BIBLE STUDY SERIES

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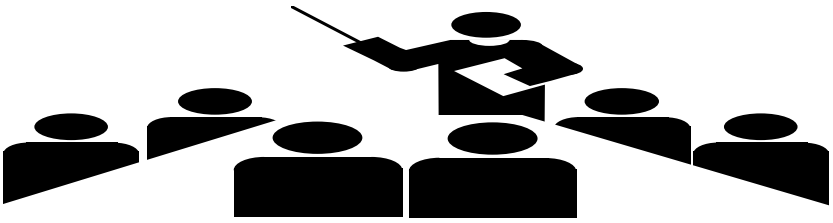

Spiritual Authority

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BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Rev. Dr. Darryl B. Starnes, Instructor

SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

Lesson # 1: The Origin of Human Rebellion

Scripture Lesson: Genesis 2:8-9, 15-17; 3:1-24

PROPOSITION: **Because absolute authority belongs to God and all other authority is subordinate to His and delegated from Him, the power to rightfully act, own or control comes from God.**

DEFINITION: Authority (exousia) is the rightful power to act, own or control.

I. God creates an environment in which man has a choice. (Genesis 2: 8-9)

A. The Tree of Life.
B. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

II. God commands Adam not to eat from the second tree. (Genesis 2:15-17)

A. Why is the second tree forbidden?
B. Why does eating of it result in death?

III. Satan challenges God's authority. (Genesis 3:1-5)

A. First, he makes us question what God has said.
B. Then he makes us question the truthfulness or reliability of what God has said.
C. Next, he makes us question God's right to command us and His good will toward us.

IV. Challenging God's authority leads to rebellion. (Genesis 3: 6-7)

A. First, our perceptions are altered. (What God previously told us was no good for us suddenly seems to appear *"good, desirable and pleasing."*)
B. Then our actions become wrong. (*"she took of its fruit and ate"* what was forbidden).
C. We then influence other to do wrong (*"and she also gave some to her husband."*)
D. Right and wrong were now in *"the eyes of both of them."*

V. The results of rebellion are always devastating. (Genesis 3: 7-19)

A. Rebellion leads to guilt and shame. (7-13)

1. We try to cover our guilt and shame.
2. We try to hide from the presence of God.
3. We try to make excuses for our disobedience.

B. Rebellion leads to punishment. (14-19)

1. The serpent: shall crawl on his belly and was destined to be crushed by the seed of woman
2. The woman: sorrow in childbearing, pain in childbirth, subjection to her husband
3. The man: the earth cursed, the necessity of labor, the certainty of death

C. Rebellion leads to punishment. (20-24)

1. God sacrificed the first animals in order to cover humanity's nakedness.
2. God drove humanity out of the Garden of Eden and from the tree of life.
3. God placed Cherubim and a flaming sword to guard the way to the tree of life.

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Lesson # 2: The Rebellion of Ham

Scripture Lesson: Genesis 9:18-27

PROPOSITION: **We have two obligations to those whom God has placed in authority in our lives: (1) Submission (the maintaining of a proper attitude) is absolute; (2) Obedience (the maintaining of proper actions) is relative.** HEBREWS: 13: 17

I. Noah had three sons under his authority: Shem, Japheth, and Ham. (Genesis 9: 18-19)

II. Noah's Irresponsible Actions: (Genesis 9: 20-21)

A. Drunkenness
B. Nakedness

NOTE: Wrongdoing on the part of one in authority never justifies, but usually results in wrongdoing on the part of some who are under his or her authority.

III. The Response of Ham: Rebellion (Genesis 9: 22)
[Assuming an improper attitude and participating in improper actions]

A. He disrespected his father's privacy.
B. He took pleasure in seeing his father's faults.
C. He publicized his father's sin.

IV. The Response of Shem and Japheth: Submission and Obedience (Genesis 9: 23)
[Maintaining a proper attitude and proper actions in spite of their father's faults]

A. They refused to look upon their father's nakedness.
B. They refused to publicize their father's sin.
C. They covered their father's nakedness, maintaining their respect for him.

V. The Reward of Ham: A Curse. (Genesis 9: 24-25)

A. There is no protection for those who rebel against authority.
B. Rebellion not only affects the rebel negatively but it also affects his or her children.

VI. The Reward of Shem and Japheth: A Blessing

A. God protects and blesses those who respect authority.
B. That protection and blessing often spill over onto their children.

NOTE: Only when one is submissive and obedient to God, the Ultimate authority, can one be submissive and obedient to God's delegated authorities.

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Lesson # 3: The Rebellion of Nadab and Abihu

Scripture Lesson: Leviticus 10:1-7

PROPOSITION: **The Rebellion of Nadab and Abihu was that of usurping authority which had not been delegated to them; doing something that they had not given the authority to do.**

I. Aaron, the brother of Moses, was appointed High Priest by God. (Leviticus 10: 1a**)**

A. He was given authority over all activities in the temple.
B. Nadab and Abihu, Aaron's sons, served as priests in the temple under Aaron's authority.

II. Nadab and Abihu offered "strange fire" before the Lord. (Leviticus 10: 1b)

A. They were qualified but not authorized.
B. They offered sacrifices without Aaron's order.
C. They assumed authority not delegated to them
D. They attempted to serve God without respect for His delegated authority.
E. They served God independent of God's delegated authority.

III. God punishes rebellion quickly and harshly. (Leviticus 10: 2)

A. Service which is disobedient to delegated authority does not impress God.
B. Service that does not respect authority results in God's wrath.

