

# The Lion's Roar

An Apostolic-Prophetic Proclamation

Spring 2006

## Apostolic Authority

### Kingdom Authority and Government

The preeminent and predominant word of the Lord's apostles and prophets in these last days is the restoration of the Kingdom of God. The proclamation of the Kingdom of God with emphasis on its **authority and government** will increase as the end of this Age draws near.

God's kingdom government has been increasing since the first coming of Christ. *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder. And his name will be called wonderful, counselor, mighty God, everlasting father, prince of peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over his kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. [Isaiah 9:6-7]*

God's kingdom government will continue to increase until Jesus fully establishes it upon the earth after His second coming, when the kingdoms of this world system will become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ. *"Then the seventh angel sounded: and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!'" [Revelation 11:15]*

We are the royal priesthood of the kingdom of God. *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, his own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light; [1 Peter 2:9]*

Our commission as the royal priesthood is to proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom of God as a **witness** to the nations with the demonstration of the Spirit and of power. This demonstration of the Kingdom of God will accompany those who are faithful to perform the last-day ministry of the priesthood. The LORD will confirm His servant's message that the Kingdom of God is at hand.

#### **Matthew 24:14**

*"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."*

When the Kingdom is declared by the apostolic church and demonstrated through signs, wonders and works of power, it will be marked by the authority, power and sovereignty of God. For its speech and preaching will not be *"...with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, [1 Corinthians 2:4]*

Although the Kingdom of God is both powerful and authoritative, it stresses neither power nor authority. The Kingdom of God is a kingdom of love and its emphasis **is on His love**.

The rule of God's kingdom government and the reign of His authority and power, as seen through His last-day apostolic Church, will be experienced through the rule and reign of His government of love!

**Government** is defined as 'the exercise of authority in directing and controlling, managing and influencing the actions of a body of people or nations; directing the affairs of state. It is the exercise of administrative power and system of governing.'

The government of the Kingdom of God in the earth will become prominent in the latter days, even as the kingdom of darkness increases in its darkness and influence. As prophesied by Isaiah and Micah, it will be established and exalted as the chief authority among the nations. Its influence will greatly increase in the affairs of men as the time of Christ's return draws near.

In these passages of Scripture, *mountain* typifies **government**.

#### **Isaiah 2:2 (Micah 4:2)**

*Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it.*

#### **Hebrews 12:22-23**

*But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,*

The government of the Kingdom of God manifested through the Church will demonstrate the nature of **true government**. It will exercise authority in righteousness with justice for all. It

will care for its needy and poor without afflicting those who have prospered. Neither the rich nor the poor, the strong nor the weak, will be favored, but all will know the loving care and provision of GOD.

The restoration of the plumb line of righteousness to the Church is with the view to the full manifestation of the authority of God through the body of Christ in the heavenlies and upon the earth. The purpose of the authority of God manifested through the Church is for the kingdom of heaven to be demonstrated upon the earth in preparation for the coming of its King, Jesus Christ.

### **The Scepter of the Kingdom Of God Given to Jesus Christ**

Jesus Christ has received the scepter from His Father to rule and reign in His kingdom. The scepter of the Kingdom is the symbol of the authority of the Kingdom. Righteousness is the authority of the Kingdom of God.

#### **Hebrews 1:8-9**

*But to the Son He says, 'Your throne O God is forever and ever. A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness. Therefore, God has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.'*

#### **Acts 2:32-36**

*This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself, the Lord said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make your enemies your footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God*

*has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.*

## Definitions

**Authority** is the right to give commands, enforce obedience, and take action. This is power as delegated to another. It is also power or influence resulting from knowledge.

**Exousia** is the Greek noun translated 'authority.' It is from the Greek term *exestin* which means 'it is free', and has been translated 'lawful.'

**Exestin** denotes that an action is possible in the sense that there are no hindrances and it cannot be prevented from being done because it is within the power of one to do it. It indicates that an action is not prevented by a higher norm or court, that it may be done or is not forbidden. In the New Testament it relates most commonly to the law and will of God.

