

Biblical Authority

Pleasing God

Lesson 2: God's Perfect Judgment

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)

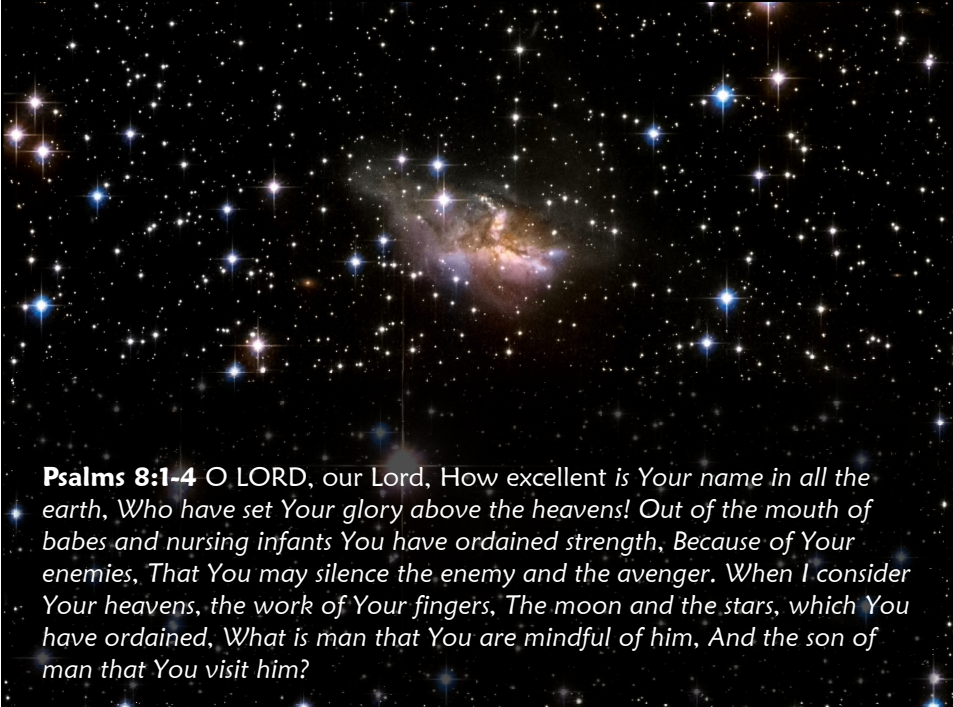
“To have authority is to have the right to make statements and demands, and to act, by personal right, and without consulting anyone or anything thing.” (Barclay)

“And God said....”



