CHRIST JESUS THE SUPREME AUTHORITY OVER ALL THINGS

Part 21 Ephesians Chapter One

Ephesians 1:21-22 SLIDE

[God raised Jesus and seated Him in The Heavenlies] ²¹Far above all principality and power and might and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come ²² And He put all things under His feet ...

We saw last week that God brought this Super-Human Being into heaven and placed Him in the most privileged position any being has ever known – next to The Father – at His right hand.

This week we see that God has also exalted this New Human, Jesus, to the most powerful position there has ever been ...

- Jesus was not only exalted to the most Privileged Position
- > Jesus was also exalted to the most Powerful Position

JESUS IS THE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY OVER ALL THINGS

God has positioned Jesus Christ as the Ultimate Ruler of all things in this world and the world to come –

The Head of all things past, present and future -

The Lord of all eternity -

Over everything physical and spiritual -

'Far above all things' (v21) ...

'Far above all' means: His power and authority are out of reach to all his enemies and that ... there can be no challenge to his eternal reign ...

JESUS IS THE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY OVER ALL THINGS

Verse 22 - 'And He put all things under His feet ...'

WHAT IS JESUS CHRIST NOW REIGNING FAR ABOVE?

Far Above Every Satanic Power and Authority

Look at the 4 categories mentioned in verse 21 – 'principality and power and might and dominion'

THESE ARE 4 LEVELS OF THE SATANIC KINGDOM

Paul describes these 4 categories better in chapter 6 -

Ephesians 6:12 SLIDE

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against (1) principalities, against (2) powers, against the (3) rulers of the darkness of this age, against (4) spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

SO THESE ARE NOT FLESH & BLOOD OR PHYSICAL BEINGS
SLIDE THIS IS THE STRUCTURE OF THE SATANIC KINGDOM

At one stage in my ministry I would have latched onto this and taught it in depth until our thoughts were full of demons and how to fight them ...

I WROTE A MUSICAL CALLED DAYS OF WAR - 'These are The Days of War ... we're gonna fight the good fight ... we're gonna do what is right'

BUT PAUL'S PURPOSE IS NOT TO STIR US UP TO FIGHT ...
IN FACT, THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE ... HE WANTS US TO REST IN
FAITH UNDER CHRIST'S AUTHORITY.

NB: THIS IS THE FIRST TIME PAUL SPEAKS ABOUT THE DEMONIC FORCES AFTER 21 VERSES, AND NOW, ONLY **TO SHOW THAT CHRIST JESUS IS FAR ABOVE THEM** ... THE 'DEMONIC' SHOULD NEVER BE OUR PRIORITY OR FOCUS.

Our focus is not the reign of Satan but the superior reign of Christ Jesus, far above all satanic forces.

FAR ABOVE EVERY OTHER NAME

Philippians 2:9-11 **SLIDE**

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow of those in heaven and of those on earth and of those under the earth 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<u>'THE NAME ... ABOVE EVERY NAME'</u> means JESUS REIGNS SUPREME OVER THE NAME OF EVERY SICKNESS & DISEASE THAT HAS BEEN NAMED.

THINGS SUCH AS - Cancer. Diabetes. Heart-Disease. Covid.

THE NAME ABOVE THE NAME OF EVERY EMOTIONAL DISORDER THAT HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED & NAMED since Sigmund Freud & Carl Yung.
Such as - Depression ... ADHD ... OCD ... Chronic fatigue ...

Far Above every name in this physical world ...

Which means every kingdom and every empire of men that has ever existed and which will ever exist ...

Far Above the reign of death ... that has reigned since Adam's fall ... Far Above every name in the world to come ... ETERNAL AUTHORITY

THAT NAME IS THE NAME JESUS CHRIST ...

NB: Jesus was His earthly name which means Saviour and which stood for His Earthly role of saving us from our sins ...

BUT NOW SINCE THE RESURRECTION ...
THAT NAME, 'JESUS', HAS BEEN ELEVATED TO LORD
Philippians 2:11 - '... Jesus Christ is Lord ...'

That's why Hollywood has so been used by Satan to blaspheme and belittle that name ... because it's a threat to Satan's domain.

THERE IS NO NAME GIVEN AMONG MEN WHEREBY WE MUST BE SAVED BUT THE NAME OF JESUS (See Acts 4:12)

THERE IS NO OTHER WAY TO BE FREE FROM THE SATANIC KINGDOM BUT BY BOWING TO THAT NAME JESUS CHRIST ... WE ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN THAT NAME.

THIS IS WHY PEOPLE FIND IT SO HARD TO SAY HIS NAME OPENLY ...