IV. God demands worship and service which sanctifies and glorifies Him. (Leviticus 10: 3)

A. True service is initiated by God, while strange fire originates from men.

1. It does not require knowing God's will nor obeying God's authority.
2. It is done through man's own zeal.
3. It ends in punishment, often death.

B. God's work is the coordination of authority.

1. There is someone responsible, others are helper.
2. There is someone in authority, others are under authority.
3. To act independently is rebellion
4. To serve without first respecting authority is to offer "strange fire".
5. Rebellion changes the nature of the sacrifice.
6. To be out of coordination with the one in authority is to be out of coordination with God.

V. Rebellion negatively impacts others. (Leviticus 10: 4-7)

A. It negatively impacts those who are close to us.
B. It negatively impacts the entire community of faith.

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Lesson # 4: The Reviling of Aaron and Miriam

Scripture Lesson: Numbers 12:1-16

PROPOSITION: **To speak out against "representative authority" is rebellion and incurs the immediate wrath of God.**

Key Characters: 1) Moses, God's appointed leader; 2) Aaron, the High Priest and older brother of Moses; 3) Miriam, the older sister of Moses

I. Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses [criticized him]. (Numbers 12: 1-2)

- A. Their verbal abuse was precipitated by a wrong act by Moses. [He married a non-Jew.]
- B. In their attack they challenged Moses' authority.
- C. They placed themselves on his level, failing to recognize God's delegated authority.
- D. God heard and saw their rebellion.

II. Moses' meekness enabled him to hold his peace. (Numbers 12: 3)

- A. Moses was the meekest man on earth.
- B. He had the power to retaliate, but he did not.
- C. He knew that his authority to lead came from God.
- D. He therefore did not have to defend himself.

III. God acts quickly and defends his delegated authority, punishing the rebels. (Numbers 12: 4-10)

- A. Rebellion never goes unnoticed by God above.
- B. God acted immediately as He always does in response to rebellion.
- C. God summoned all three, but He chastened Aaron and Miriam.
  - 1. He told them that authority is His choice and that Moses was His choice to lead the people.
  - 2. He told them that they should have been afraid to speak against His delegated authority.
- D. The rebellion angered God as it always does.
- E. God departed, but smote Miriam with Leprosy.

IV. Aaron repents and pleads for mercy on behalf of Miriam. (Numbers 12: 11-12)

- A. Confession of sin with godly sorrow [repentance] can show that rebellion has left the heart.
- B. Restoration must be sought through the delegated authority previously offended.

V. Moses forgives and pleads to God on behalf of those who had offended him. (Numbers 12: 13)

VI. God has mercy and lessens the punishment, sparing her life. (Numbers 12: 14-16)

- A. God removed the leprosy, but made her stay in isolation for seven days outside the camp.
- B. The Children of Israel, however, could not continue their journey until Miriam was brought in again into the camp.
  - 1. Rebellion not only affects those who rebel, but it also keeps the community of God's people from moving forward until God deals with the rebellion in their midst.
  - 2. Rebellion does not always result in death, but it always results in quick punishment for the rebels and delays and setbacks for the people of God.

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Lesson # 5: The Rebellion of Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and On

Scripture Lesson: Numbers 16:1-50

PROPOSITION: Collective rebellion results in collective punishment. **Even when the majority goes against those in authority, they must be punished for rebellion.** There is no protection in numbers when we rebel, for it is God who gives out the punishment.

Key Characters: 1) Moses, God's appointed leader; 2) Aaron, God's appointed High Priest; 3) Korah, a Levite; 4) Dathan, Abiram, and On, Reubenites; 5) 250 Leaders of the Assembly

I. Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and On incite a rebellion. (Numbers 16: 1 – 3)

A. They challenge the authority of Moses and Aaron.

B. They accuse them of usurping authority, trying to do too much, and putting themselves above the people, who also are as holy as they.

II. Moses' Initial Response: (Numbers 16: 4-7)

A. He humbles himself, fallings on his face.

B. He decides to let God deal with the matter.

C. He tells them what they need to approach God.

III. Moses realizes the wrath that awaits them and tries to reason with them. (Numbers 16: 8-17)

A. He tells Korah to consider that God has made him a Levite, who serves in the Tabernacle and ministers before the people. *Now, he wants to be more than God has called him to be.*

B. He summoned Dathan, Abiram, and On, but they refused to even talk. *They just continued to attack Moses' leadership and complain.*

C. This angered Moses and he decides to just let God deal with the rebellion.

IV. God prepares to destroy the entire congregation who joined the rebellion. (Numbers 16: 18-21)

V. Moses successfully pleads for God not to destroy the congregation, only the leaders of the rebellion. At God's command, he warns them get away from the rebels. (Numbers 16: 22-27)

VI. God pours out His wrath on the rebels, their families, and followers. (Numbers 16: 28-35)

A. The earth swallows the ringleaders, their families and friends, as well as their possessions.

B. Fire from heaven consumed the 250 leaders who were trying to offer incense.

VII. God established a memorial as a reminder of the consequences of rebellion with the metal from censors that the rebellious leaders used. (Numbers 16: 36-40)

VIII. The congregation rebels again and blames Moses for the rebels' death. (Numbers 16: 41)

IX. God suddenly appears and sends a plague which begins to kill the people. (Numbers 16: 42-46) **[**Moses realizing what was happening, instructs Aaron to offer a sacrifice of atonement.**]**

X. Aaron offers the sacrifice, the plague ceases, but 14,700 people are already dead; not counting the people who died from the earthquake and the fire. (Numbers 16: 47-50)

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Lesson # 6: The Insubordination of Moses

Scripture Lesson: Numbers 20:1-13

PROPOSITION: **Rebellion on the part of those in authority results in harsh punishment from the Ultimate Authority, God Himself.**

Key Characters: 1) Moses, God's appointed leader; 2) Aaron, God's appointed High Priest

I. Fear and unbelief lead God's people to murmur. (Numbers 20: 1 – 5)

A. They lacked water.
B. They murmured against Moses and Aaron
C. Times of testing often reveal faithlessness and spiritual immaturity.

