

Biblical Authority

Pleasing God

Lesson 1: God's Right of Authority

Biblical Authority

Increment	Currency	\$ Value
10	Indian Rupees	0.22
1,000	Japanese Yen	12.12
10,000	S. Korean Won	8.82
50,000	(Old) Italian Lira	34.66
10,000,000	(Old) Turkish Lira	6.77
500	Czech Koruna	26.82
1,000	Icelandic Krona	8.71
10	Euro	13.42
1,000,000	Dollars (?)	0.00

2

Lesson 1: God's Right of Authority

Question 1: How would you define authority? How does one act who has authority, or how do you know they are in authority?

“To have authority is to have the right to make statements and demands, and to act, by personal right, and without consulting anyone or anything thing.” (Barclay)

- Jesus cleanses the temple (John 2)
- Heals the sick (Matt 21)
- Forgives sins (Mark 2)
- Raises the dead (John 11)

3

Biblical Authority

Who has “authority” in religion?

Judges 17:6 *In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*

“When a man's own will, passions, and caprice, are to be made the rule of law, society is in a most perilous and ruinous state. Civil government is of God; and without it the earth must soon be desolated.” (Clarke)

4

Biblical Authority

Who has “authority” in religion?

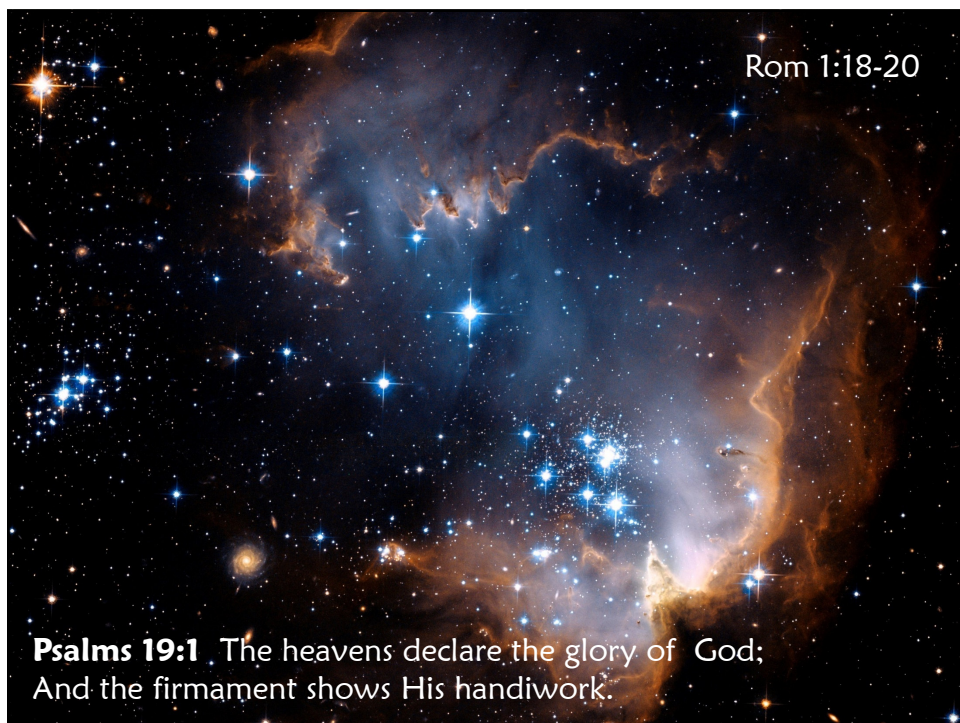
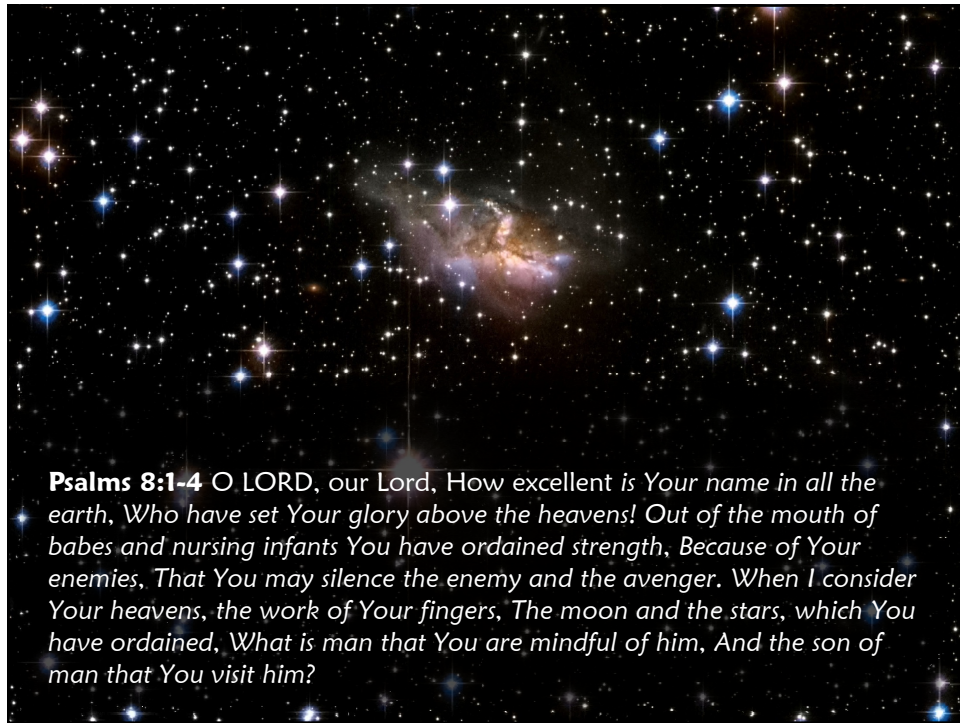
- God has ultimate authority (Exo 3:14)
- He gave Jesus authority (Matt 28:18-20)
- Apostles were delegated authority (Matt 18:18)
- Elders have limited authority in local congregations (Heb 13:17)

