

INHERITING THE NATIONS SERIES

AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS

Turn to Ps.2: 8-9 *Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron, and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.*" Cross reference to Rev.2: 26-27. *He who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, I will give him power over the nations.* Now He is not talking about something in the millennium. Neither is He talking about something that will happen in the rapture. But the promise is conditioned upon he who overcomes. God says *I will give power over the nations. Then verse 27 looks similar to Ps.2 and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received power from my Father.*" Looks similar except that in Revelations there are additional things that are mentioned and the promise is specific to the church. In Ps. 2 it is for those who *ask*, whereas in Rev. 2 it is to those who *overcome*.

We are talking about inheriting the nations. We want to seek to balance two truths. On one side is the understanding about demonology and the work of demon powers, Satan and his fallen angels. We know that to a certain extent every wrong in this world, every evil and all the bad things that are happening in this world, although man is responsible in yielding their free choice to the devil, ultimately it was the devil's influence or direct interference in the affairs of man's life that destroyed, stole and killed. When we understand this truth, we will not fall to the extreme of blaming every problem on demons. Some people who are extremists try

to bind the demons whenever they see that problems.

Let me tell you that is not just what we say that is important but who we are. What we say depends on who we are. Who we potentially are we all know. Yes we all will be like Jesus. But the manifestation of the church of Jesus Christ obviously in these days has not lived to her expectations. If the whole church of Jesus Christ in the world and every member of the body of Christ in the world is like Jesus, this world would right now be turned up side down or right side up. Obviously in her present manifested sense the Church has not yet come to her full glory. So I would say that potentially who we are, we are everything Christ wants us to be. In a sense this is like some people who have knowledge but have no life. The spiritual world is not just built on knowledge. It is built upon life. If you don't have life, then you don't have it. If you *know* about it but don't *have* it you still don't have it. To know doesn't mean to have. We can know something and know about a truth but that doesn't give us the power to demonstrate the truth. Jesus didn't just say I know the truth. He says I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

There is a certain aspect of understanding about demon power. A spiritually discerning Christian can sense others at what spiritual level they are and how much authority they really have in their life. They don't even have to say, "I bind you Satan." By the way they talk, by the way they move, by the way they act, by the way they overcome temptations, you know how much spiritual authority is coming out from their life. It's not just the words we say but it's the life we live. That somehow affects the amount of authority that we have. I have given you the scripture just now Rev.2. The proportion of your overcoming is proportionate to the power over the nations. To him that over come. Now do you overcome first and then have the power of the nations? Or do you have the power of the nations first before you overcome? Obviously in Revelations 2 you overcome first. *To him who overcomes*. Not to him who shall overcome. In the Greek it is a tense that has already taken place. You have done your over coming.

Now the question comes back to us. If we have overcome what is this power to overcome? And if before we overcome, we don't have the power to over come, how do we over come? And if we overcome who do we over come? What do we over come? It's just like learning how to drive. Before you can drive a car you must learn

how to drive. If you don't give me a chance to drive now how would I drive properly? Isn't that confusing? I want to point to the connection between our power over the devil and the other extreme of denying demonic interference - where sometimes whenever people have a problem, they will blame it on the flesh or some human weakness. But they never acknowledge that there are demon powers behind it. There are two truths that are opposite of each other. But they are two sides of the same coin. I am trying to show you its all one coin. And a coin has two sides. And that truth is actually the same truth viewed from different angles. Those who try to overcome demon power without proportionally overcoming the flesh are ineffective. There is no point coming to an intercessory meeting and taking authority over the nations of the world when you haven't overcome sin and the flesh in your life. It is just blabbing words. It does nothing to the devil. It doesn't shake the devil's throne. It is more likely that it just shakes the ceiling.

On the other extreme are those who don't realize that there is demons' power behind every obstacle. Even though the flesh is there, but behind every temptation, behind every work of the flesh is a demon power. Those who refuse to acknowledge it will never overcome the enemy.

Lets look at the book of I Thes. 2:1-18 *But since we were bereft of you, brethren, for a short time, in person not in heart,* Isn't that a lovely truth there. You can be away in the presence physically but yet spiritually you could be somehow connected with the person in the spirit. *We endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you fact to face; because we wanted to come to you - I Paul again and again,* Now Paul is saying I wanted to come to you. I tried to minister the gospel to you. I wanted to preach the word and minister to you. But he says here: - *but Satan hindered us.* Paul is talking about the devil himself hindering Paul. How did the devil hinder Paul? The devil uses people. It's very seldom that the devil comes and put a stop sign there. Do you remember the devil use Peter in the book of Matt.16? Jesus said *get thee behind Me, Satan.* He is speaking about the devil. *Get thee behind Me Satan.* But in my translation it should not be *get thee behind Me.* In the translation is *get under my authority Satan.* He was rebuking and taking authority over the enemy.