II. Moses and Aaron turn to God and receive His instructions and plan of action. (Numbers 20: 6-8)

A. Moses is to take his staff (*The Staff of God*)
B. He is then to gather the people together around the rock.
C. He is finally to speak to the Rock; and water would flow for the people and their livestock.

III. Moses is insubordinate (Numbers 20: 8-12)

A. The gravity of Moses' offense

1. He disregarded God's Sovereignty
   a. He distrusted God's power and plan
   b. He disobeyed God's instructions
   c. He refused to submit to God's authority
2. He violated God's Holiness
   a. He took credit himself for what God had done
   b. He failed to honor God before the people
3. He "lorded it" over God's Heritage (*God's People*)
   a. He lost his temper and smote the Rock
   b. He used harsh expressions in addressing God's people (*He called them "rebels"*)
   c. He ministered to them resentfully

IV. God punishes Moses and Aaron and preserves His Honor (Numbers 20:12, 13)

A. God expects his delegated authorities to remain submissive and faithful even when the people rebel.

B. Moses and Aaron are not allowed to lead the people of Israel into the "promised land".

C. Leaders are judged more strictly than followers and are accountable for their words, actions and lifestyle. (James 3:1; Hebrews 13: 7, 17; Luke 12: 47-48)

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Lesson # 7: The Rebellion at Edom

Scripture Lesson: Numbers 21:1-9

PROPOSITION: **Rebellion always results in Divine punishment or chastening, while genuine repentance always results in forgiveness and healing.**

Key Character: Moses, God's Appointed Leader

I. Israel experiences a victory at Hormah. (Numbers 21: 1-3)

A. They are attacked by King Arad, some are captured.
B. They look to God for help and submit to Him.
C. God hears their cry and gives them victory.

II. The Israelites grow impatient along the journey. (Numbers 21: 4)

A. The Christian life is not without its trials, hardships and tests- these have their value (1 Peter 4: 12-19; James 1: 2-4).

B. The Israelites allowed hardships to discourage them and forgot what God had done.

III. The people rebel and speak against God and Moses. (Numbers 21: 5)

A. They challenge God's plan.
B. They doubt God's power.
C. They complain about God's provisions.

IV. God, true to His character, judges and punishes rebellion quickly and harshly. (Numbers 21: 6)

A. He immediately sends poisonous snakes, which bite the people.
B. Many died.

V. The people repent and seek Moses' help. (Numbers 21: 7)

A. Chastening is intended to bring about repentance. (Hebrews 12: 5-11)
B. Genuine repentance seeks forgiveness and restitution from the offended party or parties.
C. Moses intercedes on behalf of the people.

VI. God has mercy and instructs Moses as to how healing can be found. (Numbers 21: 8)

A. Moses is to make a bronze snake, put it on a pole and lift it up before the people.
B. Those bitten were to just look up at the bronze snake and they would be healed.
C. Only God's provision can save and heal.

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SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

Lesson # 8: Transfer of Authority

Scripture Lesson: Numbers 27:12-23

PROPOSITION: **Leadership is ultimately God's decision and appointment; He elevates those who have demonstrated that they can submit to delegated authority; and He places them in authority.**

Key Characters: 1) Moses, God's Appointed Leader; 2) Joshua, His Successor

I. Moses is allowed to see the "promised land" before he dies. (Numbers 27: 12-14)

A. God tells Moses to view the "promised land" from atop Mt. Abarim.
B. God tells him that after he looks he will die like his brother Aaron.
C. God reminds him of why he cannot enter (*his rebellion in the desert of Zin*).

II. Moses respectfully requests a successor. (Numbers 27: 15-17)

A. Moses loves the people to end. (John 13: 1)
B. He wants them to have a shepherd, not a hireling to lead them. (Jn. 10:11-15).
C. He knows that God ultimately determines the successor, so he prays to God.

III. God chooses and appoints Joshua. (Numbers 27: 18 a)

A. Joshua was a man under authority. (Exodus 24: 12, 13)
B. Joshua was a man of faith. [He followed God with his whole heart.] (Numbers 32: 12; 14: 6-10)
C. Joshua was a man who had God's spirit. (Numbers 27:18)

IV. God instructs Moses to ordain and commission Joshua. (Numbers 27: 18b)
[Whenever God chooses someone for a work, he has someone already in authority to confirm his choice.]

A. Ordination is the ceremony in which those in authority confirm those whom God has called to places of leadership.
B. Ordination involves a transfer of authority, often symbolized by the "laying on of Hands."
C. Ordination must be a public celebration so that people may obey those now in authority.
D. Ordination involves a charge or commission from one already in authority to the one or ones being elevated to places of authority.
   1. One element of the charge is that the leader is to look to God for guidance and direction.
   2. Another element is that as the leader follows God, he can then lead the people in and out.