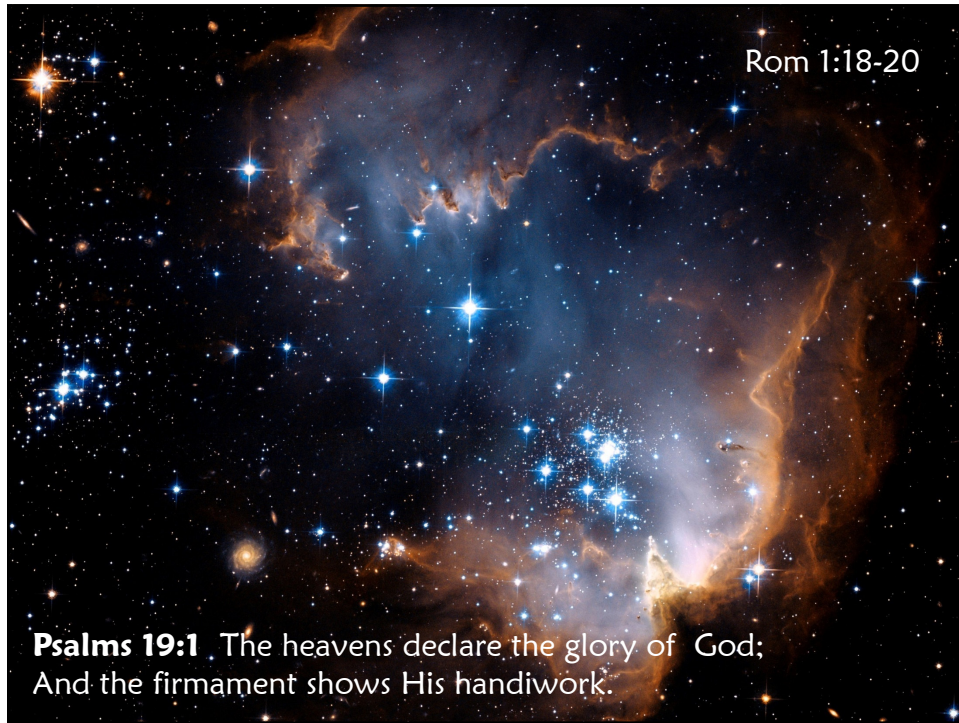
Gen 2:4-7

The slide features a central text box with the quote "And God said....". To the right of the text is a photograph of a praying mantis on a twig. Below the text is a photograph of a large, segmented brown caterpillar on a branch. To the left of the caterpillar is a photograph of a red, worm-like creature with a mouth full of sharp teeth and long antennae.



Psalms 8:1-4 O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens! Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger. When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?

The slide shows a vast field of stars in a dark night sky, with a prominent galaxy or nebula in the center. The text is positioned at the bottom of the image.



Biblical Authority

- God has the right to judge

2 Peter 3:3-9 “Where is the promise of His coming?”

- *God destroyed the world by a flood*
- *Time is irrelevant to God*
- *God wants all to repent*

2 Peter 3:10-13 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. (11) Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, (12) looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? (13) Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

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Biblical Authority

- God's judgment is real

Hebrews 10:28-31 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. (29) Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? (30) For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE." (31) **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

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Lesson 2: God's Perfect Judgment

Question 1: Is there always an immediate consequence of disobeying God?

Although there is not always an immediate consequence for disobeying God, living an ungodly life has life-long effects.

Because God doesn't punish immediately, judgment may not seem real or even relevant in our lives.

How can we allow ourselves "to be judged" through our daily actions?

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Biblical Authority

- God's judgment is according to Truth

Amos 7:7-8 Thus He showed me: Behold, the Lord stood on a wall made with a plumb line, with a plumb line in His hand. (8) And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said: "Behold, I am setting a plumb line In the midst of My people Israel; I will not pass by them anymore.

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Lesson 2: God's Perfect Judgment

Question 2: How does Romans 7:7 fit into a study of God's authority?

Rom 7:7 What shall we say then? *Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET."*

- God provides guidance that does not always make sense to man
- Since we will be judged according to God's ways, we must diligently search the mind of God (scriptures).

Isa 55:8-9 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. (9) "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

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Lesson 2: God's Perfect Judgment

Question 3: Are we responsible to make spiritual judgments in this life? Are we supposed to decide who we feel is in a right relationship with God? What is the difference between our judgment and God's ultimate judgment?

Yes, we are responsible to make judgments with whom we and our children should associate. In doing this, we are making decisions about their relationship with God.

Man makes imperfect judgments based upon our limited knowledge and limited ability to discern situations. God's judgments are true and perfect.

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Lesson 2: God's Perfect Judgment

Question 4: What reason did the Apostle Paul provide to the Galatians for the establishment of the Old Law (Gal 3:19)?

Gal 3:19 *What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.*

It was added because of transgressions. God knows man's shortfalls. The Old Law was established to show man just how far he drifted from God's commands.

The first step in obtaining a right relationship with God is to recognize our sin by comparing our actions to the perfect standard in which we will be judged.

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Biblical Authority

- Pleasing God means obeying Him

2 Corinthians 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.

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Lesson 2: God's Perfect Judgment

Question 5: Is the act of being religious enough to be acceptable to God (Matt 7:21-23)?

Mat 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. (22) Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' (23) And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

No. The scriptures are saturated with examples of religious individuals (and groups of individuals) that are not in a right relationship with God (Cain, Balaam, Saul, Pharisees, seven churches of Asia, etc.).

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Question 6: Some do not fear God's presence. From Amos 5:18-19, when should we fear?

Amo 5:18-19 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! For what good is the day of the LORD to you? It will be darkness, and not light. (19) It will be as though a man fled from a lion, And a bear met him! Or as though he went into the house, Leaned his hand on the wall, And a serpent bit him!

We should fear God (in reverence) and be ready to meet our Creator at all times. To be ready means that we remain faithful. The context of Amos' message is that some were wanting to be in God's presence but didn't know God was displeased with them. How can we know?

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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.

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Biblical Authority

Next Week: Jesus' Authority

John 5:30 I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

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