

Chapter 5: Dominion Lost, Dominion Gained

Even most Christians don't seem to understand the concept of **dominion**. God gave humanity dominion over the earth and it has far-reaching ramifications.

- *Then God said, "Let Us make man⁽¹⁾ in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have **dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (Genesis 1:26)*

So what is this thing called dominion?

- *Strong's Hebrew Dictionary gives the following definition:*
 - *H7287 רָדָה rādâh raw-daw' A primitive root; to tread down, that is, subjugate; specifically to crumble off:—(come to, make to) have dominion, prevail against, **reign**, (bear, make to) **rule**, (-r, over)*
 - Note (1): "Man" in this passage is the Hebrew word H120 אָדָם 'âdâm aw-dawm' a human being (an individual or the species, *mankind*, etc. It does not refer to males to the exclusion of females.

Dominion was **not** a **trivial** thing to God. In effect, God was saying "Here is what I created. Now I give you **full charge** over it. I will not interfere. You are master of your destiny, not Me."

- This means that **God is not responsible** for what goes on here on earth – we are.

However, God did give us **one rule**:

- *"Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but **of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat**, for in the day that you eat of it **you shall surely die.**" (Genesis 2:15-17)*

Then along came the **serpent, Satan**, to **tempt** Adam and Eve to **eat** of that tree through his lies and deceit.

- *"Now the serpent was more **cunning** than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, **she took of its fruit and ate**. She also gave to her husband with her, and **he ate.**" (Genesis 3:1-6)*

This resulted in **banishment** from the Garden of Eden and brought the **penalty of death** to all of humanity. In addition, God **cursed** Satan, the world, men and women as we discussed in Chapter 2.

- But that's not all that happened in this first encounter between the devil, Satan, and humanity.
 - Adam and Eve **forfeited** their rights of **dominion** to Satan who became the "god of this age" (2Corinthians 4:4) and the "prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 4:2).
- Satan, as the "god of this age" now has **dominion** – i.e. the right to rule – over the earth. It is Satan (and us) who create all the problems in the world, not God.

When Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He not only brought us the gift of eternal life, He also took back dominion from Satan, as represented by "keys":

- *I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of **Hades and of Death**.* (Revelation 1:18)
- *Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them* (Colossians 2:15)

However, He won't exercise His dominion fully until He returns again to earth to rule and reign. But for now, those who are "born again" into Christ Jesus (see Chapter 7) receive back **personal dominion** – i.e. only over their own lives:

- *And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, **I give you the authority** (i.e. dominion) **to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.**" (Luke 10:18-10)*
- *Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)*
- *Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser (i.e. Satan) of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. (Revelation 12:10-11)*

Ultimately, Jesus will return a second time, taking back **full dominion** and restoring everything to what God the Father originally intended:

- *Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." (Revelation 21:5)*
- *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. (Revelation 21:11)*