a real lion: he is harmless. The Lord Jesus Christ has emasculated him and rendered him toothless. The Lord spoilt, neutralized, and rendered powerless all satanic principalities and powers for us, the redeemed of the Lord. Therefore, though we are among these lions, they are harmless to us if we know how to deal with them. The promises of God in this Psalm state that God has subdued the lion and the adder and the young lions under our feet. The young lions are the symbols of youthful and energetic lions, and we have authority over these also.

We have authority over all manifestations of the enemy. The spirit is telling us today to tread upon them all as an exercise of our dominion. As we tread over them, we take back possession of all territories which these satanic powers stole from us. We take back every territory that God tells us belongs to us in Christ Jesus. God told Joshua, *“Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast”* (Jos 1:3,4).

Though God had given the land to the children of Israel, they still had to tread upon it to actually possess it. The land was potentially theirs, but to actually take it, they had to march over it. The amount of the land they treaded under the soles of their feet determined how much they actually possessed.

Though God has given it, it does not become mine until I possess it. He has given, but I still have to possess. This is true of all the promises of God. This is true about our inheritance. We are joint heirs with Christ, but we need to move from being just inheritors to possessors. God our Father desires that we walk in our inheritance today.

God has done His part. The Lord Jesus Christ has completed His portion. Now it's your turn. You've got to do something. God has given. Now stand up and walk, tread upon the land of your inheritance, and possess it. Walk on top of the enemy as a victor. Tread over the enemy that's still holding the land of your inheritance. It's up to you now. Hear God say it again in the book of Deuteronomy:

*"And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have begun to give Sihon and his land before thee: begin to possess, that thou mayest inherit his land. Then Sihon came out against us, he and all his*

*people, to fight at Jahaz. And the LORD our God delivered him before us; and we smote him, and his sons, and all his people" (Deut 2:31-33)*

Yes, it's yours potentially, but it only becomes yours in reality when you take it. It will be yours in reality when you put your feet down and declare that what God said about you is true. Whether it's about healing in your body, your finances, your business or vocation, or concerning your children and your extended family, God has spoken prosperity upon you, but you need to step forward in faith and possess it.

# Chapter 7

---

## *Son of My Right Hand*

*"Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him" (1 Pet 5:8-9).*

**L**et's open this concluding chapter with a visit to a poetic song of David recorded in the 105<sup>th</sup> Psalm. The song is a compressed biography of Jacob's beloved son, the dreamer who was sold into slavery but became a ruler and a savior in Egypt.

*"He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant:*

*"Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron:*

*"Until the time that his word came: the word of the LORD tried him.*

*"The king sent and loosed him; even the ruler of the people, and let him go free. He made him lord of his house, and ruler of all his substance:*

*"To bind his princes at his pleasure; and teach his senators wisdom" (Psa 105:17-24).*

This passage poetically narrates the making of Joseph, the man of God. It narrates the making of the ruler in the land of

Egypt, and it's an indication of the making of God's man who would reign in life.

Joseph was an Old Testament type of the Lord Jesus—an imperfect type, but a type nevertheless. He was the beloved of his father but hated by his brothers. They hated him because he received special treatment from their father. He added to the hatred by exposing the evil deeds of his brothers to their father. When their father gave Joseph a beautiful coat of many colors, they hated him more. In addition to these, God gave him dreams and revelations that he would become a ruler and that his brethren would bow down for him. Being childish, Joseph narrated these dreams to his brethren, and they hated him the more.

So, he was hated by his brethren and his family did not receive him as pertaining to the revelations that God gave him. In fact, the more he told them of what God revealed to him, the more trouble he got himself into. He was, as they say, moving from frying pan to fire, and from fire to cast iron furnace where he would be casted or fashioned into a man of God. And when their father sent him on a mission of love to his brethren, and they saw him coming from afar toward them, they said,

*"Behold, this dreamer cometh. Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams" (Gen 37:19,20).*

All the brothers were involved in the plot, but some of them had a greater degree of guilt than the others. To Reuben's credit, we have to say that he planned to rescue Joseph from the pit and send him back to their father, but while he was away, the other boys saw a caravan of merchantmen on their way to Egypt, realized they could make some quick cash, and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for 20 pieces of silver.

