

Hidden spiritual laws - Authority

1) Intro

- a) Hidden spiritual laws series
- b) First is Authority

2) Knowing spiritual law of Authority is imperative to understanding many whys:

- a) Questions:
 - i) Why are we commanded to pray?
 - ii) Why does God allow the innocent to suffer?
 - iii) Why did God need a human Messiah?

3) Definitions

- a) Authority
 - i) the power or right to give orders or make decisions; official permission or approval
- b) Sovereignty
 - i) Possessing supreme authority

4) God's ownership/sovereignty over the earth

- a) Creator rights
 - i) Gen. 1:1 – in the beginning...
 - ii) Psalms 24:1
 - (1) *The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.*
 - iii) God maintains ownership of all creation. His sovereignty

5) God gave authority over the earth to mankind

- a) Gen. 1:26-28
 - i) Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
 - ii) Given Dominion: "dominance or power through legal authority"
- b) Psalm 115:16

- i) *The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's; But the earth He has given to the children of men.*
- ii) Given = Nathan: to assign, commit or put under charge
- iii) God assigned the responsibility of governing earth to Adam
- iv) Describes a transfer of Authority, not ownership/sovereignty
- c) Psalm 8:3-8
 - i) *When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
The moon and the stars, which You have ordained;
What is man that You take thought of him,
And the son of man that You care for him?
Yet You have made him a little lower than God,
And You crown him with glory and majesty!
You make him to rule over the works of Your hands;
You have put all things under his feet,
All sheep and oxen,
And also the beasts of the field,
The birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea,
Whatever passes through the paths of the seas.*
 - ii) Rule = mashal: Manager/steward/governor

6) God made man in His image

- a) Gen. 1:26
 - i) Image = tselem: shadow/phantom/illusion
 - (1) Creation would double-take: "For a moment I thought it was God, but it is only Adam"
 - ii) Likeness = demuwth: Similar or comparable to God
 - (1) Root word damah means "to compare"
 - (2) Man was created to be comparable to God
- b) Psalm 8:5
 - i) Made a little lower than God
 - ii) Glory = kabowd: heavy or weighty
 - iii) Linked to Authority "he is weighty"
- c) God was recognized in humans so that we could re-present Him on earth
- d) Man is unique in the ability to create eternal souls!

7) Earth was man's assignment: If it remained a paradise or got messed up it would be man's fault.

- a) Why would God take such a risk?
 - i) Free will is part of being in his image
 - ii) We are an expression of His love
 - iii) Wanted a family – **relationship** (our father)

(1) Choice is a requirement of true relationship (love)

8) The Fall

- a) Man's God-given authority was so absolute that he had the ability to give it away.
 - i) Luke 4:6-7
 - (1) *And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours."*
- b) Authority and rulership of the earth was given to Satan at the fall.
 - i) Adam moved from under the rule of God to the Devil
 - ii) Disobedience = refusal to be under authority
- c) Jesus identified the devil as the "ruler" of this world
 - i) John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11
 - ii) Eph 2:2
 - (1) *In which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.*
- d) The reason for suffering in the world – proof of God limiting Himself
 - i) Not God's will
 - (1) 2 Peter 3:9
 - (a) *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*
 - ii) Not just sin, but God's dependence on human beings concerning the affairs of earth

9) The redemption

- a) The strongest evidence of God's decision to only work through humans is the incarnation of Christ
 - i) That's why Jesus was called the "second Adam"
- b) Genesis 3:14-15
 - i) *So the Lord God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*
- c) The "seed" of the woman
 - i) Only men have "seed"
 - ii) Prophecy of the Virgin Birth of Christ
- d) Head – Ro'sh
 - i) Means headship or authority

- ii) Satan bruised Christ's heel at the cross, but through the cross Christ crushed the head (authority) of Satan over the world
- e) Jesus was sent to take back the authority
 - i) 1 John 3:8
 - (1) *He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.*
 - ii) Matt. 28:18-20 – The Great Commission
 - (1) *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*
 - (2) Everything is now under Christ's authority
 - (3) "Commission" means to "transfer with full power"
 - (4) This complete authority was returned to us through Christ
 - iii) 1 Corinthians 15:20-28
 - (1) *But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. 24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. 27 For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. 28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.*