V. Moses obeys God's instructions and both ordains and commissions Joshua before all the people, laying hands on him and transferring his authority. (Numbers 27: 22, 23)

A. All of Israel was to follow God's new appointed leader, Joshua.
B. We do not follow a leader because we like him; we follow a leader because God has placed him in that position of authority and we are under his authority and God's authority.

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Lesson # 9: The Rebellion of King Saul

Scripture Lesson: I Samuel 13:7-14; 15:1-35

PROPOSITION: **Failure to submit to authority on the part of those in authority will result in the loss of that authority.**

Key Characters: 1) Samuel, God's Appointed Prophet, Priest, and Judge; 2) Saul, God's Appointed King (The first king of Israel)

I. SAUL'S PROMISING BEGINNING (1 SAMUEL 9-11)

A. Saul's Credentials (1 Samuel 9: 1, 2)
B. God appoints Saul as King of Israel (1 Samuel 9: 15-17)
C. Samuel anoints Saul as King (1 Samuel 10: 1)
D. God equips Saul for leadership (1 Samuel 10: 5-11)
   1. He gives him a new heart and character (vv. 6, 9)
   2. He gives him His Spirit (vv. 6, 10)
   3. He gives him speaking ability (vv. 6, 10, 11)
E. The humility of Saul (1 Samuel 10: 20-27)
   1. He hides during his inauguration (vv. 21-24)
   2. He remained silent in the face of rebellion (v. 27)
F. Saul is successful military campaign at Jabesh. (1 Samuel 11: 11)
G. Saul is confirmed as King of Israel. (1 Samuel 11:12-15)

II. SAUL'S FIRST ACT OF REBELLION: USURPING AUTHORITY (1 SAMUEL 13: 7-14)

A. Saul and his army prepare to fight the Philistines and wait at Gilgal for Samuel to offer the sacrifice. (1 Samuel 13: 7, 9)
   1. The soldiers were trembling.
   2. They waited seven days as they were commanded.
   3. Samuel had not arrived and the people began to scatter.
   4. Saul tired of waiting any longer, offered the sacrifice.
B. Samuel comes and confronts Saul; and Saul explains why he offered the sacrifice without authority. (1 Samuel 13: 10-12)
C. Samuel rebukes Saul and reprimands him. (1 Samuel 13: 13, 14)
   1. Samuel explains the seriousness of his offense. (*He foolishly disobeyed God's command*)
   2. Samuel explains the consequences of his action.
      a. Saul would lose the kingdom.
      b. Saul's sons and descendents will not rule as kings of Israel.
      c. God was going to find a man after His own heart to lead Israel. (*One who would respect and submit to authority*)

III. SAUL'S SECOND ACT OF REBELLION: INSUBORDINATION (1 SAMUEL 15: 1-35)

A. God's clear command: "Destroy Everything!" (1 Samuel 15: 1-3)

B. Saul spares the King and the best animals. (1 Samuel 15: 4-9)

C. Samuel confronts Saul. (1 Samuel 15: 10-15)

1. Saul builds a monument in his own honor (v. 12)
2. Saul claims to have obeyed God (v. 13)
3. Saul is unaware that God knows the truth and tells his servant. (vv. 10,11)
4. Samuel asks him about the animals (v. 14)
5. Saul shifts the blame on his soldiers (v. 15)

D. Samuel confronts Saul again. (1 Samuel 15:16-19)

E. Saul insists that he obeyed the Lord and that his soldiers are to blame for bringing the animals back. They did it for the Lord; to offer sacrifices to Him. (1 Samuel 15: 20-21)

F. Samuel explains what it is that God likes and hates. (1 Samuel 15: 22, 23a)

1. He is pleased with obedience and submission more than sacrifice and ritual.
2. He hates rebellion and stubbornness as much as witchcraft and idolatry.

G. God rejects Saul as King. [Saul's late repentance won't change God's mind.] (1 Samuel 15: 23–31)

1. Samuel tells Saul that his disobedience has resulted in his rejection as king.
2. Saul finally admits his sin and tells the truth.
3. Saul seeks pardon.
4. Samuel finally allows him to worship, but informs him that the kingdom has been torn from him and given to another.

H. Samuel kills the king that Saul spared. (1 Samuel 15: 32, 33)

I. Though, Samuel mourned for Saul, from that day he never saw him again. Needless to say, God was totally disappointed in Saul as King. (1 Samuel 15: 34, 35)

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SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

Lesson # 10: David's Knowledge of and Submission to Authority

Scripture Lesson: 1 Samuel 24:4-15; 26:7-16, 22-24; 2 Samuel 1:11-16

PROPOSITION: **Those who learn to submit to authority show that they are fit and prepared to be placed in positions of authority.**

Key Characters: 1) Samuel, God's Appointed Prophet, Priest, and Judge; 2) Saul, God's Appointed King (The first king of Israel); 3) David, (The second king of Israel)

I. GOD CHOOSES A "MAN AFTER HIS OWN HEART." 1 SAMUEL 16

A. God sends Samuel to Bethlehem to anoint the new king He selects. (1-5)
B. Divine standards verses human standards: God looks at the heart. (6-10)
C. God chooses David to be His anointed. (11-12)
D. Samuel anoints David. (13 a)
E. God's Spirit leaves Saul and comes on David. (13b, 14)
F. A talented David serves a tormented Saul. (15-23)

1. David's credentials:

   a. Shepherd
   b. Warrior
   c. Orator
   d. Musician
   e. Poet
   f. Handsome

2. David's character:

   a. Bravery
   b. Obedience
   c. Reliability
   d. Willingness to serve
   e. Faith in God
   F. God was with him.