When Judas betrayed Jesus, it is obvious in the gospel of John that the devil was

behind it. Some people are not aware that the devil uses them. Peter doesn't know it. Judas doesn't know it. Let me tell you the devil can use even believers like he used a disciple of Jesus Christ in fact two disciples of Jesus Christ. The devil can use anyone who will yield to his lies. He is the father of lies. If you as a believer believe a lie you come under the devil's authority. Which is why we need to be sharp in the word. Whenever I hear something I ask, *'Is this the truth or is this a lie?'* The moment I start believing a lie I become a subject and instrument of the devil, unwillingly, unknowingly or even innocently. But I want to point out to the fact is that the devil uses the flesh, and humans. Sometimes we are not even aware of it. Sometimes it is a direct temptation and the person doesn't know it. I don't think David knew it was the devil that tempted him to number the Israelites. The bible tells us that it was the devil that tempted David to number the Israelites. The devil doesn't have to come to you and say he is the devil. All the devil has to do is to make David feel proud. Out of his pride he wanted to number Israel so he can glory in the greatness of the people, the numbers of the people and the size of his army and the size of his nation - pride. I want to point that a lot of the battles are clothed in human flesh.

How did the devil hinder Paul? In the book of Acts 17:1 - 7 *Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there as a synagogue of the Jews. And Paul went in, as was his custom, and for three weeks he argued with them from the scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." And some of them were persuaded, and joined Paul and Silas; as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked fellows of the rabble, they gathered a crowd, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the people. And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brethren before the city authorities, crying, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, and Jason has received them; and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that here is another king, Jesus."* Doesn't that sound like the same thing that accuses Jesus? Remember when Jesus was before Pontius Pilate. And remember Pontius Pilate wanted to free Jesus. Do you know what make Pontius Pilate stop? He had the authority to free Jesus. But even when he was thinking of freeing Jesus, the crowds started saying, "If you do that you are not a friend of Caesar." That's stopped Pontius Pilate because his position may be threatened.

What I am trying to bring forth to you is Satan uses the mind. What did Satan do to Eve? He reasoned with her. If only Christians will understand that the devil doesn't have to come in a frightening form. The devil comes as a smart person who will win your confidence, who will win your reasoning. And reason your way into the wrong thing. He will help you reason your way to the wrong thing. That is why we need to know the word. He tried to reason with Jesus but Jesus stopped him with the word. Remember one of the temptations, had not God said if you throw yourself down the angels would pick you up quoting Ps. 91. He is using reasoning. These people were used by the devil without them realizing it. Paul recognized it was Satan behind it.

I am sometimes amused at the bluntness of Jesus. How would you feel if somebody calls you a devil? Before that Peter was like a hero. *Who do man say that I am?* Peter was the first one to answer, *"You are the Christ the Son of the Living God. And Jesus answered him, "Blessed art you, Simon Bar- Jona, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it. (Matt. 16:17-18)* Peter's head grew big. The others are now small fries. He is special the others are non-special. He is higher grade they are lower grade. And Jesus began to reveal some more revelations about the suffering Messiah. I want to use the strong words the bible used so you know that he is really big headed. Matt.16: 22 *And Peter took him and began to rebuke him saying, "God forbid, Lord, this shall never happen to you."* Let me tell you. If you are a disciple and you learned everything from your master, don't you ever raise your voice. If you do that, you will loose respect. One of the things that I found, the moment someone loses respect for you that's when they stop learning from you. Do you know that before love is respect? If you have to give something to the poor you give something without robbing them of their dignity of being a human being. You still must respect them. Sometimes people are pushy. And you could tell by the way it is done that there is pride. You have given but you have robbed them of their dignity. We must respect all people even the poorest soul. If they have no education you still got to respect them because they are God's creation. They are human beings who are worth more than the whole world.

Now why do you think Peter rebuked Him? First of all he must have thought that

he is of equal level. Do you know that the bible tells you that you don't talk to an older person the way you talk to a younger? What did Paul tell Timothy? He said to those older than you, the older man you treat them as fathers, older women you treat them as mothers. The younger ones treat them as your own brothers and sisters. How do you talk to your father? Do you shout at your father? Even if you are right and he is wrong your shouting makes you wrong. See there is something about the respect. Some of us realize this that some of us may have education and may have even gone beyond your forefathers and your parents. But that in no way means that you stop respecting them. If that is the case, how much more this should be in the spiritual realm.

