

Message Five

**Dominion—Subduing the Enemy, Recovering the Earth,  
and Exercising God’s Authority over the Earth**

Scripture Reading: Gen. 1:26-28;  
Matt. 6:9-10, 13; 1 Cor. 15:47; Eph. 2:15; Rev. 11:15

**I. God created a corporate man not only to express Him but also to represent Him by having dominion over all things—Gen. 1:26, 28:**

- A. The revelation of the Bible is that the Triune God created man in His image and with His dominion to express Him and represent Him—v. 26.
- B. God in His Divine Trinity created a singular man in His own image, and He committed to this man dominion over all the earth; the more we experience and enjoy the Triune God, the more we will grow in the reality of the divine image and the divine dominion—vv. 27-28; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 3:14-17.

**II. God’s intention in giving man dominion is to subdue God’s enemy, Satan, who rebelled against God—Gen. 1:26, 28:**

- A. The creeping things that creep upon the earth typify Satan, the serpent, and his angels, as well as the demons, who follow Satan—v. 26; 3:1, 14; Rev. 12:4, 7, 9; Matt. 25:41; cf. Luke 10:19.
- B. *Subdue* in Genesis 1:28 implies that a war is raging on earth between God and His enemy, Satan; whoever gains the earth will have the victory.
- C. God has a problem, and this problem is Satan, the archangel who rebelled against God and became His enemy in the universe and especially on the earth—Isa. 14:12-14; Ezek. 28:12-18:
  - 1. According to Genesis 3:1, Satan as God’s enemy hid himself in the serpent, one of the creeping things on the earth.
  - 2. In order to subdue His enemy and thus solve His problem, God gave man authority to rule over all things created by God—1:26.
  - 3. Man especially must rule over the earth and even subdue the earth because the earth has been usurped by God’s rebellious enemy—v. 28.
  - 4. God needs man to exercise His authority over all the creeping things, and God needs man to subdue and conquer the rebellious earth so that God may recover the earth for His kingdom—Matt. 6:9-10.

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- D. God wants to use man to deal with His enemy, and He created man for this purpose; God wants His creature *man* to deal with His fallen creature *Satan*—Gen. 1:28.
- E. “If man has not restored the earth from the hand of Satan, he has not yet achieved God’s purpose in creating him...Dealing with Satan is for the benefit of God...Dealing with Satan satisfies God’s need” (*The Glorious Church*, p. 11).

**III. God’s intention in giving man dominion is to recover the earth—v. 28:**

- A. God created man with the intention of recovering the earth for Himself—v. 26:
  - 1. Man was created by God to have dominion over the earth, to subdue it, to conquer it, and thereby recover the earth for God—vv. 26, 28.
  - 2. God wants to regain the earth; the earth has become a crucial place, a place that Satan wants to hold and a place that God wants to regain.
  - 3. Man is commissioned to be fruitful and multiply, to fill the earth, and to subdue it—v. 28.
- B. The Lord’s name must be sanctified on earth and become excellent in all the earth—Matt. 6:9-10; Psa. 8:1, 9.
- C. During the millennium the earth will become the kingdom of God, and in eternity the New Jerusalem will come down out of heaven to the new earth—Rev. 11:15; 21:1-2.

**IV. God’s intention in giving man dominion is to exercise God’s authority over the earth in order that the kingdom of God may come to the earth, the will of God may be done on earth, and the glory of God may be manifested on earth—Matt. 6:10, 13b:**

- A. We need to exercise God’s authority so that the kingdom of God may come to the earth—v. 10:
  - 1. The genuine church is the kingdom of God in this age—16:18-19; 18:17-18; 13:44-46; Rom. 14:17; 1 Cor. 4:20; Eph. 2:19; Col. 4:11; Rev. 1:4-6.
  - 2. The church brings in the kingdom; the work of the church is to bring in the kingdom of God—Matt. 6:10; 12:22-29; Rev. 11:15; 12:10:

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- a. The church was brought into being for the purpose of bringing in the kingdom—Matt. 16:18-19; 18:17-18; Rev. 1:6, 9; 11:15.
  - b. The church should pray with authority to bring in the kingdom of God—Matt. 6:10.
- B. We need to exercise God's authority so that the will of God may be done on earth—v. 10:
- 1. God is a God of purpose, having a will of His own pleasure, and He created all things for His will so that He might accomplish and fulfill His purpose—Rev. 4:11; Eph. 3:9-11; Col. 1:9.
  - 2. The kingdom is absolutely a matter of God's will and completely fulfills God's will; in fact, the kingdom is God's will—Matt. 6:10.
  - 3. We need to pray for the Father's will to be done on earth as in heaven; this is to bring the kingdom of the heavens to the earth—v. 10.
- C. We need to exercise God's authority so that the glory of God may be manifested on the earth—v. 13:
- 1. God is a God of glory; glory is the expression of God, God expressed—Acts 7:2; Eph. 1:17; 3:14, 16, 21; Rev. 21:10-11.
  - 2. The kingdom of God is the realm in which God exercises His power so that He can manifest His glory—Matt. 6:10, 13.
- V. God's intention that man would express God in His image and represent God with His authority is fulfilled in Christ as the second man and in the corporate one new man—1 Cor. 15:47; Eph. 2:15; 1:22-23; 1 Cor. 12:12; Col. 3:10-11:**
- A. Christ is not only the last Adam but also the second man—1 Cor. 15:45, 47:
- 1. The first Adam is the beginning of mankind; the last Adam is the ending—v. 45.
  - 2. As the first man, Adam is the head of the old creation, representing it in creation; as the second man, Christ is the Head of the new creation, representing it in resurrection—vv. 45, 47.
  - 3. We believers were included in the first man by birth and became part of the second man by regeneration; our believing

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into Christ has transferred us out of the first man into the second—Rom. 5:12-21.

- B. The church is the one new man, which is corporate and universal, created of two peoples, the Jews and the Gentiles, and composed of all the believers, who, though they are many, are one new man in the universe—Eph. 2:15:
  - 1. God created man as a collective entity—Gen. 1:26:
    - a. The corporate man created by God was damaged through man's fall; hence, there was the need for God to produce a new man.
    - b. The producing of the new man was accomplished through Christ's abolishing in His flesh the ordinances and through His creating the new man in Himself—Eph. 2:15.
  - 2. God's creation of man in Genesis 1 is a picture of the new man in God's new creation; this means that the old creation is a figure, a type, of the new creation—Eph. 2:15; 4:24:
    - a. Eventually, the church as the one new man is the corporate man in God's intention, and this new man will fulfill the twofold purpose of expressing God and dealing with God's enemy.
    - b. God's intention is to regenerate the many members of the one new man, who are the many members of the one Body of Christ—1 Cor. 12:27.
    - c. As the church, the corporate man in God's eternal purpose, we express God and we represent Him to subdue the earth and to conquer His enemy—Col. 3:10.