II. DAVID KILLS THE GIANT, GOLIATH (1 SAMUEL 17)

III. SAUL'S JEALOUSY OF DAVID (1 SAMUEL 18)

A. David serves Saul's faithfully and is promoted. (5)
B. Saul's jealousy of David's popularity. (6-9)
C. Saul's first attempt to kill David with his spear. (10-11)
D. Saul's jealousy of David's relationship with God. (12)
E. Saul's jealousy of David's military success. (13-15)
F. Saul's attempts to use his daughters as tools for David's death. (16-27)
G. Saul's jealousy intensifies. (28-30)

IV. SAUL TRIES TO KILL DAVID. (1 SAMUEL 19)

A. Saul plots David's murder; is convinced by his son Jonathan not to go through with it. (1-7)
B. Saul's second attempt to kill David with his spear (8-10)
C. Saul's men pursue David, unsuccessfully. (11-23)

V. DAVID AND JONATHAN MAINTAIN THEIR FRIENDSHIP. (1 SAMUEL 20)

VI. DAVID FINDS A REFUGE AMONG THE PRIESTS OF NOD. (1 SAMUEL 21)

VII. SAUL KILLS 85 PRIESTS OF NOD FOR HELPING DAVID. (1 SAMUEL 22)

VIII. SAUL CONTINUES TO PURSUE DAVID. (1 SAMUEL 23)

IX. DAVID SPARES SAUL'S LIFE. (1 SAMUEL 24)

A. Saul pursues David to the desert of En Gedi. (1-3)
B. David spares Saul's life. [He refuses to touch God's Anointed.] (4-7)
C. David tries to convince him that he means him no harm. (8-15)
D. Saul realizes David's gesture of good-will; acknowledges he will be the next king. (16-20)
E. Saul makes David swear not to wipe out his family when he becomes king. (21-22)

X. DAVID SPARES SAUL'S LIFE A SECOND TIME (1 SAMUEL 26)

A. Saul pursues David again. (1-4)
B. David spares his life again. [Again, he refuses to touch God's Anointed.] (7-12)
C. David rebukes Saul's soldiers for not protecting him adequately. (13-16)
D. David asks why Saul is hunting him; asks Saul to examine why he want to kill him. (17-20)
E. Saul admits his error and foolishness. (21)
F. David continues to show his knowledge of authority. (22, 24)
G. Saul blesses David. (25)

XI. DAVID DETERMINES TO AVOID SAUL; GOES TO PHILISTIA (1 SAMUEL 27)

XII. SAUL DEGENERATES INTO CONSULTING A WITCH (1 SAMUEL 28)

XIII. SAUL'S SONS DIE IN BATTLE; A WOUNDED SAUL TAKES HIS LIFE. (1 SAMUEL 31)

XIV. EVEN IN DEATH DAVID RESPECTS AND HONORS SAUL. (2 SAMUEL 1)

A. An Amalekite claims to have killed King Saul; brings David Saul's crown. (1-10)
B. David and his men mourn. (11-12)
C. David rebukes the Amalekite for harming God's anointed and has him killed. (13-16)
D. David writes a song of lamentation, mourning the death of Saul and Jonathan. (17-27)

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SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

Lesson # 11: Submission to a Higher Authority, Part 1

Scripture Lesson: Daniel 1: 1-21

PROPOSITION: **Whenever there is a conflict between a command of a delegated authority and that of God, the Ultimate Authority, God is to be obeyed and the delegated authority is to be respectfully disobeyed.**

Key Characters: 1) Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon; 2) Ashpenaz, Chief of the King's Court; 3) Daniel [Belteshazzar]; 4) Hananiah [Shadrack]; 5) Mishael [Meshack]; and 6) Azariah [Abednego] (4 Hebrew exiles in training in the king's court)

I. God punishes Judah's idolatry: King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon captures Judah. (DANIEL 1:1-7)

A. He captures Jehoiakim, the King of Judah.
B. He transports Articles from God's Temple to the temple of his god in Babylon.
C. He transports orders some of the Israelites to Babylon to serve in his palace court.

1. Ashpenaz, chief of the king's court, chooses Judah's most promising young leaders
   a. Those from the royal family.
   b. Those of the nobility.
   c. The strongest, most attractive, intelligent, and talented.
2. Ashpenaz trains them for three years.
   a. First, he gave them new names.
   b. Second, he gave them a Babylonian education, including language & literature.
   c. Third, he introduced them to the king's special diet.

II. Daniel and the young Hebrews refuse to defile themselves by the king's diet. (DANIEL 1: 8-16)

A. Daniel recognizes that the King's diet required meats and beverages forbidden by God.
B. Daniel resolves to obey God and not defile himself with the King's diet.
C. He respectfully asks permission from Ashpenaz not to defile himself.
D. God opens Ashpenaz's heart to reason; he expresses his concern: the health of the trainees.
E. Daniel offers an alternative in the best interest of all: A 10-Day trial period for God's Diet.
F. God's Diet proves healthier, Ashpenaz is satisfied.

III. God honors the submission and obedience of Daniel and the young Hebrews. (DANIEL 1: 17-21)

A. God gave them special knowledge and understanding and gave Daniel the special ability to understand and interpret all kinds of visions and dreams.

B. At the end of the three-year training the king tested all his trainees and found that the four Hebrews not only far excelled the other trainees, but, were ten times better than any of the astrologers and enchanters in the entire kingdom.

