

The Final Authority

Genesis 1:27-28

Adam and Eve were created by God and were given absolute authority over this world. They were to dominate anything that would come against God's will. When they sinned, they turned over that authority to Satan. Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection purchased back dominion of the earth. As Christians, we currently have spiritual authority through our relationship with Christ, but when Jesus returns He will restore TOTAL authority to us. God created us to rule on this earth as a chosen generation of royal priests.

Three truths concerning our authority

1. We were created to rule.

Genesis 1:27-28; Revelation 1:4-6; I Peter 2:9-10

In the Garden of Eden, God gave us the stewardship of the earth to expand His kingdom until the day He returns. This is the purpose of our call as His disciples. How we perform this duty will affect the use of our authority during the thousand years of His reign. If we have thoroughly used the gifts, talents, abilities, and opportunities He has given us, we will rule with Him over states, cities and geographic regions. It is during this period that the Kingdom of God, His ways, and His principles will be fully established on the earth.

2. You have as much authority as you are under.

II Timothy 2:12; Revelation 22:3-5; John 14:30; Luke 4:5-7; James 4:7;
Matthew 28:18; Luke 4:5-7

When Adam and Eve sinned, dominion of the earth was handed over to Satan. Sin is not just rebelling against God; it is giving the devil your God-given authority. In essence, you are entering an agreement with the enemy and giving him a place of influence in your life. When you walk in rebellion, you no longer have authority. Through His victory on the cross and His resurrection from the dead, Jesus took back all the authority that had been given to Satan from the fall. The devil no longer has power. He can only operate in the power vacuum that is created when we are not operating in the authority God gave us. As you submit under God's authority, you have total authority over the devil.

3. Our actions on earth will influence our eternity.

Revelation 19:19-21; 20:1-10; Luke 19:11-27; Micah 6:7-8

There is no reset button at the rapture. How we have stewarded our lives (the gifts, talents, opportunities, and influences that He has given us) will directly translate to the level of reward and the level of authority we will carry in the millennial reign of Christ. We have spiritual authority right now to expand His kingdom.