### **Matthew 16:19**

*And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven (lit. shall be having been forbidden in heaven), and whatever you loose on earth (lit. shall be having been permitted in heaven). (Note: 'to bind and loose' is a Hebrew idiom meaning 'to exercise authority')*

**Exousia** is power of choice and the ability to perform an action, to the extent that there are no hindrances in the way. It is the possibility granted by a higher norm or court and therefore the right to do something, or the right over something. This Greek term implies physical and mental power, the ability or strength with which one is endued, or which he either possesses and exercises. It is the power of authority and right, and the power of rule of government.

### **John 1:12**

*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right (exousia) to become children of God, to those who believed in His name:*

## The New Testament Concept of Exousia

**Exousia** denotes power which decides. It is the Greek term used particularly to express the invisible power of God, whose word is creative power. This power of decision is active in a legally ordered whole. All authoritarian relationships are the reflection of God in a fallen world where nothing takes place without His *exousia*. It is operative in relationships in right order. This is used especially of the power to do and act given authoritatively by the king, government or laws of a state. Behind legal authority stands the power of the state to give it validity.

**Exousia** describes the position of Jesus as the Head to whom all power is given, and who gives it to His body. His power is displayed when His commands are obeyed by the members of His body.

## Two Basic Types of Authority

### 1. Intrinsic authority

Intrinsic authority is authority belonging to one's essential nature. It is the authority which we have because we are righteous in Christ.

### 2. Derived or delegated authority

Derived or delegated authority is the authority which is given from another source. It is the authority which we receive from God through Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit.

## **The Eternal Question: By What Authority?**

All authority is from God and comes through Christ, whether it be intrinsic or derived. Even though our authority is based upon our new nature which in essence is righteousness, its source is still God. We do not have authority through self-appointment, but through divine appointment in Christ.

### **God's Authority Questioned**

In a beginning was Yahweh Elohim. He had all authority for He was the first and was both the author and the source of all things and all living creatures. All things were framed by the Word of God and upheld by the Word of His power.

All authority has its source in God and apart from Him there is no authority. The kingdom of God is established upon His authority and power. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Yahweh's throne and His authority.

#### ***Psalm 97:2***

*Clouds and darkness surround Him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.*

In an age before time, Yahweh's authority was questioned and His throne challenged by Lucifer. God's righteousness and justice were suspect and His Word doubted through false accusation.

### **God's Response**

In response to the question of His authority, Yahweh created Adam to establish a witness to God's righteousness and justice. God gave Adam sovereign authority to establish a kingdom on earth which would reflect the kingdom of the heavens and confirm the authority of the righteousness of His throne and testify of His justice.

## **The Authority of God Usurped**

Adam fell victim to the false accusation planted by Satan, "Has God indeed said? For God knows you will be like God." This caused God's word and God's uprightness in His dealings with man to be questioned. Adam used the authority, or power of choice, received from God to rebel against God through disobedience.

When Adam rebelled against the authority and the Word of the Lord and committed treason, he not only lost his spiritual life, he also lost the authority of God to rule and have dominion upon the earth. Adam yielded the authority to Satan, who usurped him and became the "prince of this cosmos and the god of this age."

### **Jesus Christ, the Second Man, Given All Authority of the Kingdom**

Through the obedience of Jesus, even obedience unto death, the authority of God was restored to man. All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus Christ. He has authority over all flesh and over all spirits. There is no authority except the authority of God delegated to Jesus as the last Adam.

#### ***John 17:2***

*As you have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as you have given Him.*

#### ***Matthew 28:18***

*Then Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and earth'.*

#### ***Mark 1:22***

*And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*

**Mark 1:27**

*Then they were all amazed, so they questioned among themselves, saying, 'What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.'*

Jesus was given authority to execute judgment because He was the Son of Man. As the Son of Man, He was the Second Man and Last Adam who could legally receive all authority and dominion through the everlasting covenant.

**John 5:26-27**

*For as the Father has life in himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of man.*

Since the beginning, Satan has always posed the eternal question whenever God moves in this creation, "By what authority?"