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SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

Lesson # 12: Submission to a Higher Authority, Part 2

Scripture Lesson: Daniel 3: 1-30

PROPOSITION: **Those who respectfully disobey delegated authority to obey God, the Ultimate Authority, will find that God will be with them as they bear the consequences.**

Key Characters: 1) Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon; 2) Shadrack; 3) Meshack; and 4) Abednego [3 Hebrew Exile Officials in the king's court]

I. Nebuchadnezzar builds golden image, forcing officials to attend its dedication. (DANIEL 3:1-3)

II. He then requires everyone to worship the image or die in the fiery furnace. (DANIEL 3: 4-6)

III. When music plays everyone worships the image except three Jewish officials. (DANIEL 3:7-12)

IV. The astrologers report this to the King and inform him of the following: (DANIEL 3:13-15)

A. The Jewish officials paid no attention to him.
B. The Jewish officials refused to serve his gods.
C. The Jewish officials refused to obey his decree and worship the image.

V. The furious King tries to give the Jewish officials another chance to comply.

A. In anger he summons the three Jewish officials.
B. He questions them as to the reliability of the report.
C. He gives them another chance to worship the image.

VI. The three Jewish leaders respectfully disobeyed the King. (DANIEL 3: 16-18)

A. They plead guilty and offer no defense against the charges brought against them.
B. They do inform the King that their God is able to deliver them from the fiery furnace.
C. They also respectfully inform him that even if He does not deliver them from the fiery furnace, they still will not serve or worship any other God.

VII. An even angrier King has the young men thrown into a blazing furnace. (DANIEL 3: 19-23)

A. The King, angrier than before, has the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual.
B. The King has his strongest men tie them up and throw them into the blazing furnace.
C. The furnace was so hot that it instantly killed the men who threw them into the furnace.

VIII. God miraculously saves them; sends his angel to be with them in the furnace. (DANIEL 3:24-27)

1. The King sees four men untied, unharmed in the furnace; the fourth looks like the Son of God.
2. The King summoned them to come out the furnace.
3. They come out unharmed, with not a hair singed, their clothes were not scorched and without even the smell of fire on them.

IX. God is glorified; the Jewish leaders are promoted in the province of Babylon. (DANIEL 3:28-30)

1. Nebuchadnezzar praises God.
2. He admires the three young Jewish leaders for total submission to God, even unto death.
3. He makes it a crime worthy of death for anyone to speak against their God.
4. He promotes them in the kingdom of Babylon.

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SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

Lesson # 13: The Sovereignty of God, Part 1

Scripture Lesson: Daniel 4: 1-37
Key Verses: Daniel 4: 25f; Psalm 75:6, 7

PROPOSITION: **God is sovereign over the kingdoms of the world and He gives authority to rule to whoever He wishes; he humbles those who exalt themselves and exalts those who humble themselves.**

Key Characters: 1) Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon and Ruler of the world; 2) Daniel [Belteshazzar], Jewish Exile and Chief of the Wisemen of Babylon

I. Nebuchadnezzar's Proclamation (DANIEL 4: 1-3)

A. He addresses it to the people of the whole world.
B. He desires in it to share his testimony of what God has done in his life.
C. He acknowledges the Most High God, as sovereign.

II. Nebuchadnezzar's Terrifying Dream (DANIEL 4: 4-7)

A. The dream came when he was at ease and prosperous.
B. The dream terrified him.
C. None of his magicians could interpret the dream.

III. Nebuchadnezzar shares his dream with Daniel (DANIEL 4: 8-18)

A. Nebuchadnezzar has confidence that Daniel can properly interpret the dream.
B. The details of the dream are as follows:
   1. He sees a gigantic tree: tall, beautiful, fruitful; a shelter for animals; a lodging place for birds; and food for many animals.
   2. He heard a Holy messenger cry out, "Cut down the tree! Trim the branches; Strip the leaves; Scatter the fruit; only leave the stump and the roots under the ground.
   3. He saw that the dew would drench it and it would live with the animals and plants.
   4. He further saw that its mind would change from that of a man to that of an animal.
   5. It would stay this way for seven years, until it acknowledged that God was sovereign.

IV. Daniel reluctantly, but respectfully shares the interpretation of the dream. (DANIEL 4: 19-27)

A. The tree is Nebuchadnezzar and represents the beauty, strength, productivity and magnitude of his reign and kingdom.
B. The Holy messenger proclaims God's decree against Nebuchadnezzar:
   1. He will be driven away from the people.
   2. He will eat grass like a wild animal.
   3. The dew from heaven will drench him.
   4. This will last seven years.
   5. His kingdom will be restored when he acknowledges that God is sovereign.

V. In a year the dream becomes a reality and Daniel's interpretation is fulfilled. (DANIEL 4: 28-3)

A. Nebuchadnezzar, full of pride, exalts himself.
B. As his lips glorify himself, God decrees his downfall and humiliation.
C. He is driven away from his people.
D. He eats grass like a wild animal.
E. The dew from heaven drenched him as he lived outdoors.
F. His hair grew long and his nails became claws.

VI. After seven years he acknowledges God's sovereignty; his sanity and kingdom are restored. (DANIEL 4:34-37)

A. When he raised his eyes toward heaven his sanity was restored.
B. When he praised, honored and acknowledged God, his kingdom was restored.
C. He became even greater than he was before God humbled him.
D. From that time on, he always gave God the glory and acknowledged him as the sovereign.
E. He proclaimed to the world that Daniel's God was the Most High God.

