

The Framework of Authority

Series: Authority

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The story of the Bible is a story of authority. Notice the word “author” in this word. An author is the one who writes the story. He or she has the right to write the story as they please. It is their story. They have the right to tell the truth or to tell a lie. But it is their story. The author arranges the characters as he pleases. The author includes the actions he wants to highlight. The author makes the rules of the story. The author is the source. The reader conforms to the author’s story and is drawn into the author’s story. This is the nature of authority.

- When you board an airplane, you are under the authority of the pilot and crew.
- When you enter a building or business, you are under the authority of the owner.
- When you join an organization, you are under the authority of that organization.
- When you move into a neighbor with an HOA, you are under the authority of the HOA.
- When you sign up for a program, you are under the authority of those who run the program.
- When you become a citizen of a country, you are under the authority of those who authored the constitution and those elected to administer it.

The story of Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4)

- The dream of a great tree: 11 The tree grew large and strong and its top touched the sky; it was visible to the ends of the earth. 12 Its leaves were beautiful, its fruit abundant, and on it was food for all. Under it the wild animals found shelter, and the birds lived in its branches; from it every creature was fed.
- The holy messenger: 13 “In the visions I saw while lying in bed, I looked, and there before me was a holy one, a messenger, coming down from heaven. 14 He called in a loud voice: ‘Cut down the tree and trim off its branches; strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the animals flee from under it and the birds from its branches.
- The fall of the king: 15 But let the stump and its roots, bound with iron and bronze, remain in the ground, in the grass of the field. “ ‘Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him live with the animals among the plants of the earth. 16 Let his mind be changed from that of a man and let Authority him be given the mind of an animal, till seven times pass by for him.
- WHY? THE POINT: 17 “ ‘The decision is announced by messengers, the holy ones declare the verdict, **so that the living may know that the Most High is**

sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of people.'

- The interpretation: Nebuchadnezzar is the tree.
- The Fulfillment: 29 Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, 30 he said, **“Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?”** 31 Even as the words were on his lips, a voice came from heaven, “This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you.
- The Lesson Learned: 34 At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. 35 All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: “What have you done?”

The Authority Structure of God:

The Three Areas of Authority all Under God:

- Church
- Government
- Family



The individual in each of these institutions decides whether they will live under the authority of God within each of these areas of their lives.

The Lines of Authority:

God>>>>Jesus, Holy Spirit, Word of God>>>>Prophets, Priests, Apostles, Evangelists>>>>Church Leaders (Pastors, deacons, delegated servants)

Husband>>>>Wife>>>>Children

Some Scripture:

Daniel 4: 26 The command to leave the stump of the tree with its roots means that your kingdom will be restored to you when you **acknowledge that Heaven rules**.

John 5: 22 Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, 23 that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him. 24 “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. 25 Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. 26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. 27 And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

Matthew 28:18, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”

1 Cor.11: 3 But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

2 Cor.13: 10 This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority—the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down.

Eph.5: 22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.

Eph.6: 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Heb.13: 17 Have confidence (be persuaded by) in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

These are a sampling of passages in the Bible that deal with authority. Our God is a God of order, and He as the author has arranged things as He wants them to be in His story.