10) Progression of authority over the earth

- a) Adam, Satan, Jesus, Church(with Christ as the head)

11) Battle of the kingdoms

- a) There would be enmity between the seed of the woman and the seed of Satan
- b) The kingdom of God would be in constant conflict with the kingdom of Satan
- c) History itself reveals this conflict
- d) This is a prevailing theme of the Gospels – "the kingdom of heaven"

12) Considerations of God choosing to limit himself

- a) Isn't this the story of the scriptures?
 - i) God needing faithful men and women?
 - ii) God needing a nation through whom to work? (Israel)
 - iii) God needing prophets?
 - iv) God needing judges?
 - v) God needing a human messiah?
 - vi) God needing human hands to heal, human voices to speak, and human feet to go?
- b) Brings new understanding to our Christian lives
 - i) Inspires Faith
 - (1) Matt. 8:8-10; (also Luke 7:7-9)
 - (a) *The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"*
 - (2) Faith is the conduit that releases God's authority to work on the earth!
 - ii) Prayer
 - (1) This truth impacts prayer more than anything else.
 - (2) How did Jesus teach us to pray?
 - (a) Matthew 6:10 – "Thy kingdom come..."
 - (3) What is prayer/intercession?
 - (a) A transfer of authority from man to God
 - (b) John Wesley said:
 - (i) "God does nothing on the earth save in answer to believing prayer."
 - (4) Elijah and the drought – 1 Kings 18
 - (a) James 5:17-18
 - (i) *Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.*
 - (b) God's idea to end it, but Elijah had to pray 7 times.
 - (5) Does our asking somehow release God to do things?
 - (6) Story of Daniel and his praying – Dan. 9-10
 - (a) Read the 70 year promise, knew he had to pray
 - (i) Took a different response to prophecy/promises
 - (b) Took 21 days for the answer.
 - (c) "As always, God made the decision in heaven. A man was called upon to enforce that decision on earth through intercession and faith."
 - (7) Lightning analogy:
 - (a) Step leaders, positive streamers

- (8) Prayer of perseverance
 - (a) Prayer transfers cumulative amounts of authority
 - (b) Different amounts of God's power are needed to accomplish different things
- iii) The power of unity
 - (1) Exponential release of authority
- iv) Power of blessing and cursing
 - (1) Tied directly to transfers of authority
- v) Spiritual warfare
 - (1) Taking back authority from Satan
 - (2) Giving the devil authority in our life through sin, buttons
 - (3) Breaking down strongholds
 - (4) Matt. 17:14-21 – Disciples could not cast out the demon
 - (a) This kind of demon needs prayer and fasting – cumulative release of authority
- vi) The Great Commission
 - (1) “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore...”
 - (2) “Therefore” shows that the fulfilling the Commission is possible because of this authority
 - (3) “The most serious obstacle to the success of the church’s mission is not demonic power, but the church’s partial grasp of the invincible resources which are hers.” (*Author Unknown*)
 - (4) The church is to push back the kingdom of Satan, bringing every nation under the authority of Christ.

13) Conclusion

- a) This truth brings great responsibility over us.
 - i) It is not pleasant to realize that God needs us
 - ii) Ezekiel 22:30-31
 - (1) *So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads,” says the Lord GOD.*
 - (2) His justice demanded judgment, but His love wanted to give mercy. He could find a man to stand in the gap, so He had to destroy them.
 - iii) While God desires that none should perish, but He is dependent on us to evangelize. If we do not obey the call to go, then God will be forced to bring judgment on the lost.
 - iv) I do not want to be the one limiting God.
 - (1) How many prophecies and promises of God have been delayed because God could not find someone to stand in the gap and release His authority in the earth?
 - v) This great responsibility should be viewed as a privilege, not a burden!
 - vi) We get to partner with God to see His redemptive plan for mankind come to pass.

- b) Let's be the ambassadors of His authority that He has made us to be!
 - i) Through Prayer and Intercession
 - ii) Through obeying the Great Commission