1. Everything God does is right.
2. All His ways are just.
3. He knows how to humble those who walk in pride.

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SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

Lesson # 14: The Sovereignty of God, Part 2

Scripture Lesson: Daniel 5: 1-31
Key Verses: Daniel 5: 21f; Psalm 75:6, 7

PROPOSITION: **God is sovereign over the kingdoms of the world and He gives authority to rule to whoever He wishes; he brings down those who refuse to humble themselves and replaces them with others.**

Key Characters: 1) Belshazzar, the son of Nebuchadnezzar and the King of Babylon;
2) Daniel [Belteshazzar], Jewish Exile and Chief of the Wisemen of Babylon

I. Belshazzar's arrogance and idolatry (DANIEL 5: 1-4)

A. He hosts a great banquet for his nobles.
B. He uses the sacred vessels taken from the Temple in Jerusalem.
C. He and his nobles worship false gods.

II. The Handwriting on the Wall (DANIEL 5: 5, 6)

A. A hand suddenly appeared and began writing on the plaster of the wall.
B. The king is terrified.

III. The King's wisemen cannot interpret the writing. (DANIEL 5: 9-9)

A. The king summons his wisemen; promises gifts/promotion to he who interprets the writing.
B. None of his wisemen can interpret the writing.
C. The king becomes even more terrified, his nobles are baffled.

IV. The Queen tells the King about Daniel (DANIEL 5: 10-12)

V. The King calls Daniel; promises gifts/promotion if he interprets the writing. (DANIEL 5:13-16)

VI. Daniel consents to interpret the writing, but does not want the rewards. (DANIEL 5: 17)

VII. Daniel's preface to the interpretation of the writing (DANIEL 5: 18-24)

A. Belshazzar, it was God who made your father great.
B. When he became arrogant, God stripped him of his throne and let him to live as an animal.
C. When he humbled himself and acknowledged God, He restored his mind and his kingdom.
D. You, however, knowing what happened to your father, still refuse to humble yourself.

1. You used the sacred vessels from God's temple.
2. You worshipped false gods, which cannot see, hear or understand.
3. You never acknowledged the true God, who holds your whole life in His hands.

VIII. Daniel's interpretation of the writing [MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN] (DANIEL 5: 25-28)

A. Mene: God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end.
B. Tekel: You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting.
C. Perel: [singular for parsin] Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.

IX. Belshazzar rewards Daniel for interpreting the writing. (DANIEL 5: 29)

A. He receives royal clothing.
B. He receives golden jewelry.
C. He is promoted to third highest ruler in the kingdom.

X. That very night, Daniel's words come true. (DANIEL 5: 30, 31)

A. The King, Belshazzar is killed.
B. Darius, the Mede takes over the kingdom.

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SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

Lesson # 15: Submission to a Higher Authority, Part 3

Scripture Lesson: Daniel 6: 1-28
Key Verse: Daniel 6: 22

PROPOSITION: **Those who respectfully disobey delegated authority to obey God, the Ultimate Authority, will find that God will be with them as they bear the consequences; when God has something for us, our enemies cannot keep us from receiving it.**

Key Characters: 1) Darius, King of the Medes & Persians; 2) Daniel, A Top Official in the Kingdom

I. King Darius organizes his kingdom. (DANIEL 6: 1-2)

A. He appoints 120 governors to rule throughout the kingdom.
B. He appoints 3 top administrators over the governors, one of whom was Daniel.

II. Because Daniel excelled, King Darius plans to put him over the whole kingdom. (DANIEL 6: 3)

III. The other administrators and governors devise a plot to have Daniel removed. (DANIEL 6: 4-9)

A. In vain they seek grounds for charges against Daniel [misconduct, corruption, negligence].
B. Finding no grounds for charges, they try to use his loyalty to God as a means for removal.
C. They trick the king into signing a decree that forbids prayer to anyone except the king for 30 days, with violator being sentenced to be thrown into the Lions' Den.

IV. In spite of the decree, Daniel continues his custom of praying to God. (DANIEL 6: 10-13)

A. Daniel continues to pray to God 3 times a day.
B. The conspirators spy on him and report it to the king.

V. Bound by law, Darius reluctantly has Daniel thrown into the Lions' Den. (DANIEL 6: 14-18)

A. The king tried all day to find a way to save Daniel.
B. Trapped by law, he orders the execution and hopes that Daniel's God will deliver him.
C. He put a stone over the Lions' Den and returned to his palace.
D. He refused food, entertainment and sleep.

VI. God delivers Daniel and punishes his enemies. (DANIEL 6: 19-24)

A. The king rises early and hurries to the Lions' Den to see if God has delivered Daniel.
B. Daniel is very much alive.

1. He respectfully addresses the king.
2. He gives God credit for his deliverance.
3. He assures the king that he did not rebel against him.

C. The king, overjoyed, has Daniel lifted out of the den and finds that he has no wounds at all.
D. The conspirators and their families are cast into the Lions' Den and are quickly devoured.

VII. The king writes a new decree. (DANIEL 6: 25-27)

1. One which fosters reverence for the God of Daniel.
2. One which gives God praise and glory.
3. One that recognizes Him as the only true God.

