

REIGN IN AND OVER

- A. Introduction: For the past several lessons we have been talking about authority. Authority is delegated power. Authority is permission to act for another, in their name, backed by their power.
1. God made men to reign, to exercise His power, on this earth as His under rulers. The Bible begins and ends with God reigning through men with authority. Gen 1:26; Ps 8:4-6; Rev 5:10; etc .
 - a. Man's God-given authority was lost when Adam sinned in the Garden. But, Jesus, through His death, burial, and resurrection regained man's lost authority and dominion. Eph 1:19-2:6
 - b. Because we are born again we now have the same position of authority Jesus has at the right hand of the Father, and we are now to reign in life by Christ Jesus. Rom 5:17
 2. If you do not understand the nature of life in a world that has been radically affected by Adam's sin in the Garden of Eden you will have trouble reigning in life.
 - a. The authority we have been given does not mean we can stop or remove all the troubles and hardships of life. John 16:33
 1. We live in a sin cursed earth -- an earth that has been corrupted by sin. Things wear out, things break down, things get lost. There is dust, dirt, mold, insects, vermin, unpleasant, even deadly weather, rot, decay, etc. Gen 3:17-19; Matt 6:19; Rom 5:12; etc.
 2. We interact with unbelievers who are influenced by the devil and Christians who are carnal. Even if we make perfect choices and wise and righteous decisions in every area of our lives, we often experience the consequences of their choices and behavior. Eph 2:2; I Cor 3:3; etc.
 3. We have bodies that are mortal. They are subject to sickness, injury, and aging. They get fatigued and dirty, and they ultimately wear out. Rom 8:10; I Cor 15:47-53; etc.
 - b. In addition, at the Cross, the devil was judged but he is not yet subjugated. The devil's authority over the human race was broken but he has not yet been removed from human contact. Right now, the devil still has some time left on this earth, and he goes about seeking people to devour. We must resist him, steadfast in the faith. I Pet 5:8,9
 1. When we say "devil" we are using the term as an inclusive word meaning the devil himself, his works, and the multitudes of demons who inhabit the invisible realm on this earth.
 2. The devil and his demons are actively at work influencing the hearts and minds of men to blind them to the reality of God and to motivate them to act in ways contrary to God. They work to manipulate the minds of men and, through men, the circumstances on this earth.
 3. Authority does not mean you can stop all the troubles of life. It means you can learn to reign in and over the hardships and difficulties of life in a sin cursed earth.
 - a. In some situations we can use our authority to directly change things. We can reign over the works of the devil, bring them to an end, and drive them out. In the context of sickness being healed and devils being cast out, Jesus said in Luke 10:19--Behold" I have given you authority and power to trample upon serpents and scorpions, and (physical and mental strength and ability) over all the power the enemy [possesses], and nothing shall in any way harm you. (Amp)
 - b. But, there are things that are part of life in a sin cursed earth which you can't necessarily stop or change. To reign in life means you learn how to go through these challenges in a way that is victorious. You learn how to go through them in a way that doesn't move you, in a way that lifts you up above in the midst of your circumstance. Rom 8:37
 4. In this lesson we want to talk about what it means to reign in and over the challenges of life in a sin cursed earth, what it means to resist the devil and reign over him in the challenges of life.
- B. We want to first look at a man who reigned over the enemy -- David when he faced Goliath. I Sam 17
1. Israel faced their enemy, the Philistines, at the Valley Elah. Israel was encamped on a mountain (hill) on one side of the valley and the Philistines were on a mountain (hill) on the other side of the valley. Goliath, a champion of the Philistines, made Israel an offer: Send a man out to fight me. If I beat him

you will surrender to us. If he beats me we will surrender to you.

- a. In this incident we have an enemy of God's covenant people, an idol worshipping heathen, who is challenging Israel. Why? Because that's life in a sin cursed earth.
 - b. This passage doesn't say any thing about the devil. But, we know he is at work in the situation.
 1. There are only two groups of people in the earth: children of God and children of the devil (I John 3:10). The devil works in and through the children of unbelief (Eph 2:2). Goliath has come to steal Israel's land, kill the Hebrew people, and destroy their nation. Satan steals, kills and destroys (John 10:10).
 2. Satan works through men and circumstances to try to steal the word of God (Mark 4:15). He presents people with lies about themselves, lies about God, and lies about the outcome of their situation in an attempt to influence their behavior. Goliath presented Israel with lies.
2. According to sight and sound (according to sense information) Goliath was extremely intimidating.
 - a. He was over nine feet tall, with a bronze helmet, a two hundred pound coat of mail, bronze legging, a bronze javelin several inches thick topped with a twenty-five pound spearhead, and a huge shield carried ahead of him by an armor bearer. v5-7
 - b. Goliath presented Israel with lies about themselves, about God, about the outcome of the situation.
 1. He called them the servants of Saul and the armies of Saul (v8,10). In reality they were the servants of, the armies of, God. v26, 36; Ex 12:17; etc.
 2. "If" you defeat us! If is the badge of doubt. This was an intimidating statement designed to plant seeds of doubt about God's faithfulness and the outcome of their situation. Part of Israel's covenant blessing and God's promise to them was victory over their enemies. God's promise to them was: Your enemies will be routed! Lev 26:7; Deut 28:7,8
 - c. Goliath challenges Israel every day, twice a day, for forty days. This produced great fear and discouragement among the Israelites. v4-11, 16, 24
 1. Devil is DIABOLOS in the Greek -- DIA which means penetration and BALLO which means to throw. The word literally means to hit something again and again until you penetrate it.
 2. Satan seeks to wear us down by mental attacks until a fiery dart penetrates and explodes in our mind as unbelief and deception.
 - d. The devil's tactics worked. He stole the word of God from Israel. Israel accepted the thoughts presented to them by Goliath (the devil) which affected their belief and actions. They believed they could not defeat Goliath -- even though they could beat him -- and they acted accordingly.
3. Look at how David dealt with the enemy. David began to speak the truth, God's promises to him.
 - a. He called Goliath what he was: a reproach, a disgrace. He is uncircumcised. He has no covenant with God. He is a trespasser in Israel's land. He has no right to defy the armies of the living God (v25,26,36). Notice, Goliath had no right to do what he was doing -- but that didn't stop him.
 - b. God who has delivered me out of the hands of enemies in the past will do the same thing now. David looked past the circumstance to God with him perfectly present. David did not deny the problem. Rather, he spoke the answer. v34-37; 45-47
4. Goliath tried the same tactics he used on the rest of Israel. Goliath tried to intimidate David by getting David to focus on what he could see, how small David was in comparison to Goliath: v41,42-- Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him, sneering in contempt at this nice little red-cheeked boy! (Living Bible). Goliath lied to David about the outcome of the situation. v44
 - a. David didn't entertain Goliath's words. He resisted them and answered back -- I'll take your head off and feed you to the birds!! v46
 - b. In addition to Goliath, Satan used David's brothers and Saul to try to intimidate him.
 1. David's brothers got mad at him for his confidence and questioned his motives. v28-- "What are you doing around here, anyway?" he demanded. "What about the sheep you're supposed to be taking care of? I know what a cocky brat you are. You just want to see the battle!"

(Living Bible)

2. Saul was motivated by unbelief in his advice to David: You need more than God's promises to help you. You need military training and you need my armor. v33, 38
 - c. David went up against Goliath with God's word and God's power. He spoke by faith not sight. He spoke the end result: God will deliver you into my hands. v46
 1. David believed that what he said would come to pass because he knew from the word of God that he was authorized to act.
 2. David knew that when he acted in his God-given authority God would keep His word. David knew the power of God would back him.
 - d. Anyone in Israel could have done what David did. Israel could not defeat Goliath, not because they couldn't, but because they believed they couldn't.
- C. There are things that are part of life in a sin cursed earth that you can't necessarily stop or change. Yet, you can still reign in the midst of the challenge. We see an example of that in the apostle Paul.
1. In II Cor 12:7-9 Paul said he was being harassed by a messenger of Satan, a thorn in the flesh, which God declined to remove from him. Some say that the thorn was a disease which God refused to heal.
 - a. v7 identifies the thorn as the messenger of Satan. Messenger in the Greek is ANGELOS which means a being or an angel. The word is used over 180 times in the Bible and it always means a personality, not a disease. The word thorn is used literally to mean thorns (crown of thorns) or figuratively to mean troublesome people. Num 33:55; Josh 23:13; Judges 2:3
 1. Paul calls the thorn an infirmity (v9). In II Cor 11:23-30 Paul defines what he meant when he used the word infirmity: obstacles and persecutions he encountered as he preached the gospel.
 2. Paul would go to a city and preach. Persecutions, turmoil, and even riots would break out and he would be imprisoned, beaten, or run out of town. These activities were the work of the messenger of Satan, a troublesome being sent by Satan, as he influenced men to rise up against Paul. Acts 13:45; 14:2-6; 19:21-41; etc.
 - b. Paul asked God to remove the thorn in the flesh. God did not do so because Paul was asking God to do something He has not promised to do, namely, remove the devil.
 1. We are instructed to resist the devil in the strength, grace, and name of the Lord. James 4:7
 2. Paul obviously learned that lesson because he is the one who wrote in Eph 6:11-13 that we are to resist the devil and his tactics.
 2. Paul had been given tremendous revelation from God (II Cor 12:1-4;7; Acts 26:16; Gal 1:12; etc.). The messenger of Satan was assigned to steal the word of God given to Paul.
 - a. Satan did not want Paul exalted by others (v7) or respected and believed by those to whom he preached so he sent a fallen angel to harass Paul and stir up chaos wherever he preached.
 - b. Satan also came to steal the word from Paul. The word exalted in the Greek is made up of two words which mean above and to lift. Revelation knowledge from God can lift anyone hardships and challenges of life and enable you to reign in the midst of very difficult circumstances. Satan came to harass Paul to make it look as though God's word was not true.
 1. God's answer to Paul was: II Cor 12:9--My grace is all you need, power comes to its full strength in weakness. (NEB)
 2. Paul came to understand that he could draw on the strength of the Lord to stand until the storm was over. Eph 6:10--In conclusion, be strong in the Lord -- be empowered through your union with Him; draw your strength from Him -- that strength which [His boundless] might provides. (Amp)
 3. Rom 8:37--Paul's testimony about the hardships he faced (tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, sword) was: In all these things we are more than conquerors.
 - a. More than conquerors is HUPERNIKAO which means to vanquish beyond, to gain a decisive

victory, over, above, and beyond. v37--We keep on gloriously conquering (Williams); We are more than conquerors and we gain a surpassing victory (Amp).

- b. We can potentially demonstrate decisive victory in every situation. In some situations the victory is being lifted up above the storm until it is over.
 - 1. In II Cor Paul told his readers of the troubles he faced as he preached the gospel (II Cor 1:8; II Cor 11:23-29; etc.). In II Cor 4:17,18 he called all of those things momentary and light as he looked at what he could not see.
 - 2. But Paul learned to look past what he could see through the word of God. He learned to see reality as it truly is. Reality is everything as God sees it.
- c. The key to reigning in the hardships of life is learning to see things as they really are. Paul had to recognize and cast down lies about himself, God, and the outcome of his situation.
 - 1. I am more than a conquerors through Him who loves me. Everything I see is temporary and subject to change by the power of God. Nothing can come against me that is bigger than God.
 - 2. This is the man who while in prison for preaching the gospel was able to say in Phil 4:11--For I, however I am placed, have learnt to be independent of circumstances. (20th Cent)
- 4. In II Cor 4:13 Paul refers to a spirit of faith that believes and speaks. As we said, in II Corinthians Paul makes reference to the afflictive circumstances he faced as he preached the gospel. That is the context in which he refers to a spirit of faith that speaks.
 - a. Paul does not deny the difficulties he faced, rather, he speaks of them in terms of God's word.
 - 1. We are troubled on every side but not distressed or crushed. Why? Paul knew: God comforts us (strengthens and encourages us) in our tribulations (II Cor 1:4). Even though we are surrounded by trouble, God is our light and salvation and we are not afraid (Ps 27:1-3).
 - 2. We aren't sure what to do sometimes but we aren't discouraged. Why? Paul knew: God leads us and guides us and He will make a way of escape for us. II Tim 3:11; Isa 43:2; Ps 32:8
 - 3. We are persecuted but not forsaken, cast down but not destroyed. Why? Paul knew: Nothing can separate us from the love of God (Rom 8:35). Even if everyone abandons me God is with me (II Tim 4:17). He will never forsake me (Deut 31:6,8; Heb 13:5,6).
 - b. Through speaking what he knew and believed from the word of God Paul was lifted up above in the midst of very difficult circumstances and was able to reign in those circumstances

D. Conclusion: Reigning in and reigning over the challenges of life are two sides of the same coin. If you don't learn to reign in the midst of the hardships of life you'll won't be able to reign over sickness and the works of the devil.

- 1. Both involve learning to see reality as it truly is and then acting accordingly. Both involve recognizing and resisting the lies of the devil about ourselves, about God, and about the outcome of our situation.
- 2. However, none of that can be done unless you have accurate knowledge from the word of God which shows us reality as it truly is. That is why we are taking time to study God's word. More next week!!