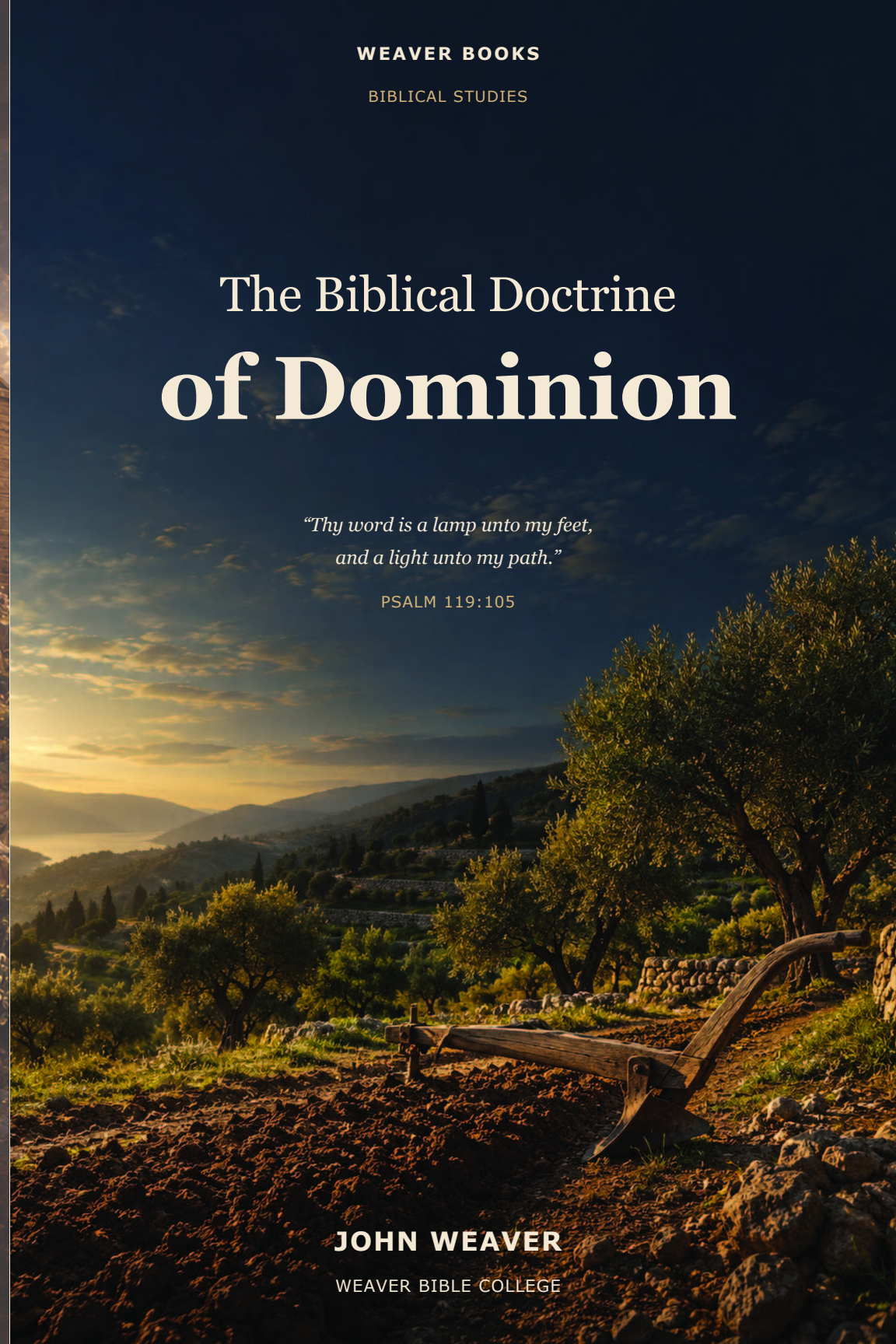
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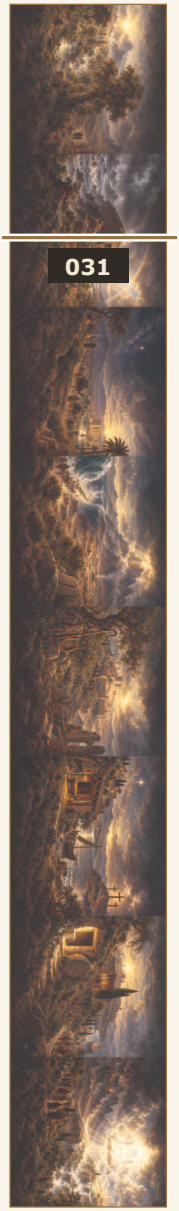
"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

PSALM 119:105



JOHN WEAVER

WEAVER BIBLE COLLEGE



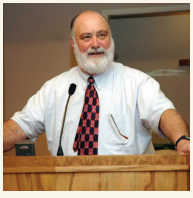
The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof.

PSALM 24:1, EXCERPT

Dominion is a responsibility to be understood under the government of God. John Weaver examines stewardship, obedience, and the moral obligations that accompany the exercise of authority. These messages ask readers to consider the difference between faithful cultivation of what God entrusts and the pursuit of power for its own sake.

“Any dominion, power, or authority that any man has has been delegated to him, given him by God alone.”

JOHN WEAVER



John Weaver

John Weaver's sermons form the teaching collection presented by Weaver Bible College. This volume gathers his teaching from that collection.

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CHAPTER 1

The Biblical Doctrine of Dominion

Part One

Introduction and Reading of Genesis 1:26-28

Genesis chapter 1, verses 26 through 28.

The Bible says, “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.” The Bible tells us that God gave dominion to Adam.

Definition and Scope of Dominion

Dominion is a word that is infrequently used and even less frequently understood. Yet the truth of the matter is this: every man, whether he is saved or unsaved, is dominion-oriented. The passage in Genesis 1:26-28 is usually known as the creation mandate, the great charter, the dominion charter, or the dominion mandate.

In verse 26, God tells Adam that he is to have dominion over the fish of the sea, the fowl of the air, the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. The word “dominion” there is the word “radah” in the Hebrew, and it means to rule, to have dominion over, to reign, to tread down, to subjugate, and to dominate. A good illustration of this is found in Joshua 1:3, where God told Joshua, “Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you.” So it literally means to tread down.

If the word “dominion” is not sufficient enough, verse 28 says, “Be fruitful and multiply, replenish the earth and subdue it.”

The word "subdue" is the word "kabosh," which literally means to subdue, to bring into bondage or to bring into subjection, to keep under, and to make subservient. God has said to Adam that he is to exercise dominion and subdue the earth.

The word "dominion" itself occurs sixty-two times in the Bible. That does not count the variations of the word, but it does imply that something mighty important is involved when God mentions this truth sixty-two times. You must believe something about it. The Latin word is "dominus," and it literally means to rule or to have power to rule by sovereign authority. Sometimes it refers to a governed territory.

When we speak of domesticated animals, we are talking about animals that have been dominated and subdued: horses, dogs, cats, cattle, and oxen. Any domesticated animal is an animal that has been tamed and subjugated for our service and pleasure as well. Thus, the word "domesticated" is intimately connected with the word "dominion." However, when you look at Genesis 1:28, God makes it plain that it is not just the animals that are to be dominated and subdued; it is indeed the whole earth.