Let's consider how this boy's life parallels the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus was the beloved of the Father God, for the Father said concerning Him, *"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"* (Mat 3:17). But His brethren hated him and His family did not receive Him and His mission. *"He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name"* (Joh 1:11,12). He was the Light that came into the world, the Light that exposes the works of darkness. *"The light that shineth in darkness and the darkness comprehended it not"* (Joh 1:5).

His brethren did not accept Him, and whenever He called Himself the Son of God, they accused Him of blasphemy and would pick up stones to cast at Him. They said to Him, "You are a man," and they were right about that, and "you make yourself equal with God." They failed to understand that the Scriptures say, *"Ye are gods, and all of you are children of the Most High"* (Psa 82:6). He even explained this to them, but His words fell on deaf ears. *"Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?"* (Joh 10:35,36).

They did not know that the Father God had sent Him to them on a mission of love. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life"* (Joh 3:16). And when He told them that He came from God and He was God's Son, they hated Him. The hatred was so much that they conspired together to kill Him.

We see this prefigured in Joseph's life, for Joseph's brothers hated him so much that they plotted to kill him. First they

grabbed him, took off his coat of many colors, and threw him in a dry well. Then they sold him to the Ishmaelites for 20 pieces of silver. The Ishmaelites carried him to Egypt, where he was finally sold to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's army. Things didn't go so well with Joseph there either. Potiphar's wife lied against Joseph and he was unjustly condemned and imprisoned. Justice was denied him, and he found himself numbered with transgressors. So Joseph went from being maltreated to being thrown into a well, from the well to slavery, and from slavery to prison. He went from bad to worse.

But God's hand was upon Joseph, and He raised him up from the prison to the throne of Egypt. Joseph became the second-in-command in Egypt. Though subjected to bondage of slavery and unfair imprisonment, he came out victorious. He was tempted but did not sin; God raised him out of prison and placed him on the throne over the land of Egypt.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, whom Joseph prefigured, went through bitter hatred and betrayal from His brethren. They did not believe His message, nor did they receive Him as the Messiah. And when the time came, they conspired against Him to kill Him. They betrayed Him and delivered Him over to the Gentiles to be crucified even though no sin was found in Him. He was sold for 30 pieces of silver. Zechariah prophesied concerning this saying:

*"And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver.*

*"And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was priced at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD. Then I cut asunder mine other staff, even bands, that I might*

*break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel" (Zec 11:12-14).*

And in the gospel of Matthew this is recorded concerning the event: *"Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value; And gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me" (Mat 27:8-10)*

He submitted Himself over to them and was taken from the Garden of Gethsemane to the High Priest, who condemned Him and sent Him to Pilate. And from Pilate, He was led to Herod, and from there back to Herod.

*"He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.*

*"He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken" (Isa 53:7,8).*

Justice was denied Him and He was condemned based on false witness. But all along, it was the Lord that was leading these ordeals. On the outside, it looked like it was the Jews that did Him harm, but it was God Almighty that was behind it all. This was true for the Lord Jesus as it was for Joseph the son of Jacob. The Prophet Isaiah said:

*"Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand" (Isa 53:10).*

Even Joseph himself understood later on that it was God and not his brethren behind it all. He said to them:

*"I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.*

*"For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest. And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and **lord** of all his house, and a **ruler** throughout all the land of Egypt." (Gen 45:4-8).*

Isaiah, prophesying about the Lord Jesus our Savior, said:

*"And the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.*

*"He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities" (Isa 53:6, 10-11).*

As discussed above, Joseph ascended from prison to a place of authority as the number two ruler in Egypt. In fact, it could be argued that He was the principal ruler in Egypt, because without him the entire nation of Egypt would have perished during the seven-year famine. He was the savior of Egypt during the famine, and not only of Egypt, but of all the surrounding nations.

The Lord Jesus Christ descended to the pit of hell, where He went to pay our debt. And God raised Him up from there,

exalted Him above all the heavens, and set Him at His own right hand in heavenly places, *“far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come”* (Eph 1:21). Joseph, also, was taken from jail, from among the criminals, and was set upon the throne, next in power and authority only to Pharaoh. What a parallel!

It was the hand of God that led Joseph through all the ordeals he went through. And though it was our sins that nailed Christ to the cross, God took responsibility for the ordeal that our Master and Lord went through on Calvary. The Holy Ghost, speaking through Isaiah, said:

*“Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.*

*“He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities”* (Isa 53:10 -11).