5

“And God
said....”



Gen 2:4-7



Biblical Authority

God has shown He has all authority in demonstrating His control over everything

- **Gen 18-19:** Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah
- **Book of Jonah:** How does God show the extent of His authority?
 - *Nations- Israel and Nineveh*
 - *Animal world*
 - *Plants*
 - *Weather*
 - *Oceans/Seas*
 - *Power to forgive*

9

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Question 2: Why is it important to have authority for the things we do in our worship? Do we need to have authority to do things outside of our worship?

Lev 10:1-2 Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. (2) So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.

Gal 5:19-24 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

10

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Question 3: Why do you think some people today resent the fact that God has authority over them?

2 Tim 4:3-5 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; (4) and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. (5) But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

See also Eph 4:13-15

People don't want to give up their lifestyle and their freedom. They either admit that they will not worship and serve God or they will convince themselves (with "authoritative" teachers) that they are obeying God.

How do people deny God's authority?

11

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Question 4: How can we be guilty of doing "what is right in our own eyes"? What does God warn about this?

By doing our own will and not earnestly searching through God's written word for His direction

Deut 12:8 "You shall not at all do as we are doing here today—every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes—

Prov 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

2 Tim 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, (17) that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

12

Lesson 1: God's Right of Authority

Question 6: What does **Romans 9:20-21** show about the relationship between God and man?

Context: Paul was explaining God's plan of rejecting the Jew's because they rejected Him (Rom 9-11).

- What right do the Jews have in questioning God's sovereign actions?
- God created man and has the absolute right (authority) to govern man as He sees fit. He also has the authority to judge and destroy mankind through this same right.

Job 38:4 "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

13

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God demonstrates His authority by providing all spiritual blessings (Eph 1:3-14)

- Verse 3: Blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the Heavenly places
- Verse 4: Chose us.... should be holy and without blame
- Verse 5: adopted as His own children
- Verse 7: have redemption and forgiveness of sins
- Verse 11, 14: have an inheritance

14

Lesson 1: God's Right of Authority

Question 7: List some spiritual blessings that God provides to His children. How does this show this authority over man?

- Salvation
- Forgiveness of sins
- Peace (with God and with man)
- Spiritual family (church)
- Revealed written Word
- Communication through prayer

Mar 2:7 "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

15

Biblical Authority

A yearning to Please God

This is actually the aim of our class. Seeking to please God will help resolve so many issues on Biblical authority.

Gal 1:10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

16

Lesson 1: God's Right of Authority

Question 5: What is the correlation between our "pleasing God" and "recognizing His ultimate authority"?

2 Cor 5:9-10 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. (10) For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

- If we seek to please God, we will put Him first in our lives
- Wanting to please God actually recognizes He has authority over us; not wanting to please Him shows our indifference to His authority.

17

Biblical Authority

Next Week: God's Perfect Judgment

Amos 7:8 "Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of My people Israel; I will not pass by them anymore."

18