Dominion affects every man, but it especially affects the Christian man, because the Christian man has been called to covenant restoration. Dominion is going to be exercised by someone. It is either going to be exercised by the godly or by the ungodly. When it is exercised by the ungodly, it is always the godly who suffer.

God's Absolute Dominion and Delegated Authority

The Bible says in Proverbs 28:28, "When the wicked rise, men hide themselves: but when they perish, the righteous increase." Proverbs 29:2 says, "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn." Obviously, someone is going to be exercising dominion.

God has all authority, all power, and all dominion. Any dominion that man has has been given to us by delegation. The Bible tells us in Job 25:2, "Dominion and power are with him." God alone has absolute dominion and absolute power.

Consider Daniel, chapter 4, verses 3, 17, 32, and 34. All of these deal with dominion. Daniel 4:3 says, talking about God, "How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation." God's dominion never expires.

Verse 17 says, "This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men."

Then, in verse 32, God is talking to Nebuchadnezzar: "And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will." After seven years, Nebuchadnezzar became sane again, and he confessed this in verse 34: "And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him

that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation."

All of these verses, plus a multitude more, teach us one truth: Dominion is in God inherently and essentially. There is absolutely nothing and no one over which God does not have absolute and total control. God's dominion is eternal, immutable, complete, and total.

God has dominion inherently and essentially. The only way man can exercise dominion, or have any dominion or authority, is by delegation. In the doctrine of God, there are incommunicable attributes and communicable attributes. God's infinity, eternity, and sovereignty cannot be communicated to man. But love, grace, mercy, justice, and dominion can be communicated to man.

Any dominion, power, or authority that any man has has been delegated to him, given him by God alone. There is not an ounce of dominion, power, or authority outside of God. Whenever we have any of that, God simply gave it to us.

So dominion has been delegated, communicated, and entrusted; but God alone possesses all power, authority, and dominion. The second thing Genesis 1 shows us is that man was created for dominion. God commanded Adam to exercise dominion and subdue the earth.

Man Created for Dominion

Someone may object, “But Adam sinned and fell.” That is true. Yet in Genesis 9 the dominion mandate is given again to Noah and his sons: “And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.” That is exactly what God told Adam. He continued, “And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.”

The Hebrew word translated “delivered” is nathan. It literally means to be given, granted, bestowed, committed, entrusted, appointed, and delivered. God delivered all these things into the hands of Noah and his sons. This is the same truth mentioned in Genesis 1.

Psalm 8 repeats the dominion mandate. The psalmist says, “O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.

“When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!”

The Bible says, “For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels.” So the angels, in one sense of the word, are above us. Of course, they are spirit beings. They are at the throne of God, awaiting His command. But the Bible also says, “and hast crowned him with glory and honour.” Since man is lower than the angels in one sense of the word, how is it that God has crowned man with glory and honour? The answer is given in verse 6: “Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet.” The psalmist then delineates some of the things that have been put under the feet of man. God crowned man with glory and honour by giving him dominion.

According to the Bible, man is dominion-oriented both by nature and by calling. By nature, man has been specifically created for dominion. There are differences between men and women, and I am not just talking about physical differences. There are mental differences and emotional differences. All these differences have been created by God. However, tests have been run between men and women, and they discovered that men were basically superior to women only in two areas: abstract thinking, and aggressiveness or dominion orientation. When you think about aggressiveness, it is usually the man who chases after the woman, right? Except in my case, Alice chased after me. You believe that, I am sure. I can tell by the smiles on your face and the laugh that you are giving. No, but it is

man who is usually more aggressive in anything than the woman. So God created man specifically for dominion.

The earth was created as God's kingdom, and man was appointed as God's vicegerent, or vice president. In other words, he was to manage the earth, rule the earth, subdue the earth, and exercise dominion over the earth for God's honour and glory. His role was to be as unto God. Man's calling in dominion, then, is a religious calling. It is also an aspect of his worship.

God created Adam and placed him in the garden. Adam had the responsibility to guard that garden, to plant it, prune it, tend it, harvest it, and preserve it. But there is also a cognitive aspect, because in Genesis chapter 2 and verse 19, God brought all those animals to Adam to see what he would call them. What Adam was doing in that instance was scientifically classifying those animals.

He was not looking at a cow that was lording it over the other cows and saying, "I'll just call her old Bossy." No. Adam was reading out of those animals the purpose for which God had created them. He knew exactly God's purpose for those animals and was scientifically classifying them.

Note this: God created Adam and gave him work and knowledge. Included in this was responsibility. Adam was responsible to work, keep, and guard the garden. He was also responsible for the animals that he classified, reading out of them the purpose God had created in them and for them.

Man cannot be understood in a primitive past, nor can he be understood in what we would call childhood. When God created Adam and Eve, He created them full-grown and mature. Therefore, man can only be a man in relationship to work, knowledge, and responsibility. That is what defines a man according to the Word of God. Man was created by God, for God's glory, to exercise dominion.

Man's calling is in terms of his vocation. Whatever God called you to do—whether it is being the best mechanic in the world, the best ditch digger in the world, or the best preacher in the world—that vocation is your calling, what God has called you to do. Your calling is a religious calling because, in that calling, you are to exercise dominion.

Here is a truth that most people have never understood: man cannot be satisfied unless there is productivity in his work. In other words, if he cannot conquer, subdue, or exercise dominion, he becomes totally frustrated. Wives, can you tell when your husband has had a good day at work or a bad day at work? The answer is yes, because when he has had a bad day at work, he comes home frustrated, and the wife tries to please him, but she cannot. Then she becomes frustrated because he is frustrated, and she thinks she is a failure. It all has to do with his work. Most people have never, ever recognized the implications of a man's work. His work does indeed affect his attitude.

The Fall as Attempted Autonomous Dominion

The truth of the matter is this: God called man specifically for dominion. Men cannot be men except in relationship to work, knowledge, and responsibility. Yet we have sired a generation of people who do not want to work, study, learn, be taught, or assume any responsibility whatsoever. This is especially evident among husbands and wives, because husbands want to pass everything off on the wife: the wife is to educate the children, the wife is to do this, the wife is to do that, and, in some cases, even support the man.

I remember years ago reading an article about a house husband. I had never heard of such a thing, so I read the article. It was about a man who was staying home, keeping the house, and watching the children while his wife was out working, making the living for the family. I thought, "What in the world is going on?" God has created us so that we can lead and teach.

Let me show you a passage. Turn in your Bibles to 1 Corinthians chapter 14, and hold that passage because we will come back to another passage temporarily, very close to it, in just a short period of time. Notice verses 33 through 35: "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church."

What does the apostle say? "If they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home." What does that mean? It means the husband is to teach the wife and the children. It is his responsibility. He has to have the knowledge necessary to do the teaching, the leading, and the instructing. Today you have a whole generation of people, men particularly, who do not want to teach, who do not want to instruct, who do not want to work, and who do not want to be responsible. So we have a generation of emasculated men, men who turn out to be nothing more than drones.