THE NAME 'GOD' IS ACCEPTABLE ... BUT JESUS HAS A STIGMA ATTACHED. PEOPLE CRINGE INSIDE BECAUSE THAT NAME IS A THREAT TO THE SATANIC KINGDOM WHERE THEY ARE LIVING.

IN THIS VERSE WE ALSO START TO SEE THERE ARE TWO KINGDOMS

- > THERE'S THE KINGDOM OF ONE NAME JESUS CHRIST
- > THERE'S THE KINGDOM OF MANY NAMES RULED BY SATAN

Philippians 2:9 (SAME SLIDE)

... God ... has ... given Him the name which is above every name ...

NB: EVERY OTHER NAME WHETHER PHYSICAL OR SPIRITUAL IS ALL UNDER SATAN'S RULERSHIP & CONTROL

He is the god of this world. (2 Corinthians 4:4)

WE ALSO START TO SEE IN THIS VERSE THE CONTRAST OF THESE TWO KINGDOMS

1. THE STRUCTURE OF THE SATANIC KINGDOM

The structure is by domination ... it's by control ... it has pride as its motivation (Isaiah 14)

Satan coveted God's power and position ...

Satan coerced Adam and Eve and CAPTURED THEIR SOULS ...

THEY THEN CAME UNDER SATAN'S DOMINATION.

He is about self-promotion ... theft ... murder ... horror ... fear ... hypocrisy ... and lies ...

He was a liar from the beginning (John 8:44) He has come to rob, kill and destroy (John 10:10)

IT'S ALL BY MANIPULATION / INTIMIDATION / DOMINATION THIS IS THE SPIRIT OF THE SATANIC KINGDOM

The spirit is the lust of the flesh and the eyes, and is filled with pride ... (1 John 2:16)

2. THE STRUCTURE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST'S KINGDOM

This structure is by humility and submission ...

NB: JESUS WAS <u>GIVEN</u> A NAME above every other name. (Phil 2:9) HE DIDN'T GIVE IT TO HIMSELF.

It was also <u>GOD THE FATHER</u> WHO HIGHLY EXALTED HIM ... (Philippians 2:9 'Therefore God also has highly exalted Him ...')

JESUS DIDN'T EXALT HIMSELF ... IT WAS THE OPPOSITE ...

JESUS HUMBLED HIMSELF ... (Philippians 2:8)

IT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW THE SPIRIT OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD. that it is NOT IN PRIDE & AMBITION.

Rising in the ranks / clambering for positions of importance / positions of power and control ...

Unfortunately, we see these things in churches today ...

But this is not the spirit of the kingdom of God ... It is the spirit of the satanic ruler.

PAUL CLEARLY TELLS US ABOUT THE SPIRIT OF THE KINGOM OF GOD -

Romans 14:17 SLIDE

The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

This is the Spirit of THE KINGDOM OF GOD, presided over by Jesus Christ.

SO, YOU SAY, IF CHRIST IS REIGNING ... WHY DO WE STILL SEE SATAN & EVIL AT LARGE?

CHRIST'S AUTHORITY JUST HASN'T BEEN ENFORCED YET ...

There is a time delay between Christ having this authority AND His authority being enforced.

Psalm 110:1 SLIDE

The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

That is, Yahweh – God the Father said to Adonai – The Lord Jesus - Sit at my right hand – which is His exalted position – until I, YAHWEH, will make your enemies your footstool.

- > The enforcement is in The Father's time ...
- > The execution in The Father's hand

"... <u>The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ</u> and He will reign forever and ever." (Revelation 11:15 Berean Study Bible - At the sound of the 7th Angel)

MANY OF US USED TO BELIEVE & SOME STILL DO THAT IT'S UP TO US TO ENFORCE JESUS' AUTHORITY

I wrote another strong song called 'Run To The Line' about us enforcing Christ's authority over the devil's forces. It went as follows ...

We're gonna run to the line that is drawn at the edge of the battle We're gonna gather together the saints in the name of The Lord We will not be deterred by the tide of iniquity rising We will stand in one accord

Though the enemy's voice is aloud with the sound of his wailing We will stand in our faith and we'll fight in the strength of His name Though we carry the scars of the war ...

There's a truth that we will not ignore and that we boldly now proclaim

BUT HERE'S THE GOOD NEWS ...

AS A BELIEVER, YOU ALREADY BELONG TO CHRIST'S KINGDOM

Colossians 1:13 Berean Literal Bible SLIDE

[God] has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son.

