

Authority of the Believer – Part 3

Why was man created?

Man was created to fellowship with God and to minister to God and the earth was created to minister to man.

What is man?

Genesis 1:26-28

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

- 1> Created in God's image (Father, Son and Holy Spirit).
- 2> Given rulership over the earth.
- 3> Made to be fruitful and multiply.
- 4> Given dominion over every other creature.

Genesis 2:15

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it

- 5> Given stewardship, to guard and protect the earth.

Psalm 8:4-6

what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet:

[Underlined: Hebrew: Elohim = God]

- 6> Little lower than God.
- 7> Given glory honour and dominion.
- 8> All things put "under his feet".

Man's responsibility was awesome: "Dominion" Hebrew: radah = to reign.

How did man lose his right to reign on the earth?

Luke 4:5-7

The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours."

Man lost his authority over the earth to Satan. Satan rebelled against God and had been cast away from the presence of God. Satan wanted to get man to do the same as he had done – to rebel against God.

By getting man to disobey God's Word, man would change allegiance (commit high treason against God_ and lose his authority over the earth to Satan.

Satan's modus operandi:

Genesis 3:1-5

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' " "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

- 1> "Did God really say?" (Questioning God's Word).
- 2> Attacking God's Word – misquote and twisting.
- 3> Attacking God's goodness.

God had ordered Adam to "guard" the garden, but he did not. Instead he "stood by", passive and unassertive as the serpent tempted Eve. Adam should have resisted the devil, but he let Satan wrestle the Sword of the Spirit (Word of God) from him. By failing to exercise his God given authority, he allowed himself to come under Satan's dominion and then lost control.

What happened when Adam fell?

- 1> Adam died spiritually.

Genesis 2:17

but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

Romans 5:12

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—

Ephesians 2:1-5

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

- 2> Adam lost true revelation knowledge of God when the 5 senses became dominant.

Genesis 3:7

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Romans 8:6

The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;

See Ephesians 2:1-5 above

- 3> Adam became self conscious.

See Genesis 3:7 above

4> Adam was fearful and hid from God.

Genesis 3:8

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

5> Man was alienated from God; fallen from his presence with a darkened conscience.

Isaiah 59:2

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

God's Love – "Adam where are you?"

It was not Adam who searched for God, but God for Adam.

Genesis 3:8-9

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

God's love wanted to redeem man, but God's justice demanded that sin be dealt with. ENTER JESUS!

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Galatians 4:4

But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law,

NB: It was man who lost his authority therefore it had to be a man who regained it. This "challenger" would have to successfully challenge and cancel Satan's legal claims.

NB: Satan's authority over man is due to man's identification with Adam. Jesus could therefore legally destroy Satan's works by identifying with man but at the same time always being subject to the authority of the Word and his Father's will.