The Holy Ghost is saying here that it was not the scribes and Pharisees, not Herod, and not even Pilate that bruised Him or put Him to grief. God took responsibility by saying, “It is Me that did it.” As written in the tenth verse above, *“Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He had put Him to grief.”* God made His soul an offering for our sins.

*Looking at your life, dear child of God, May He see the travail of His soul and be satisfied? May He see the travail of His soul in my life and be satisfied. As we live lives of authority through the Name of Jesus, as we reign as kings in life through Christ Jesus, when Christ looks at you and me dominating the Devil, He will see the travail of His soul and be satisfied.*

Even Joseph's statement to his brothers was so revealing. He gathered them, including Benjamin his full brother, and said to them:

*"And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and **lord** of all his house, and a **ruler** throughout all the land of Egypt."* (Gen 45:4-8).

Again, Joseph emphasized that it was not they who sent him to Egypt, but God, and that He had raised him up from prison and made him a father to Pharaoh. Joseph said God made him a lord over Pharaoh's house, *and a ruler over the land of Egypt*. What a true statement with a profound meaning for us!

The Lord Jesus Christ has been raised from the pit, exalted, made Lord over principalities and powers and Ruler over the kingdom of darkness. But He did all this for us. He acquired all this power, authority, and dominion so He could give them to us, His Body. He therefore said to us, *"All Power, all Authority in heaven, and on earth has been given unto me. Go therefore in my Name and preach the gospel, go and dominate the evil one, go and reign as kings in life."*

Dear Child God, thus says the Spirit to you today:

*God has made you a lord over the house of Pharaoh.*

*God has made you a ruler in the land of Egypt.*

*God has made you a ruler over principalities and powers.*

*God has raised you up together with Christ*

*And has put all things under your feet.*

*Sin shall no longer have dominion over you.*

*Satan no longer has any authority over you.*

*You have been delivered from the land of bondage.*

*You have been made to sit with Christ at right hand of Majesty on High, far above principalities and powers, and might, and*

*dominion, and every name that is named, and God has put all things under your feet. You are now a ruler and you reign as a king in this life.*

God is sending you forth as the rod of His strength to the court of His enemies, and like the rod of Moses in the court of Pharaoh, God will use you to decimate the powers of the enemy and put him to open shame. And like our Master, our Forerunner, the Rod of Jesse, we will spoil all satanic principalities and powers and bring them to an open shame. We are His followers. We are His children of whom He said, *“I and the children whom the Father had given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel, before the Lord of Hosts who dwells in Mount Zion.”*

Joseph had a brother named Benjamin, born of the same father and same mother. If Joseph's life, as narrated above, is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ, ***who is Benjamin a type of?***

Remember Benjamin, Jacob's last-born son? He was Joseph's only full brother, a son of Jacob born to him by Rachel, his beloved wife. You remember how Jacob got deceived? The deceiver got deceived. The supplanter got supplanted and he got two wives even though he only wanted one. And his beloved wife did not bear any child for a while. After several years of waiting, Rachel finally gave him a son, and he called him Joseph. This boy was the apple of his eye, and Jacob gave him preferential treatment.

But Jacob was just getting to enjoy his family in Canaan, with his son from Rachel his beloved wife, when it happened—his other ten sons came home with bad news!

They came home from pasturing the flock and brought a blood-soaked coat of many colors, which they pretended they found in the fields, and gave it to their father to identify in

case it was his son's. When Jacob saw the coat, he rent his clothes and said:

*"It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces. And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.*

*"And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him" (Gen 37:34,35).*

You have to be sorry for Jacob. Things were not smooth for him, to say the very least. Since he cheated his brother out of their birthright, he'd been reaping what he sowed. He had to flee from home as a young boy because of the wrath of his brother Esau, and we never heard that he saw his mother and father alive again. That's painful for a boy at such a young age. And things didn't get any easier when he served seven years for Rachel but got Leah instead. He eventually served 14 years before getting Rachel, who did not bear him a child for a long time. And his sons had now joined in the game of deceiving Jacob, making him think Joseph his beloved son was dead. But that was not the end of Jacob's sorrow.

*"And they journeyed from Bethel; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labor. And it came to pass, when she was in hard labor, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also.*

*"And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin.*

*"And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem" (Gen 35:16-20).*

Rachel, Jacob's beloved wife, died in childbirth at Ephrath. While she was in labor, bringing forth the child born out of pains, the child born out of sorrow, the child born out of travail, the child born out of death, while she was in labor about to die, she said, "Call his name *Benoni*." That's what Rachel said. She was in pain and agony of childbirth and of death, and though Jacob wasn't dying, he was in much pain as well.