**Matthew 21:23**

*Now when He (Jesus) came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things? And who gave this authority?'*

**Jesus Did Not Exercise His Own Authority**

Jesus Christ had only the authority granted to Him by God His Father. Whenever and wherever He ministered, He spoke and acted according to the will and authority of His Father.

**John 14:10**

*Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak to you I do*

*not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.*

In the same way, the Holy Spirit does not speak to us on His own authority, but He speaks on the authority of the Father and the Son.

**John 16:13**

*However, when he, the Spirit of truth has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.*

Divine principle of authority: delegated authority is given to represent God's authority, not substitute it.

**Jesus Had All Authority As the Righteous Seed**

Jesus was born a righteous man. He was anointed and appointed because He was righteous. Through His obedience to the will of God, He attained to and maintained the righteous requirement of the Old Covenant law. This entitled Him to receive the authority of God offered in covenant to Adam.

**Through His Obedience Our Authority Is Righteousness**

As the promised seed of the Abrahamic Covenant, Jesus was anointed with the Spirit. The Spirit of God upon Jesus gave Him authority and power to perform the works of God.

**Matthew 3:15-17**

*But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.*

*When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting*

*upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*

As promised by Moses, Jesus was appointed or ordained the prophet of God. His ordination and appointment gave Him authority and power to speak on God's behalf and to perform signs and wonders.

#### **Luke 4:17-19**

*And He was handed the Book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: 'The spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor, He sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty the oppressed, to preach the favorable year of the Lord.'*

Jesus was appointed the chief apostle of God. He was sent forth as God's representative with authority and power to establish the kingdom and delegate authority.

### **Jesus Delegated Covenant Authority**

The time period between the baptism of Jesus and His death was a period of transition. As the Only Begotten Son, He was the throne prince of the Kingdom of God who would be exalted as the King through resurrection. Jesus received authority and dominion through the Davidic Covenant. He exercised this authority until the time He would finish the old order and usher in the new order.

### **Jesus Delegated Covenant Authority to the Twelve Apostles**

During this time of transition, He delegated His authority to the twelve disciples. They were sent out in His name to perform works of power and to exercise His authority over demons and diseases.

#### **Mark 3:14-15**

*Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, and to have power (authority) to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons.*

#### **Luke 9:1-2**

*Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.*

### **Jesus Delegated Covenant Authority to the Seventy**

Jesus delegated His authority to seventy others also.

#### **Luke 10:1,16**

*After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two into every city and place where He himself was about to go.*

*He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me.*

### **Limited Authority Delegated**

The disciples had limited authority. Their authority over the power of the devil was the exercise of Jesus' authority in His righteousness and His name. They could only do that which Jesus had given them authority to do.

They had asked nothing of the Father during this transition period because they had no access to the Father except through Jesus. They would ask Jesus and He would ask the Father on their behalf for they had no authority or righteousness of their own.

**John 16:23-24,26**

*And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask and you will receive, that your joy may be full.*

*In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you.*

**Unrestricted Authority Delegated**

Through the resurrection, Jesus was given all authority in heaven and on earth by God. His authority and dominion is unrestricted. The Father has put all things under Jesus, except Himself. Having preeminence and all authority, and occupying first place in creation, both in heaven and on earth, Yahweh Elohim gave Jesus as head to the church.

**Ephesians 1:22-23**

*And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

The supreme power and authority of the Son is not an end in itself. It is merely granted to Him to surrender it back to God after completing the task of making an end of all rule and authority, establishing the Kingdom of God.

**1 Corinthians 15:24,27-28**

*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.*

*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. 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.*

**Restricted Authority**

As a born-again righteous man, we have individual authority as believers both in the spirit realm and earthly realm, but it is restricted. It is restricted to our sphere of responsibility since we are not the whole body. All delegated authority is restricted and limited to its sphere of operation.

The goal of apostolic authority is to establish the Kingdom of God, which is His rightful place to rule and reign with justice and equity for all. The establishment of the Kingdom of God upon the earth displaces the kingdom of darkness and destroys the works of injustice.

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