Do you know what a drone is? A drone is the male that fertilizes the female bee. After he fertilizes her, he is useless, and they usually end up killing him or starving him to death. That is basically what we have today. Men think they are here to reproduce and nothing else. They are drones in an insect world, is what it amounts to. But the Bible tells us that God created man for dominion, and man can never be satisfied unless he is exercising dominion.

Now, that brings me to this point: man's fall was the result of attempting to establish an autonomous dominion over the earth. Go back in your Bibles to Genesis chapter 3. Every one of us understands the fall of Adam, but we have never really understood the impact and the implications of this fall. Remember now, God created Adam and Eve. He placed Adam in the garden, and He gave him work, knowledge, and responsibility. In Genesis chapter 3 we read about the fall. Look at verse 1.

"Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."

How are we to understand the fall of man? You cannot understand the fall without understanding that it was treasonous. It was treachery. Adam was actually a traitor. Look at Genesis 2:16: "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of

the garden thou mayest freely eat." The LORD commanded the man. He charged him, ordered him, appointed him, and put Adam under an oath.

Adam was created to be God's vicegerent, or vice president. God was the president, the creator, and the owner. God created man in order to exercise dominion and subdue that which God created as unto God, for God's honour and glory and for man's good.

Then the serpent tempts Adam and Eve, saying, "Ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, ye yourself will become a god. The serpent is advancing what is known as an open system. If you were to study Greek philosophy, you would understand the phrase "Aristotelian Auditorianism."

Aristotle taught that the universe was a great auditorium in which anything could happen. It was an open system. In other words, it might be possible for a mouse to mate with a lioness, or for corn to produce cotton. That is what an open system is. This is why scientists try to merge animals with animals and humans as well: they believe in an open system.

The Bible does not teach an open system. The Bible teaches a closed system. The only thing that can happen and come to pass in time and history is that which God has decreed and ordained from eternity. You have to work in light of a closed system.

I read some time ago about one scientist who had won far more awards than most scientists put together. When asked how it was possible that he had won so many awards, his answer was, “I’m a Christian.” He said, “I believe the Bible. I don’t waste my time trying to do that which I know cannot be done. I spend my time doing that which I know that God allows to be done.” That is the difference between a closed system and an open system.

So the serpent comes up to Adam and Eve and says, “Ye shall be as gods.” It is impossible for the creature to become the creator. But he said, “You will become gods. You don’t need God. You don’t need God’s law. You can put your own stamp on God’s creation. You can do whatever you want to do.” It is like the saying in witchcraft and in masonry: “As my will is, so must it be,” or, “So mote it be.”

In other words, Adam is trying to impose his will upon anything and anyone he chooses: as his will is, so must it be. He is trying to impose his will upon God's creation. But what happened? When Adam attempted to steal God's creation and impose his will upon it, he murdered himself, his family, and his posterity.

Romans 5:12 says, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." When did all men sin? All men sinned at one time in Adam. Death passed upon us because of our sin, and that sin came through Adam. Therefore Romans 5:14 says, "Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression." The very fact that men die demonstrates that we are sinners and that we were in Adam.

Whenever anyone tries to play God, all he can produce is death. Adam produced death. Consider the French Revolution. Look at Stalin, Mao Zedong, Pol Pot, Robert Mugabe, and Idi Amin. All of these men were tyrants who murdered their own people—thousands and millions—in order to produce their society. Their society was a society of death. Stalin had his utopia, and he murdered millions. A utopia is nothing more than an illusion in a deceived and rebellious brain. We hear of the socialist utopia and the communist utopia.

The word “utopia” is from the Greek and is made up of two words: “ou,” a negative, and “topos,” place. Utopia—ou-topos—means “no place.” Utopia does not exist. It is a figment of the imagination, something only in someone's mind; it is not reality. Thus, when you hear of a socialistic or communistic utopia, it is all insane. A mass murderer, a tyrant, is trying to create a society, but it turns out to be a society of death.

In Proverbs 8:35-36, Jesus Christ, who is wisdom personified, says: "Whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD. But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death." All those that hate the Lord Jesus Christ love death. Stop and think about this. There are different kinds of death. There is physical death, spiritual death, economic death, political death, familial death, and ecclesiastical death. There are all kinds of death. He said, "All they that hate me love death."

If you have never read George Orwell's book 1984, I would encourage you to do so. I would also encourage you to read Animal Farm. It is one of my favorite books. George Orwell saw what the world was without God and without God's law. In 1984 he wrote, "If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face—forever."

"All they that hate me love death." Fallen man and fallen government want power simply for power's sake. Fallen man always views himself as ultimate. He does not view God as ultimate; he views his law or his thoughts as ultimate. He does not view God's law or God's thoughts as ultimate. The issue is theonomy or autonomy. Theonomy: "theos" is the Greek word for God, and "nomos" is the Greek word for law. Theonomy means God's law. Autonomy: "autos" is the Greek word for self, and "nomos" is the Greek word for law. Autonomy means self-law.

It comes down to God's law or man's law, God's law or your law. This was the choice in the garden. Adam could follow God's law or his own law: "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, ye shall be as gods, knowing or determining good and evil for yourself." Make up your own law. Impose your will upon creation. We are either going to be ruled by God or ruled by man.

God created man for dominion. But man failed. Man sinned. Man rebelled. Christ, the last Adam and the second man, came to restore a godly people to exercise a godly dominion. In Psalm 69:4, referring to the Messiah, the scripture says, "Then I restored that which I took not away."

Christ, the Last Adam, Restores Godly Dominion

But I want you to look in 1 Corinthians chapter 15, beginning with verse 45: "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly."

Now, here is my question. In this text, Adam is called the first man, and Jesus Christ is called the second man. Jesus Christ is also called the last Adam. How can Jesus Christ be called the second man when we know that He was the eternal Son of God? He is the one who created the first Adam. How can He be called the second man?

The answer is very simple: Jesus Christ was the second man in time and in history to sustain a headship and a federal relationship with the people. Adam was our federal head and representative. What Adam did, we did. When he sinned, we sinned. When he fell, we fell. When he died, we died.

Now comes Jesus Christ. He is the second man in time and history to sustain this headship and federal relationship. So, in Jesus Christ, when He died, we died; when He was buried, we were buried; when He arose from the dead, we arose from the dead; and when He ascended, we ascended.

When he sat down at the right hand of God, so did we. Because he is our head, we are his body. The Bible tells us very clearly that we identified with Jesus Christ. He is the second man, but he is also called the last Adam. The reason he is called the last Adam is simple: he is the last individual who will sustain such a federal headship and representation with the people. If you are not saved by Jesus Christ, you will never be saved. There will never be another Savior, another Lord, another Redeemer, or anyone else who will sustain this federal headship and relationship. Jesus Christ alone is the last Adam, and he came to restore a godly people with a godly dominion.

The Bible says in 1 Peter 3:18, “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God.” What did Adam do when he sinned? He ran from God and hid himself. When Adam sinned, he was running as far and as fast as he could to get away from God. When Jesus Christ redeems us and brings us back to the Father, we bow before him. We want to confess our sins and acknowledge that we were the ones who rebelled against him, that we now love him and should serve him. Instead of running from him, we are running to him and coming boldly unto the throne of grace.