VIII. Daniel continues to prosper under the reign of Darius and his successor, Cyrus. (DANIEL 6: 28)

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SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

Lesson # 16: Submission to Authority in the Secular World

PROPOSITION: **God is the source of all authorities in the universe; and all governing authorities are instituted by Him; Christians are to always respect and usually obey those in authority in the world.**

I. SUBMITTING TO THE AUTHORITY OF GOVERNMENT

A. Romans 13: 1-17

1. Submit

a. Because they are God's servants.
b. Because to rebel against them is to rebel against God.
c. Because rebellion will result in punishment.
d. For conscience sake.

2. Obey

a. Those that do right need not fear those in authority.
b. Wrongdoers can expect punishment.

3. Support

a. By paying taxes.
b. By sharing revenues.

B. I Peter 2:13-17

1. Submit for the Lord's sake.
2. Understand the purpose of government.

a. To punishment evildoers.
b. To commend those who do right.

3. Obedience: Do good and silence the talk of the foolish.
4. Don't abuse our liberty.
5. Serve and fear God.
6. Honor governmental leaders.

II. SUBMITTING TO AUTHORITY IN THE WORKPLACE

A. Ephesus 6: 5-9; Colossians 3: 22-25

1. Obey our employer.

a. Not just to win his/her favor.
b. Not with eye service.
c. Sincerely, from the heart.
d. As unto the Lord and because of our reverence for God.

2. Submit (Respect our employer).
3. Serve our employer.

a. Wholeheartedly.
b. As unto the Lord.
c. Looking to Christ to reward us for the good.
d. Looking to Christ to punish us for the wrong.
e. Remembering that God has not favorites.

B. I Timothy 6: 1 , 2

1. **Submit so that God's name will not be blasphemed.**
2. **Don't take advantage of Christian employers, serve them better.**

C. Titus 2: 9, 10

1. **Submission is absolute.**
   a. Cooperate
   b. Don't talk back.
   c. Don't steal from your employer.
2. **Submission makes God's word attractive.**

D. I Peter 2: 18-20

1. **Submit to all employers (good or bad).**
2. **It is commendable to endure abuse and injustice because you are conscious of God.**

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SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

Lesson # 17: Authority in the Church and the Home

PROPOSITION: **God, the source of all authority, has placed those in authority in the church and in the home in order to love and serve those under their authority; while those under authority are to respect and obey them.**

I. AUTHORITY IN THE CHURCH

A. Those in authority: to love and serve the members

1. By speaking God's Word to them [preaching, teaching, admonishing] (Hebrews 13: 7a; 1 Peter 5: 2a; 1 Thessalonians 5: 12a)
2. By shepherding the flock of God [caring, overseeing, pastoring] (Hebrews 13: 17; 1 Peter 5: 2)
3. By leading the sheep [Example, faith and life] (Hebrews 13: 7; 1 Peter 5: 3)

B. Those under authority: to respect, obey and appreciate their leaders.

1. Respect means to have the right attitude at all times. (1 Thessalonians 5: 12, 13; Hebrews 13: 17)
2. Obey means to have the right actions. [Follow their leadership] (Hebrews 13: 7)
3. Appreciate means to value their work and ministry. (1 Thessalonians 5: 12,13; 1 Titus 5: 17,18)

II. AUTHORITY IN THE HOME

A. The responsibility of the husbands: to love and serve their wife and children. *

1. He is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. (Ephesians 5: 25-33)
   a. Sacrificially
   b. Unselfishly
   c. As he loves his own body (feeding & caring)
   d. Secondly only to God
2. He is not to treat her harshly. (Colossians 3:18)
3. He is to meet her needs. (1 Peter 3: 7)
   a. By being considerate of her needs.
   b. By respecting her differences.
   c. By appreciating her strengths and abilities.

B. The responsibility of the wives: to submit to their husband. *

1. She is to submit to her husband as the church submits to Christ. (Ephesians 5: 22-24)
   a. Submission is absolute (in everything)
   b. It is fitting in the Lord. (Colossians 3: 18)
   c. That the Word of God be not blasphemed. (Titus 2: 4, 5)
   d. It may result in the conversion of an unsaved husband (1 Peter 3: 1)
   e. It is of great worth in God's sight. (1 Peter 3: 2-4)
   f. It follows the example of the godly women of old. (1 Peter 3: 5, 6)
2. She is to obey her husband. (1 Peter 3: 6)
   a. Obedience is relative. [obey unless he tries to get her to do what God has forbidden]
   b. Submission requires right attitudes; obedience requires right actions. (1 Peter 3: 16)

* Failure by husband or wife to fulfill these responsibilities can result in hindered prayers. (1 Peter 3: 7)

C. The responsibility of the Children: to submit to and obey their parents.
Submission is absolute and obedience is relative.] (Exodus 21: 15-17; Deut. 21: 18; Lev. 18: 7, 19: 3)

1. They are to obey and submit because it is right. (Ephesians 6: 1)
2. They are to obey and submit because it pleases the Lord (Colossians (3: 20)
3. They are to obey and submit because it honors. (Ephesians 6: 2)
4. God makes two promises to children who do so: (Ephesians 6: 3)
    a. They will enjoy long-life on the earth!
    b. It will go well with them!

D. The responsibility of the Parents: to bring them up in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

1. They are not to provoke them to anger. [keep anger from building up in their hearts]
    a. By providing acceptance and giving them security.
    b. By giving appreciation and building up their sense of significance.
    c. By being available and building up their feelings of self-worth.
    d. By showing affection and nurturing their sense of lovability.
    e. By establishing accountability and developing their sense of responsibility.
2. They are to expose them to God's principles.
    a. By precept
    b. By example
    c. By loving discipline (Proverbs 13: 24; 22: 15; 23: 13, 14)