

A photograph of a stone archway, likely part of a bridge or a well, covered in vibrant green moss. The archway frames a view of a waterfall cascading over rocks in a lush, green forest. The overall scene is serene and natural.

Prayer

heaven meets earth

Part 4: Authority vs Power

Introduction

“God shapes the world by prayer. The more praying there is in the world the better the world will be, the mightier the forces against evil. . . . The prayers of God’s saints are the capital stock of heaven by which God carries on His great work upon the earth. God conditions the very life and prosperity of His cause on prayer.” - *E.M. Bounds*

God's original design...

Gen 1:26-28 ²⁶ 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.” ²⁷ So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ 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.**”

God's original design...

God's original design was that WE were God's representatives and mediators on earth.

Webster dictionary: Representation

One that represents: as an artistic likeness or image

The action or fact of one person standing for another so as to have the rights and obligations of the person represented

God's original design...

“Adam represented God, presenting again His will on the earth. Adam was God’s governor or manager here. The earth was Adam’s assignment – it was under Adam’s charge or care. Adam was the watchman or guardian. How things went on planet Earth, for better or worse, depended on Adam and his offspring.”

– Intercessory prayer by Dutch Sheets

...our failure...

We were given the authority over the earth but gave it away...

Luke 4:6-7 ⁶ 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. ⁷ Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.”

Jesus calls Satan the ruler of the world three times in scripture: **John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11**

...restoration through the cross.

Jesus takes back the authority through the cross.

Rom 5:17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ

Matt 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.



***WHY IS THE WORLD
THEN NOT RESTORED
TO PERFECTION?***

Power vs Authority

Satan did not gain any power during the fall nor did he loose any power during the cross...the only thing that changed was his authority.

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Power vs Authority

Eph 6:11-12 ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.



Jesus → Authority

Satan → Power

Where do we fit in?

The original plan restored

Luke 10:19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you

2 Cor 10:4-5 ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ

The original plan restored

Matt 16:18-19 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my **church**, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.
¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven

Greek word used for church in Matt 16:18: **Ekklesia**

Literal meaning: An assembly of people set apart to govern the affairs of a state or nation.

The word was used by the Romans to refer to a group of people sent into a conquered region to alter the culture until it became like Rome.

Practical implications

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

2 Cor 2:11 ...in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

Hosea 4:6 ...my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.

Practical implications

1. Protection from attacks of our enemy is not automatic.
2. God's plan is to warn or alert us to Satan's tactics.
3. We must remain alert of God's attempt to warn us of Satan's attacks and plans.
4. If we are not alert and watchful, and if we are ignorant of Satan's schemes, he will take the bigger portion.

Summary: If we do not use the authority that has been given to us the enemy will use his power against us.

Practical implications

Eph 6:11-12, 18 ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹⁸ **praying always** with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, **being watchful** to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

James 5:16b The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Practical implications

Spiritual warfare through prayer has two parts:

- 1) **Being vigilant and watchful. Discerning the plans of the enemy to kill, steal and destroy. (Where does the enemy wants to apply his power?)**
- 2) **Using the authority and the weapons that Christ has given us to take down the enemy strongholds and to trample on the serpent's head. (Where does God want to enforce His authority?)**

Conclusion

“God shapes the world by prayer. The more praying there is in the world the better the world will be, the mightier the forces against evil. . . . The prayers of God’s saints are the capital stock of heaven by which God carries on His great work upon the earth. God conditions the very life and prosperity of His cause on prayer.” - *E.M. Bounds*