Jesus Christ came to restore a godly dominion to a godly people. The Bible says in Colossians 1:12-14, “Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.” We have been translated out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of his dear Son. Where the first Adam failed, the second man, the last Adam, succeeded. Where the first Adam rebelled, the last Adam, or the second man, came as a lamb. The first Adam was proud, rebellious, haughty, arrogant, and demanding. The second Adam, or the last man, came in meekness, willing to lay down his life for his people.

Have you ever wondered about Matthew 5:5, where our Lord says, "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth"? Have you ever really stopped to think about meekness? Matthew 21:5, speaking of Jesus Christ, says, "Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass." Jesus Christ came in meekness, sitting upon an ass and a colt, the foal of an ass.

Everyone knows who the meekest man in the Old Testament was. It was Moses. Numbers 12:3 says, "Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth." Moses was the meekest man in the Old Testament. The problem is that we tend to think meekness is mousiness: being a milquetoast man, letting everybody run over you, and letting everybody stomp their feet and clean their feet all over you. That is the world's idea of meekness, but it is the farthest thing from the truth when it comes to the Bible. In fact, the Hebrew word for meek literally means to be bowed down, tamed, oppressed, or broken as to yoke.

Meekness has reference unto God. The meek are those who have been tamed, those who have been broken to yoke. Do you remember what our Lord said in Matthew 11:29-30? "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Take my yoke upon you. The word meek has reference to being broken to yoke.

Everyone has seen Western pictures where the cowboy gets on the wild horse, and the horse bucks, kicks, and tries to throw the man off. But after the horse is broken, the man walks up, puts a bridle and saddle on him, and the horse does as he is commanded. The same is true of oxen. An ox is wild until he is broken to yoke. What is an ox?

Dominion and the Family

An ox is disciplined strength. It is strength controlled. What is the horse with a bridle? It is strength controlled. Meekness is nothing more than disciplined strength under Jesus Christ. We have been broken to yoke.

Moses was the meekest man in the Bible in the Old Testament. Do you remember this meek man who killed an Egyptian defending a fellow Hebrew? He confronted Pharaoh, the strongest power in the world in those days, pronounced all the plagues upon him, and watched Pharaoh and his entire army drown. He prayed when Dathan, Abiram, and Korah rebelled: "Lord, let a new thing open. Let the earth open up and swallow them alive. Let them go down to the pit alive." That was meekness.

Meekness is disciplined strength under God. In other words, meekness means you move when God says move. You do what God says to do. You are controlled by God and by his word. When you get home, read Hebrews 12:25-29, because there is going to come another shaking, and God is going to shake everything that cannot be moved. You had better make sure that you are broken to yoke and cannot be moved, for that passage concludes by saying, "our God is a consuming fire."

Jesus Christ came to restore a godly dominion to a godly people. Dominion is the function of the family as well as individuals. The family under God, in the role of man as the head of the household, is to function in the sphere of dominion, subduing and exercising dominion over the earth.

Dominion as a Function of the Family

Dominion clearly involves responsibility and authority. God has given a godly man responsibility and authority over the earth, but that responsibility and authority is a two-edged sword. We do not have the right to abuse, misuse, or destroy the earth or God's creation. On the other hand, he gives us full authority to exercise dominion under him and subdue it under him for his honour, his glory, and our good. We must subdue and exercise dominion in terms of God's law. Authority is delegated to the family by God so that we can exercise a godly dominion and rule in terms of God's law. We are free to use God's earth in accordance with his law, but we are bound not to abuse or misuse his earth.

When we think of the family, we normally think of procreation: here is a man and a woman who are married, and then children are born. The family cannot be understood just in terms of procreation, because God has given those children for a reason. You can go back and read Psalm 127. The Bible talks about children as arrows in the hand of a mighty man, and blessed is the man who has his quiver full of them. Have you ever stopped to think, what did you do with an arrow? You shoot it at your enemy. An arrow is to be shot at your enemy. An arrow can be used to subdue or exercise dominion in many different ways.

Remember when Rebecca went to become the wife of Isaac, and her family sent her away with blessings. They said, "May your children be those that sit in the gate." In the Bible, those in the Old Testament who sat in the gate were the rulers, the ones who had authority, power, and dominion. Here is what they wanted to give her as a blessing: they wanted her children to exercise power and dominion.

The family, then, is to have generational views. In other words, it is not just my wife and myself. It is my wife and I, my children, my grandchildren, my great-grandchildren, and my great-great-grandchildren. We are thinking about dominion and subduing, not just today, but in the future as well.

The family is involved in dominion. We talk about your home or your house, but there is another word used in legal terminology

concerning your house: domicile. Your domicile. The word "domi" actually means ruler, master. Your domicile is your kingdom. It is your territory. It is where you are master and where you are ruler. That is why we have always said a man's home is his castle, because he rules there.

Dominion, therefore, involves private property. In the Bible, property was always an aspect of the family; it was not an aspect of the state or of the federal government. Yet the federal government owns more property today than anybody else. There is nothing in the Constitution that says the federal government can own property, yet it owns most of the state of Nevada and some of the other states as well. Property was an aspect of the family.

One way to discipline a child in the Old Testament was to disinherit him. When disinherited, he was cut out of the property. Now, think about this: God is the transcendent owner of the entire earth. Moses told Pharaoh in Exodus 9:29, "As soon as I am gone out of the city, I will spread abroad my hands unto the LORD; and the thunder shall cease, neither shall there be any more hail; that thou mayest know how that the earth is the LORD's." Psalm 24:1 says, "The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." Who owns this earth? God does. That is one reason why I so despise and detest property taxes.

Property taxes are nothing more than the state—nothing more than man—stealing God's earth, claiming to own it, and forcing you by extortion to pay money or else confiscating it from you. May I remind you? That is what got Ahab killed. Ahab wanted Naboth's vineyard, and Jezebel said, "I'll give it to you." She had Naboth and his sons murdered. When Ahab went down to take possession, God sent Elijah, who said, "Hast thou killed, and also taken possession?" He continued, "Let me tell you something: in the very place that those dogs licked the blood of Naboth, they're going to lick your blood." Property belongs to God; it is given to man as a stewardship.

Interestingly, I read years ago that during the American War for Independence, the Americans tried to persuade the Canadians to fight with us against England. One argument was, "Well, the next thing you know, they'll even be trying to tax our property." Property tax is a rather recent intervention.

Eminent domain is just as unbiblical. In Ezekiel 46:16, God shows the distinction between the prince and the people: “Thus saith the Lord GOD; If the prince give a gift unto any of his sons, the inheritance thereof shall be his sons’; it shall be their possession by inheritance.” The prince can give of his inheritance to his sons, and it will be theirs permanently. Verse 17 says, “But if he give a gift of his inheritance to one of his servants, then it shall be his to the year of liberty; after it shall return to the prince: but his inheritance shall be his sons’ for them.” You give the sons an inheritance, and they keep it; you give it to a servant, and it has to come back in the year of jubilee.