So Rachel said, "Call him *child of pain* and *child of sorrow*." But Jacob in the anguish of his soul said, "No, Rachel, he shall not be called Benoni; his name shall be *Benjamin*, for he is the son of the right hand. Even though he's born out of pain and sorrow, he will not be called *child of sorrow*. He's the son of my right hand. That's what his name will be."

Joseph was already a supreme ruler, a governor, but his brother, born after him, following in his footsteps, coming into maturity after him, was declared by their father to be the son of his right hand.

Benjamin would be a child of power, full of might and authority. Even though he was born out of pain and the agonies of death, he was a son of the right hand. In the same manner, though the Church was born out of agonies of the cross and the grave, the anguish of death and horror of separation from God, this child is going to be the son of God's right hand. So, the Lord Jesus is essentially saying that though this child was born out of defeat, out of weakness, out of pain, his name shall be called Benjamin, the son of God's right hand.

The pain of the cross was great, but that was not what weighed most on the soul of the Lord Jesus Christ. The horror of being made sin, of spiritual death, and of separation from God was unthinkable, and that weighed him down in the Garden. Let's read some of His prayers before and during the

agonies that bought our redemption, as set forth by the prophets in the Psalms:

*“Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.*

*“Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore” (Psa 16:9-11).*

*“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help.*

*“I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels ... the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me.*

*“They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.” (Psa 22:1,11,12,17-18).*

Yes, indeed, the Lord went through all these to bring forth the Church and bring forth a new creation. This child was born out of deep agony, as we read in His cry in the prayers above. Even though this child was born out of all these indescribable pains, his name shall be called Benjamin, for he shall be a child of the right hand.

The Lord is here saying that the Church, which was born out of Christ’s sufferings and anguish, is the “Benjamin,” the baby brother of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is the firstborn and the Elder Brother of the New Creation, the Forerunner, the Example, the Pattern, and the Author of eternal Salvation. He is the Pre-Eminent One. He is the God, He is the Lord, He is the Master, He’s the Head, He’s the High Priest, He’s the King, He’s

the Savior and Redeemer of the Church; and the corporate Body called the Church is made up of His children, of whom He said: *"I and the children whom the Father hath given me are for signs and wonders in Israel before the Lord of Hosts who dwelleth in Mount Zion."*

What does the right hand signify again? The right hand is the place of power, the place of authority, the place of universal dominion, the place of the divine Omnipotence of God. God raised Jesus from the dead, and set Him at His right hand in the highest place in the universe. And God said to Him, *"Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool"* (Psa 110:1). Who is going to do this? "Benjamin," the son of the right hand, is the one by whom and through whom God is going to subdue all His enemies and make them Christ's footstool.

*"But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool"* (Heb 10:12,13).

Dear saint of the Living God, you need to walk every day with this consciousness. Walk with this revelation. It doesn't matter what is happening in your life today. It doesn't matter where you're coming from; *your name is not Benoni*. Don't go walking around like a son of sorrow! Walk like a *Benjamin!* Walk with your head raised high. You're not only the King's kid, you are also the kid of His right hand.

We are His Benjamin. We are the rod of His strength out of Zion. God is sending us out with authority and power to subdue His enemies. It is through us that He will rule in the midst of His enemies. We are His people who are willing in the Day of His Power. We, His Benjamin, will subjugate His enemies and make them His footstool, so that the Lord our King can return to us and we can be fully translated to be like

Him. And then the kingdom of this world will become the kingdom of our God and of His Anointed One.

### **Other Books by the Author**

1. A Goodly Heritage
2. To Do Thy Will O' God
3. Lift Him Up
4. With the Veil Removed
5. Set Me On Fire
6. We Walk By Faith
7. Nearer To THEE
8. But We See JESUS
9. Draw Me Nearer
10. End-Time Army
11. Toward the High Calling
12. To Bring You In
13. Palace Of Praise
14. Bread of Heaven
15. Let This Mind Be In You
16. The Minister of the Sanctuary
17. My One Desire
18. There is a River
19. First the Blade
20. Ye Shall Return
21. On Eagle's Wings
22. The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation