

The Dominion Mandate: From Lost Dominion to Restored Authority

Dr. John Carmichael

[Gen 1:26-28 NASB95] 26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

- Genesis begins with a breathtaking declaration. God created humanity in His image and gave them dominion over the earth. Genesis 1:28 was not merely a blessing. It was a delegation of authority. Human beings were designed to represent God's rule on the earth.
- But something catastrophic happened in Genesis 3. Adam did not simply commit a moral mistake. He abdicated authority. Through disobedience, the dominion God gave to humanity was surrendered to Satan.
- From that moment forward, the Bible describes Satan as:
 - the god of this world ([2Co 4:4 NASB95] 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.)
 - the ruler of this world system ([Jhn 12:31 NASB95] 31 "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.)
 - the prince of the power of the air [Eph 2:2 NASB95] 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.
- But the story of Scripture does not end with a fall. God sent a Second Adam. Not only to forgive sin. But to reclaim dominion.

Why does understanding the transfer and restoration of authority matter so much for believers today?

Because the gospel is not only about forgiveness, but also about restored dominion. Here are four truths about lost dominion and restored authority.

I. Humanity Was Created to Rule Under God

- a. Genesis 1:26–28 “Let them have dominion...”
- b. Dominion was humanity's original assignment. Adam was God's representative ruler on the earth. He governed creation under God's authority. This means authority was delegated, not inherent.
- c. God ruled heaven. Humanity ruled the earth under Him.
- d. [Psa 8:5-8 NASB95] 5 Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty! 6 You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, 7 All sheep and oxen, And also the beasts of the field, 8 The birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, Whatever passes through the paths of the seas.
- e. John MacMillan taught that God intended the earth to be administered through humanity, making mankind the legal ruler of the earthly realm under God.
- f. Many believers struggle because they think Christianity is only about surviving life. But the Bible says we were created to exercise spiritual authority.
- g. We are not called merely to endure life; we are called to represent God's rule in it.

II. Adam Surrendered Humanity's Authority

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- a. [Gen 3:1-7 NASB95] 1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" 4 The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! 5 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make [one] wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.
- b. [Rom 5:12 NASB95] 12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned--
- c. When Adam disobeyed God, something deeper than personal sin occurred. Authority was transferred. Adam had authority over the earth. When he obeyed Satan rather than God, he yielded that authority to Satan.
- d. [Luk 4:5-8 NASB95] 5 And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6 And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. 7 "Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours." 8 Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'"
- e. Satan was claiming authority that originally belonged to humanity.
- f. The problem in Genesis 3 was not just sin; it was a surrender of authority.
- g. MacMillan explained that through the fall, Satan became the usurper ruler of the world system.
- h. This explains why the world is filled with oppression, darkness, and deception. Humanity surrendered its governing authority to a rebel. But God had a redemption plan.

III. Jesus Came as the Second Adam to Reclaim Dominion

- a. [Rom 5:17 NASB95] 17 For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.
- b. Jesus is the Second Adam. Where Adam failed, Christ triumphed. He came to undo the fall. This is why the temptations in the wilderness matter.
- c. [Luk 4:5-8 NASB95] 5 And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6 And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. 7 "Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours." 8 Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'"
- d. Satan offered Jesus the kingdoms of the world. Jesus refused to bow. Where Adam yielded to Satan, Jesus defeated him.
- e. [Col 2:15 NASB95] 15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.
- f. Jesus did not just come to rescue humanity, He came to restore its dominion.
- g. Kenneth Hagin emphasized that Christ's victory over Satan legally stripped the enemy of his right to dominate those who belong to Christ.
- h. Believers do not fight for victory. We fight from Christ's victory.

IV. Believers Now Share Christ's Authority

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- a. [Rom 5:17 NASB95] 17 For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.
 - b. Redemption restores what Adam lost.
 - c. Through Christ: sin is forgiven, Satan is defeated, authority is restored
 - d. [Col 1:13 NASB95] 13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,
 - e. [Eph 2:6 NASB95] 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly [places] in Christ Jesus,
 - f. MacMillan taught that Christ's resurrection placed Him far above all powers, and believers share that position with Him.
 - g. Hagin summarized it this way: The authority of the believer comes from being seated with Christ above principalities and powers.
 - h. Application: Believers exercise authority through prayer, faith, the name of Jesus, and resisting the devil.
 - i. [Jas 4:7 NASB95] 7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
 - j. You are not powerless in this world. In Christ, you have restored authority.
- **Adam surrendered humanity's authority through disobedience, but Jesus Christ reclaimed that authority and restored it to those who reign with Him.**
 - **The Bible begins with dominion lost. But the gospel declares dominion restored. Adam surrendered authority. Jesus reclaimed it. And through Christ, believers are called to reign in life. The cross forgave our sins. The resurrection restored our authority. The church must rediscover what redemption truly accomplished.**
 - **The enemy took dominion through deception, but Jesus reclaimed it through the atonement and now the church must walk in it.**