Verse 18 continues: “Moreover the prince shall not take of the people’s inheritance by oppression, to thrust them out of their possession; but he shall give his sons inheritance out of his own possession: that my people be not scattered every man from his possession.” In other words, God says the prince can give away everything that he has, but he has no power to give away what you have. That is your inheritance, your stewardship, and your possession from the Lord.

When the government comes along and says, “We want your property,” and you answer, “I don’t want to sell it,” its reply may be, “That’s too bad. We’re going to take it. We’ll condemn it and take it.” That is theft. According to the Bible, they have no power or right to do that.

Consequently, we have today a displaced generation of Americans. This is not intended as a cutting, sarcastic, or critical statement; it is simply an observation. Do you realize that the most prominent home in which most Americans live today is a mobile home—with emphasis on mobile? A hundred years ago, probably less than that, men and women were born, lived, and died in the same house, in the same place where their father and grandfather had lived. There are

There are very few family farms left. There are very few family homesteads left. There are very few family ranches left. When you look at what was happening out west in the last several years, where they were trying to steal land that had been in the family for five, six, and seven generations, all I am saying is this: when you had a home

place, you were ready to fight for it. You were ready to die for it. Today, most people are not willing to fight. They are not willing to die for anything.

Because we have lost our roots, we have lost our home place. That is what it amounts to. Our family farms have been destroyed. I am simply pointing out the fact: possession of property is that which relates to the family, not the state, not the government, because it is an aspect of dominion, and you cannot exercise dominion without property.

God's Law as the Means of Dominion

God's law is the means of dominion. You cannot have a godly dominion without having a godly obedience. Joshua 1:1 says, "Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, Moses my servant is dead."

"Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest."

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid,

neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

Why was God going to be with Joshua? Because Joshua was not to turn from the left hand or the right hand from the word of God. God has called us to dominion. Fallen man has perverted dominion. Jesus Christ came to restore a godly dominion to a godly people. The way we are to exercise this dominion is in obedience to God's law. There cannot be a rebellious dominion without it producing death. Only a godly dominion brings forth life.

Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, we bow to thee. We thank you for your word and your truth. We pray that you'd make us dominion-oriented by being obedient to thy word and bringing our lives in the totality and conformity to it, acknowledging that Jesus Christ came to make us covenant keepers and not covenant breakers. In the name of Jesus Christ, we ask and pray. Amen.

CHAPTER 2

The Biblical Doctrine of Dominion

Part Two of Two

Introduction and Review of Part 1

Genesis chapter 1, verses 26 through 28: “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”

This is the second and last part of the biblical doctrine of dominion. The passage is referred to as the dominion mandate, the Dominion Charter, the Great Charter, or the Creation Mandate. One must believe something about the doctrine of dominion because the

word “dominion” itself occurs sixty-two times in the Bible. That does not count variations or other words that indicate and imply the same truth.

According to Genesis chapter 1, verses 26 through 28, we have been called to exercise dominion under God and to subdue the earth for His honor and glory. God alone has absolute dominion, absolute power, authority, and jurisdictions. There is a difference between the incommunicable attributes of God and the communicable attributes of God. Thankfully, dominion is one of those attributes that is communicable.

Any dominion, power, authority, or jurisdiction that anyone possesses is given only by delegation. Dominion is in God inherently; it is in us only by delegation. The Bible teaches that God created man for dominion, and man is dominion-oriented by nature and by calling. God made man to work, and He also showed him and allowed him to exercise knowledge and then responsibility. Without these three things, man cannot be man.

We also read about the fall in Genesis chapter 3, and how it involved treason and treachery. Adam was a traitorous individual because the Bible tells us in Genesis chapter 2 and verse 16 that God had placed Adam under a charge, or command, literally under oath. Adam sinned against God and fell, bringing death upon himself and his posterity. He wanted to recreate the world in his own image, place his will upon God's creation, play God, and steal God's creation. But all he did was bring death upon himself and his posterity.

All that fallen man can do without Jesus Christ is produce a society of death. Our Lord said in Proverbs 8 and verse 36, "All they that hate me love death." Dominion was the responsibility of the family as well as individuals. When God created Eve, He created her to be the help meet for Adam. If Adam was God's king, Eve would have been the queen or prime minister. Thus, the family was called to exercise dominion.

Jesus Christ is called the second man and the last Adam in 1 Corinthians chapter 15. He is the second man because He was the second man chronologically, in time and history, to sustain a federal

headship in relationship with the people. Adam was the first in time and history. When Adam sinned, we sinned; when Adam fell, we fell; when Adam died, we died. Likewise, in Christ, when Christ died, we died. When He was buried, we were buried. When He rose from the dead, we arose from the dead. When He ascended, we ascended. When He sat down on the right hand of God, we sat down with Him, according to the scripture. Jesus Christ is called the last Adam because there is never going to be another individual who will hold such a relationship. If you are not saved by Jesus Christ, you are never going to be saved, because there will never be another individual who will sustain such a relationship. Jesus Christ is Lord, King, the Messiah, and the Savior.

Now let me make a statement, and I'm going to repeat this several times before today is over. When one denies dominion, in reality he's denying the Lord Jesus Christ. He's not only denying Christ, he's also denying the work of Jesus Christ. I quoted a verse last week, Psalm 69 and verse 4. The latter part of that verse, and of course I showed how it applied and how it related to the Messiah. But in that verse, he said, "Then I restored that which I took not away."

You have to remember that when God created Adam, he created him with knowledge and original righteousness and holiness. We did not lose more in Adam than we got in Christ. We got far more in Christ than we ever had in Adam. So if you will turn very quickly in your Bibles to the book of Colossians chapter 3 and then Ephesians chapter 4. And let me read you two passages. Colossians chapter 3 and verse 10.

Christ's Restoration of Knowledge and Righteousness

I want you to see this. Remember now that Adam was created with original knowledge. The Bible tells us in the book of Colossians chapter 3 and verse 10, watch carefully: "And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him." So in Jesus Christ, we are renewed in the knowledge that was lost by Adam in the fall. So our Lord has restored the knowledge. Then if you will look in your Bibles to the book of Ephesians chapter 4, and notice if you would please verse 24. Ephesians 4 and verse 24. Here the Bible says this, Ephesians 4

verse 24: "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." So Jesus Christ restored that which he took not away. We now have a complete knowledge in the Word of God. We now have a perfect righteousness and a perfect holiness in Jesus Christ, which we did not have in Adam and which we cannot lose in Jesus Christ, which we did lose in Adam. Now, the Bible also tells us, very plainly, that

Jesus Christ has all power and dominion. In fact, He said in Matthew 28 and verse 18, "All power" or "all authority in heaven and earth is given unto me."

Christ's Supreme Dominion

Now, I want you to see a couple of passages. Since you are in Ephesians, look if you would please at Ephesians chapter 1. Just to show you that Jesus Christ has all authority, all power. Ephesians chapter 1, and let's begin reading there with verse 20. Watch carefully. Ephesians 1 verse 20: "Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far 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: and hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." Jesus Christ is far above all principality, power, might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come.

Colossians 1:14-18 speaks of Jesus Christ: "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature. For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: and he is before all things, and by him all things consist" or "have their being." He is the head of the body, the church, the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Jesus Christ is above every principality and power, for He created everything. The Creator is far greater than the creature. Anyone who despises and denies dominion also despises and denies Jesus Christ, because Jesus Christ is the victor and the conqueror.

Jude 8 speaks of certain individuals: "Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities." Dominion there relates to government, power, authority, and lordship. Jesus Christ is called Lord in the New Testament 747 times. Anyone who despises dominion despises lordship and therefore despises Jesus Christ, for He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Second Peter 2:10 says, "But chiefly them that walk after the flesh, in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous"

Denying Dominion is Denying Christ

“Are they self-willed? They are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.” Now, the word “government” in 2 Peter 2:10 is exactly the same word used in Jude 8. So when you despise dominion, you despise government. How, then, can I say that if you despise it, you are despising Jesus Christ? We will look at that a little later, but may I remind you that Isaiah 9:6–7 says, “The government shall be upon His shoulder.” Jesus Christ is Lord of Lords. He is the possessor of all dominion, all jurisdiction, and all power, and the government is upon His shoulder.

Most of you have been around churches, preachers, and Christians long enough that you have probably heard someone say, “We need to reach more people for Jesus Christ,” or, “We really need to extend the kingdom of God.” How about these statements: “We need for the men to be the heads of their homes”; “We need to bring our children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord”; “We need to proclaim the gospel to the whole world”? Each of those statements is an expression of dominion. Each one. What we are trying to do when we use those expressions is to dominate, to exercise biblical dominion. Man by nature is dominion-oriented, and it is normal and natural to seek such dominion.

Have you ever considered the fact that the book of Judges is a book of war? Do you realize what happens in war? Someone is trying

to dominate someone else; someone is trying to subjugate someone else. In the wars of Canaan, when the Israelites went in, they were seeking to dominate the Hittites, the Hivites, the Jebusites, the Philistines, and every other people who were there. Unhappily, fallen man seeks to wage war simply to dominate and subjugate other people, making them act and do as we think they ought to act and do.

Of course, sometimes confiscation, extortion, and theft are involved as well. It is like our pulling troops out of Syria while leaving some for the oil fields there. What does that mean? It means we want the oil. Usually, war involves not only seeking to dominate someone, but also seeking to take a product that they possess and that we do not have to buy, or at least to abide on our terms and not theirs. Fallen man today actually seeks to play God and to dominate people—to dominate men.

If you have never read the book The Secret Six by Otto Scott, I would encourage you to do so. It concerns a group of Unitarians who got together to foment the war of Northern Aggression, known as the War Between the States. They wanted to impose their will and their way upon mankind and the world, remaking everything according to how they thought it should be made.

Incidentally, that is exactly what you have in the ruling elite today. They are saying, "They should act the way we think they should act. They should do what we think they should do. They should believe what we think they should believe." Fallen man then seeks to play God, and the proof he has to himself is that he is God: he makes you do what he wants.

Usually, that is what war is all about. Now, dominion is used in different ways in the Bible. The word "dominion" sometimes refers to geographical locations, like a king's dominion. Sometimes it deals with people being subservient, subjugated, or ruled over. Let me give you some Scriptures and read some of these, to save time, because I have a lot that I want you to look at in the Bible today as well.

Dominion in the Old Testament

But Darius, in Daniel chapter 6 and verse 26, said this: "Make a decree, that in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end." Darius made a decree that in his dominion, in his kingdom, everybody in the geographical area he ruled over had to honor the God of Daniel. The unsaved are interested in dominion as well.

Jacob had stolen the blessing from his father, although the blessing went with the birthright. Esau had already sold him the birthright, but Jacob had stolen the blessing. When Esau learned that Jacob had received it, he wept and lamented and asked Jacob to bless him. Genesis chapter 27, verses 38 through 40, says: "And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? bless me, even me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept. And Isaac his father answered and said unto him, Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above; and by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck."

Isaac had given Jacob dominion, and Esau would serve him until he broke that yoke from his neck. Esau would therefore continually seek to subjugate Jacob. It is a war; it is a fight.

Everybody knows about Joseph and his dreams. In Genesis 37, verses 5 through 10: "And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf. And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words. And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father

rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?"

It came to pass. Joseph was in dominion, and they did bow to him because he was second in Egypt. But here is dominion: it is not necessarily referring to a geographical area. It is referring to real subjugation.

Even the wicked, as I pointed out before, are interested in dominion. In Judges chapter 14 and verse 4, God was seeking opportunity against the Philistines, and the Bible says concerning Samson's father and mother: "But his father and his mother knew not that it was of the LORD, that he sought an occasion against the Philistines: for at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel." What does it mean when it says the Philistines had dominion?

It means that they were exercising power, subjugating the Israelites, taxing them, taking from them, and ruling over them. In 1 Kings 4, concerning Solomon, the last verse says, “For he had dominion over all the region on this side the river, from Tiphsah even to Azzah, over all the kings on this side the river: and he had peace on all sides round about him.” Here is a geographical area over which Solomon had dominion. The same thing is said of Hezekiah in 2 Kings 20 and of every king in his dominion, rule, reign, and power.

Although we have been talking about dominion generally, I want you to understand that dominion is an attribute of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is why, if you deny dominion, in reality you are denying the Lord Jesus Christ.

Go back in your Bible to Numbers chapter 24. In this passage Balaam is prophesying concerning Jesus Christ. Notice Numbers 24, beginning with verse 15: “And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said: He hath said, which heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open.” Now here is the vision: “I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh.”

There shall come a Star out of Jacob—we're talking about Jesus Christ—and a Sceptre—that is, a rule—shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth. And Edom shall be a possession, Seir also shall be a possession for his enemies; and Israel shall do valiantly. Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion, and shall destroy him that remaineth of the city.

He is talking about the star of Jacob, the scepter, and he that shall have dominion. If you follow this through the Bible, the scepter speaks of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the Bright and Morning Star. Dominion is an attribute of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the conqueror.

Psalm 72 was written by David in reference to Solomon his son. But in Psalm 72, as well as in other passages in the Bible, you have what is known as prophetic telescoping. Prophetic telescoping simply means that you are looking through your telescope and, although you see Solomon, beyond Solomon you see the Lord Jesus Christ. Our Lord said, "Behold, a greater than Solomon is here." Although initially this passage might be talking about Solomon, in reality it is talking about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalm 72 verse 1: "Give the king thy judgments, O God, and thy righteousness unto the king's son. He shall judge thy people with righteousness, and thy poor with judgment. The mountains shall bring peace to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness. He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor. They shall fear thee as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations."

That is not just Solomon. "He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass: as showers that water the earth. In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth." That is Jesus Christ. "He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth." That is Jesus Christ. "They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him."

"And his enemies shall lick the dust." That's Jesus Christ. "The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of

Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts. Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him." Of course, that refers to the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Psalm 145, verse 13, we read: "Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations." There never was a time when our Lord did not have dominion, and there never will be a time when he does not have dominion.

Now I want you to turn to the book of Zechariah, chapter 9, next to Malachi, the next-to-last book in the Old Testament. Look at verses 9 and 10. I quoted this passage last week from the New Testament, where it was applied to Jesus Christ. So watch it now: "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass. And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth."

Christ's Dominion in the New Testament

So that prophecy in Psalm 72 is exactly the same prophecy in Zechariah 9, verses 9 and 10, and it refers to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, skipping Ephesians 1 and Colossians 1 since we read them earlier, turn to 1 Peter, chapter 4. I am just trying to show you how Jesus Christ has the attribute of dominion. In 1 Peter 4, verse 11, we read: "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

Then, in 1 Peter, chapter 5, verses 10 and 11: "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.

Amen." Then if you would turn to Revelation chapter 1. Revelation chapter 1, look at verses 5 and 6. Revelation 1 verses 5 and 6: "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the

first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever." Then if you would turn, since we're in Revelation, to Revelation chapter 6 and then find Revelation chapter 19. I'll show you the two verses here. Notice if you would Revelation chapter 6, verses 1 and 2: "And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer." Now you're going to read some commentators and they're going to say that this is the Antichrist. No, this is Jesus Christ.

He's seated on a white horse. He has the crown. He's going forth conquering and to conquer. Why? Look in Revelation chapter 19 and let's begin reading there with verse 11. You have to remember the scriptures are consistent. And so in Revelation 19 verse 11: "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True"—that's Jesus Christ.

"And in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God." So if Christ is on the white horse in Revelation 19, he's also on the white horse in Revelation chapter 6.

Now, I want you to go back in your Bibles to Isaiah chapter 9. I referred to this a little earlier. I want to show it to you now. Because I told you that there were some that despise dominion, that is they despise government, they despise power, they despise jurisdiction. And I said to despise dominion is to despise Jesus Christ. So in Isaiah chapter 9, look at verse 6 and 7. Isaiah 9 verse 6. These verses are very common this

Around Christmas, everybody likes to quote these passages: “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.” The child was born, but the son was given. The Son existed before His birth. The child was born—Jesus Christ assumed that body in Mary—but the Son was

given. So watch carefully: “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and”

“The government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” That’s Jesus Christ. “Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”

The Bible tells us that the government shall be upon his shoulder, and that of the increase of his government there shall be no end. The word “government” here in the Hebrew is the word “misrah.” It is translated as “government,” but it is also translated as “rule” and “dominion.” It is from the root word “sarar,” which means to prevail and have dominion. Jesus Christ is the one who has prevailed, and he has dominion. He is the victor. He is the conqueror. That’s why in Psalm 2 the Scripture says that all who will not bow to him shall be destroyed.

You remember that passage when he is talking to the kings and says, “Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little.” And when you get to Philippians chapter 2, the Bible says that every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. That could not happen unless Jesus Christ had absolute and total dominion. If you deny dominion, you are denying the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dominion is our responsibility under Jesus Christ, and it is given to us as we obey Him. You remember 1 Peter 3 and verse 18, where the Bible says that Jesus Christ died, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us back to God. In Adam, we are running from God as fast and as furiously as we can run away. But in Jesus Christ, he brings us back to the Father.

Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 teach us that as long as we obey him, God is going to make us the head and not the tail.

The Great Commission as Dominion Mandate

Jesus Christ has all dominion, and that dominion is our responsibility under Christ. It is given to us as we obey Him. Matthew 28:18 says, "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Everybody recognizes this as the Great Commission. But have you ever considered that the commands to baptize and disciple follow His declaration that all power in heaven and earth is given unto Him? The word "power" there literally means authority, jurisdiction, and dominion. Everything has been given to Jesus Christ.

What He is saying is this: "I have conquered. I have all power. I have all authority. I have all jurisdiction. I have all dominion. Now, you go in My name and in My power, do as I tell you, and conquer for Me." The Great Commission is an application of the Dominion Mandate.

If one does not believe in dominion, then he really does not believe in preaching and teaching. If one does not believe in dominion, then he really does not believe in missionary activity. What is the purpose of preaching? What is the preacher trying to do when he preaches? What I am trying to do, and what every real preacher is trying to do, is to conquer for Jesus Christ and bring people into subjection to Jesus Christ—not merely baptizing them, but teaching them to observe all things that He has commanded us.

You cannot preach without an aspect of dominion. You cannot teach without an aspect of dominion. Without dominion, there is no missionary activity. Why would you go? Our Lord is saying, "You can go, but you must go in My name and in My power." It is impossible to have preaching, teaching, and missionary activity without dominion. Victory is given to us as we obey.

Now, I know this just as surely as Jesus Christ is on the throne: the preaching of His Word is going to succeed. What did our Lord say? "My word shall not return unto me void." It will accomplish that

whereunto He purposes and that whereunto He sends it. It may be for reconciliation, or it may be for condemnation, but it is not going to fail. So the Great Commission is an aspect of the Dominion Mandate.

I want you to understand this about dominion: dominion does not disappear when someone denounces it, denies it, and disbelieves it. It is simply transferred to someone else. Let me make a statement, and I am going to explain it.

The Transfer of Dominion to the Ungodly

The truth is that Neoplatonism—that is, the teaching of Plato—dualism, and Greek philosophy in general have captivated not only Christians but churches. Plato and some of the others taught dualism, which puts a distinction between matter and spirit. Dualism says that all matter is inherently evil. That is why some of the Docetic Gnostics denied the physical body of Jesus Christ. The word "Docetic" is from the Greek word "dokeo," which means to appear. They were saying that Jesus Christ was nothing more than an apparition. He was a mirage. He was not real, because they believed matter was inherently evil and God could not have a physical body, for then God would be captivated in evil.

We may not be Docetic Gnostics, but most people are dualists. They have associated matter with that which is evil and, consequently, spirit with that which is good. When it comes to practical matters relating to this earth, the dualists say, "The earth is the devil's sphere. It is the devil's playground. It is the devil's realm. We want nothing to do with it."

You may not hear somebody come out and say it in those words, but you will hear them say, "Politics is dirty business. Christians ought not to be involved in it. Just stay away from anything political. You don't polish brass on a sinking ship." I know you have heard that.

When you think that matter is inherently evil—by the way, did not God create the earth and everything made out of matter, and did the Bible not say that He beheld it and it was good?—when you begin to separate matter and spirit, you produce pietism. Pietism emphasizes

the spirit and totally ignores anything material, sometimes even your body. Listen carefully.

That is where you get into asceticism, monasticism, and withdrawing from society in general. In other words, when you withdraw from society, you are not trying to recapture, reconstruct, or rebuild. You are just saying, "I'm backing away. I'm saving myself. I don't care about the rest of them. Let them go to hell." That's what you are saying. The problem with pietists is this: they become so heavenly minded, they are no earthly good to anybody, not even themselves. Pietism then always leads to overthrow from society.

So here is the question: Since Christians in general have denied, denounced, and disbelieved dominion, where has it gone?

It has not disappeared. In one sense, you could say it has disappeared out of the hands of Christians and gone into the hands of the ungodly and the wicked. This is one of the reasons that the wicked today are in control of everything. They are in control of government. We complain about the wicked, wretched laws and the wicked, wretched politicians that we have, and we have plenty of them. But where in the world did they come from, and how did they get there?

The wicked are in charge of government and economics. Why do we not have silver and gold like the Bible commands and like the Constitution demands? Because the wicked are in control. What about education? Some of the things they are teaching kindergarteners, first, second, and third graders are absolutely unbelievable. Some things I could not and would not even say in mixed company. It is not just transgenderism; it is all types of perverted sex being taught to second- and third-graders, and sometimes kindergartners. Why? The wicked are in charge of education.

Look at medicine, law, morals, family values, the judicial system, and even religion. We have been good little pietists, withdrawn, and simply handed over the world and everything in it to the ungodly. We are in the mess today because of that. Dominion does not exist in a vacuum. If the godly do not exercise it, the ungodly will. If the righteous do not exercise it, the wicked will. When dominion is

denied, disbelieved, and denounced, it negates every sphere of life and consigns every sphere of life to be manipulated and controlled by the ungodly.

Dominion in Personal, Family, and Church Life

When we think about dominion, do we realize that its most basic and fundamental aspect is learning to control ourselves—our emotions, our thoughts, and our desires? We need to dominate and subjugate everything and bring it into conformity to the Word of God. It is just that simple. On its lowest possible plane, dominion does indeed affect us. Unhappily, emotions control most people. Feelings control most people instead of biblical principles and biblical truth.

The second thing is this: our homes and our families must also be foundational and fundamental. We have to understand that God ordained the father and the husband to be the head of the house. Every godly father and every godly husband wants to be the head of his house under God, and to rule for God.

Look at Genesis 3:16. Eve had sinned, and God was pronouncing a curse upon her because of her sin. The Scripture says, "Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee." Notice the words, "and he shall rule over thee." The woman who led in rebellion against God was subjected to her husband, and the husband was to rule over her. The Hebrew word for "rule" is mashal. It literally means to rule, to reign, to govern, and to exercise dominion.

It is natural and normal for a godly man to want to be the head of his house, to lead his wife, teach his children, and exercise dominion in his home. But what happens when a man will not exercise biblical dominion in his home? Dominion does not disappear. If the man refuses to exercise it, dominion will be transferred to the wife. The woman will end up ruling. That is why, in today's times, there are matriarchal societies where the woman is in control. I am not being ugly when I say this, but if you look at the majority of black families—I know there are exceptions, but I am talking about overall—when you look at the majority of black families in our day

and time, if you want anything done, you go to the woman, the mother, or the wife.

Usually, it is the wife who holds the children and household together. It was that way when I was a boy, and it is that way today. I know there are exceptions. I have seen some black men who are very obviously the heads of their houses. But generally speaking, when a man refuses to be the head, a matriarchal society results. The same is true in white families: when the man refuses to be the head, responsibility usually falls to the wife.

What happens if the wife says, "You are not pushing this off on me. I do not want it, and I am not going to run this family"? The children will. Somebody is going to run that family. If there are no children, it might be the family dog, but somebody will run it. Dominion does not disappear; it is simply transferred to someone else. The same principle applies in the church.

I preached a number of years back a number of messages on the pastor and the people. Most pastors today are nothing more than CEOs of an organization. They are not really pastors. A real pastor, according to Scripture, is an under-shepherd under the Lord Jesus Christ, the overseer of that local church. He sees over it; he is, basically speaking, the one in control, and he does the teaching.

In some churches there is a plurality of elders. I understand that. Still, inevitably, someone has to have the last and final say. When a pastor is not an under-shepherd, is not an overseer, and is not doing the teaching he should be doing, what happens? That dominion is transferred to someone else, usually the deacons. If you look at the average Southern Baptist Church, who runs it? Deacons, or women, or one or two families that have been there for forty years: "This is our church. We started it." Inevitably, there is always going to be a Diotrephes, mentioned in 3 John, who thinks he has the right to kick everybody out and do as he sees fit.

Dominion does not disappear. It cannot disappear. It is simply transferred to someone else. The same thing is true in relation to our civil government. Whenever we take the attitude, "All politics is dirty, and we do not get involved. We do not get our hands dirty," all we are doing is saying, "Wicked, you have it. You can have it. Do

what you want to do. We do not care." That is exactly where we are today. We have forfeited dominion to the wicked.

We fail to believe Matthew 28:18. We fail to believe Philippians 2:5–11. Some people say, "I just do not believe in dominion." I have news for you: you do believe in it. You may not admit it, but you do. Do you believe you are a sinner? Do you believe you are going to die? Do you believe you are going to be judged? Our Lord talked about the dominion of government in Matthew 20, the dominion of death in Romans 6:19, the dominion of sin in Romans 6:14, and the dominion of the law in Romans 7:7. So, just as surely as I am here, you are a sinner, you will die, and

You will be judged because there is the dominion of sin, the dominion of death, and the dominion of the law. And there is the dominion of God's government. He is in charge, and He rules. So obviously, you can deny it all you want to, but you are going to die. Deny sin, deny death, but you will die.

Now dominion also can be viewed from two different perspectives. It can be viewed from those who are exercising dominion and from those who are being subjugated by dominion. I want you to turn in your Bibles to the book of Deuteronomy 28. I want to read verses 43 through 48. I've already pointed out that God is promising us dominion as long as we obey Him. The passage that I'm reading from involves the curses of the law when we fail to obey God. So watch carefully.

Obedience and the Choice Between Head and Tail

Deuteronomy 28, beginning there with verse 43: "The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low." You look at who's in charge in our government and everything else. It's not Christians, and a lot of times it's not even Americans. He says, "He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail."

Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee. And

they shall be upon thee for a sign and for a wonder, and upon thy seed for ever. Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things; therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee." So the truth is, we can

Either we can be the head or we can be the tail. We can either obey or disobey. We are either going to be exercising dominion or be dominated and subjugated. The way to exercise dominion is through obedience.

All fleshly, false, and wicked humanistic dominion shall ultimately be destroyed. The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. Oftentimes we think He is not doing that quickly enough, and we desire to help Him, but the truth is that He is subjugating them in His own time. The Bible says plainly in Philippians chapter 3 and verse 21, “He is able to subdue all things unto himself.”

The Ultimate Destruction of False Dominion

When Egypt fell, the world did not stop. When Babylon fell, the world did not stop. When Greece fell, the world did not stop. When Jerusalem fell, the world did not stop. When Rome fell, the world did not stop. When the Soviet Union fell, the world did not stop. When the United States falls, the world will not stop. Jesus Christ will still be the great King over all the earth, and His kingdom will continue to grow in prominence and power. Destroying pretenders to His throne is a fundamental process of His inexorable global conquest.

Slowly but surely, Jesus Christ will bring down every contender and pretender. That is why the Bible says in the book of Revelation, “The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ.” Jesus Christ has absolute dominion, and He gives us that dominion as we obey Him. The wicked may be exercising some dominion now, but they shall ultimately fall and be destroyed. If we want power, we must learn to obey and bring our lives into conformity to the Word of God.

Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, we bow to Thee this day. We thank You for Your truth and Your Word. We thank You, heavenly Father, for the Lord Jesus Christ, who has all power and all authority in heaven and in earth. Help us to be obedient. Help us to honor Thee and glorify Thee. In the name of Jesus Christ, we ask and pray. Amen.

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