The word "translated" ('transferred') is a word properly applied to the transplanting of races, and the settlement of them in a new home. Salvation, begun by rescue, is completed by the settlement of the rescued captives in the new kingdom of Christ. The two acts, indeed, are distinct, but inseparable. - Ellicott

SLIDE The moment you were born again <u>your spirit</u> was set free from all Satan's dominion and translated into the kingdom of God under the Lord Jesus Christ's reign.

IT IS YOUR SPIRIT THAT HAS COME INTO CHRIST'S KINGDOM.
YOUR FLESH STILL EXISTS IN SATAN'S TERRITORY BUT CAN BE
BROUGHT INTO SUBMISSION TO CHRIST'S AUTHORITY

The believer is alive in the kingdom of God while their body walks in the kingdom of darkness ...

However, we can learn to walk spiritually in the kingdom of Christ while we still physically live in a world ruled by the satanic kingdom.

WE CAN OVERCOME WHILE WE YET LIVE HERE SURROUNDED BY EVIL ...

SO HOW DO I OVERCOME WHILE I AM HERE IN THIS WORLD?

- 1. KNOW OUR LORD JESUS IS REIGNING OVER US
- GET YOUR 'KNOWER' WORKING

Remember this section of Paul's conclusion started with a prayer 'that we might know' (Ephesians 1:18).

NOW HE WANTS US TO KNOW CHRIST'S SUPREME AUTHORITY OVER ALL THINGS.

We have been set free from Satan's domination and we can experience that freedom daily if we know we belong to a greater kingdom of Christ's love and grace ...

THE WAY WE WALK & LIVE FREE IS TO KNOW WE HAVE BEEN TRANSLATED INTO A GREATER KINGDOM OF LOVE & GRACE.

BUT THERE IS ALSO ANOTHER THING WE SHOULD DO ...

2. SUBMIT TO GOD

James 4:7 SLIDE

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Notice, it says 'submit to God' first. Then 'resist the devil'.

THE NEXT STEP AFTER KNOWING HIS LORDSHIP IS TO BOW TO HIS LORDSHIP.

Submit (Hypotagēte) means to be subordinate / obey

Bow your head to Him ... Your 'will' ...

The hardest advice of all, to a man reliant on himself, is submission to any ... - Ellicott

Some of us have been on the fringes of the kingdom. We know we belong but we've never been into the palace (which we have free access to) and bowed at The Throne of The King Himself. We even tell people on the fringes about Him as we still wrestle with our problems ...

IT'S TIME TO TAKE THE PILGRIMAGE TO THE PALACE TO BOW AT THE THRONE.

NB: Hebrews 4:16 doesn't say to come boldly to 'The Place of Grace' it says ... to the 'THE THRONE OF GRACE'.

We come with confidence to a throne of a supreme King. This is where grace flows.

This is in the reign of grace.

We find the spirit of the new kingdom when we bow.

NB This does not say fight the devil

I said to one lady, 'We are not called to fight the devil ...'
She quoted this scripture saying, 'But the Bible says, "Resist the devil".'

I said, 'Yes, but when I learned words I'm sure that resist didn't mean "fight" ...'

YET, THERE IS ALSO ANOTHER STEP TO STAY FREE IN CHRIST'S KINGDOM

3. YEILD YOUR PASSIONS & EMOTIONS

Romans 6:13 Berean Literal Bible SLIDE

Neither yield your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but yield yourselves to God as living out from the dead and your members to God as instruments of righteousness.

SLIDE THIS IS A MILITARY TERM ... LIKE A SOLDIER SURRENDERING HIS WEAPONS TO A HIGHER AUTHORITY FOR THEM TO USE.

Our 'members' means our energies ... our creativity ... our talents ...

NOW WE CAN BEGIN TO LIVE WHO WE ARE

UNDER CHRIST'S BEAUTIFUL AUTHORITY WE HAVE GRACE & FREEDOM.

HE HAS PROVIDED ANOTHER RULERSHIP FOR YOU UNDER WHICH YOU WILL ESCAPE THE TYRANICAL RULE OF EVIL.

YOU CAN ENJOY THE LIFE, LIBERTY & JOY OF THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST.

UNDER CHRIST'S BANNER -

You will start to laugh with exceeding joy You will start to weep in sincere desire for his character You will start to live in peace and joy in The Holy Spirit

SUPPLIMENTARY

THE ONLY WAY TO ESCAPE THE SATANIC KINGDOM IS TO SURRENDER TO JESUS AND COME INTO HIS KINGDOM

THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN BE FREE FROM ONE MASTER IS TO BOW TO A MORE POWERFUL MASTER ...

Romans 6:16.19

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey,

his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

¹⁹... As you have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity ... even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.