

Authority of the Believer: Five Glorious Events (Eph. 1:17-23; 2:6)

I. REVIEW: GOD GAVE THE DOMINION OF THE EARTH TO HUMANS

- A. God gave the dominion of the earth to humans forever. In other words, He releases His power in the earthly realm in response to redeemed humans living in agreement with Him.
²⁶“Let them have dominion...over all the earth...” ²⁸God said to them, “...Fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over...every living thing...on the earth.” (Gen. 1:26-28)
- B. When God gave the governing authority of the earth to Adam, he had the right to use it in any way that he chose. Adam committed high treason and gave his authority to Satan (Lk. 4:6).
⁶And 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. (Lk. 4:6)
- C. God’s answer to Adam’s high treason was to send another man—Jesus. At the cross, Jesus defeated Satan, triumphing over him and the power of sin and death (Heb. 2:14).
¹⁵Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it [His death and resurrection]. (Col. 2:15)
- D. Our spiritual authority is based on our union with Jesus (Rom. 6:5). We are united with Christ in His death (receiving the benefits of His death) and are united with Christ in His resurrection. We receive the benefits of His resurrection and ascension to the Father's right hand (Eph. 1:20; 2:6)
⁵For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection. (Rom. 6:5)
- E. We resist the devil by speaking the Word to him. Many problems continue because the Body is passive about resisting the enemy. Satan will flee, but often returns to attack us in the same way.
⁷Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (Jas. 4:7)

II. FIVE GLORIOUS EVENTS (EPH. 1:17-23; 2:6)

- A. The authority that Jesus received as an “exalted Man” is given to His people (Eph. 1:20-23). We pray to grow in the spirit of revelation about who Christ is and who we are in Christ.
*¹⁷...the Father of glory may give to you...revelation in the knowledge of Him...¹⁸that you may know...¹⁹what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us...²⁰which He [Father] worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand...
²²He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,
²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. (Eph. 1:17-23)*
- B. Paul described the measure of God’s power that works in His people and secures all His promises. It is the power the Father used—when He raised Jesus from the death, seated Him in heaven, put all things under His feet, gave Him to the Church, then seated the Church in heavenly places with Him.
- C. #1 The Father raised Jesus from the dead—being the first human to triumph over death (Heb. 2:14).

²⁰*When He raised Him from the dead... (Eph. 1:20)*

¹⁴*...that through death He might destroy him [devil] who had the power of death... (Heb. 2:14)*

- D. #2 The Father seated Jesus at His right hand—The ascension occurred 40 days after His resurrection (Acts 1:9-11). He was seated in the highest governmental position in the created order—one that was far above all the ranks of angels and demons, etc. He was put in position as *our king*, directing history, causing all things to work for our good (Rom. 8:28) and as *our high priest* who passed through the heavens to offer His blood and intercede for us (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 8:1).

²⁰*...when He [Father]...seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named... (Eph. 1:20-21)*

¹³*I was watching in the night visions...the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days [Father], and they brought Him near before Him. (Dan. 7:13)*

¹⁴*Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens... (Heb. 4:14)*

1. Jesus entered the heavenly sanctuary as a high priest to offer Himself once for all (Heb. 7:27) and entered heaven once for all to do away with sin by His own death (Heb. 9:24-26).
2. Jesus' sending the Spirit was dependent upon His ascension (Acts 2:33).

³³*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. (Acts 2:33)*

- E. #3 The Father put all things under Jesus' feet. The Father owns all the property and possessions in heaven and earth (Ps. 24:1). In becoming a man, Jesus emptied Himself of His rights to act as God (Phil. 2:8; 2 Cor. 8:9). The Father transferred the ownership of all things to a Man by divine decree.

²²*He [Father] put all things under His [Jesus'] feet (Eph. 1:22)*

¹⁴*Then to Him [Jesus] was given dominion...that all peoples...should serve Him. (Dan. 7:14)*

- F. #4 The Father gave Jesus to the Church. What belongs to Jesus belongs to His body. The Church is the beneficiary of all that He accomplished. Jesus as head is united to His body by the Spirit. His body is the vehicle through which He expresses the fullness of His power and purposes upon earth.

²²*He [Father] gave Him to be head...to the church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. (Eph. 1:22-23)*

- G. #5 The Father made us sit together in the heavenly places by virtue of being united to Christ. This began on the day of Pentecost when 120 believers received the indwelling Spirit (Acts 2). We have received access to God's throne. Thus, when we pray according to God's will, our prayers are received at His throne with approval because Jesus sits at God's right hand as our advocate.

⁶*He raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ. (Eph. 2:6)*