Peter didn't respect and value the Lord. This incident looked very natural, as if Peter was impulsive. But it was actually Satan behind it. It was Satan pushing him to do things that was beyond even Peter. He would never have done that on his own. When people began to do things that are unnatural for them very likely demon powers are influencing them. I did not say they are possessed. That is a different thing. Something which is very unnatural, very unlikely of them is probably influenced by demons. Look at Acts 17:5 these group of people were envious for Satan had filled them with the spirit of envy. And Paul had to run away to Berea. While he was preaching the gospel in Berea Acts 17:13, *But when the Jews of Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there too, stirring up and inciting the crowds.* Look at it here Paul was not even disturbing them any more. You know such actions indicate devilish influence. Why should people go and cause trouble? If people disturb you, it might be natural human nature to react in self-defense. But when you go beyond self-defense and you began to attack wickedly, then Satanic forces are at work. Why should someone go out of the way to run another person down? It's the devil's work. It is no more self-defense. Paul had even left that territory. I doubt that any of these people who were doing this against Paul knew that they were motivated by the devil. Paul was prevented from going back to Thessalonica. Although it was not mentioned in the book of Acts here but Paul tried again and again to go back. But there was these people being used by the devil. We need to keep ourselves in check all the time. Because behind all your problems on one side of the truth we need to understand the flesh may be involved, the human vessel may be involved but on the other side of the truth, behind the problem is the devil's involvement too.

Eph. 6:12 comes in *For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.* Our wrestling is with the spiritual forces above. It's important for us to recognize where the battle is. If you are facing certain situations recognize that a lot of your problems could point to an enemy behind. Remember Paul talked about a messenger of Satan being sent to harass him in the book of II Cor. 12. Satan sends demons on assignment against key people of God. If you are called by God to change the world, let me tell you, you must challenge demon forces and be challenged by them. If your life were not affecting and changing this world Satan wouldn't bother attacking you. The enemy targets every man of God called to the five-fold ministry. You got to fight your way out of this thing. Remember Hagin himself whose ministry today has reached millions of people. When Jesus appeared to him and told him his story that Satan wanted to kill him even while He was in his mother's womb. Remember how Satan tried to kill Jesus through Herod. Remember how Satan tried to kill Moses through Pharaoh. If your life is destined to change the world its obvious you are a target.

Sometimes I recognize it working in people. But you can't come to them and say look you don't realize it but the devil is using you. But on the other side we cannot neglect the fact that the enemy always works through the avenue of the flesh. Lets look at Gal. 5:19-20 *Now the works of the flesh are plain; immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry.* Let me ask a question. Most people will not classify idolatry as works of the flesh. They will classify it under demon worship. Idolatry is the worship of false gods and demons through the dumb idols and demonic images created by man. I read every demonology book that I could lay my hands on and sorcery is always classified as demonology and not works of the flesh. What is sorcery and black magic? In the book of I Jn. 2:16 *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world.*

And later he relates it to the anti Christ. Satan is called the prince of the world. So it's important for us to have a clear understanding here that the flesh and demon powers are related. Demon powers cannot work without the flesh. And the flesh itself doesn't have that much power unless demon powers are encouraging it. The two are related. And unless you overcome the flesh you cannot overcome the devil. The opposite is true. Unless you overcome the devil you cannot overcome the flesh. There are some of the problems that are in the spirit realm that cannot just concur in the flesh alone. Remember this your success in life isn't just in the natural. You can work all you want. You can study all you want. You will not succeed until you

break through with God. It's the grace of God that helps people to come up in life.

Now if both are true: if you cannot overcome the devil unless you overcome the flesh and you cannot overcome the flesh unless you overcome the devil, surely something must come first. So how do we harmonize the two truths? In Jesus' life before He overcame the devil He overcame the temptation of the flesh. For 40 days and 40 nights every temptation that is known to man was thrown against Him. Why did God allow Him to be tempted? Because He needs the opportunity to overcome the flesh. When He has overcome the flesh what happened to the devil? Something has to come first. Now in our own life we need to overcome the flesh before we can overcome the devil. Now when you are ministering to demon-oppressed people, you will find that in some cases before the devil controlled them the flesh has controlled them first. The devil doesn't simply jump on people. They have to have an opening. They have to have something in that person's life, some yielding before they can cling to that person. The flesh is there first before the devil. Yielding to the flesh causes yielding to the devil.

How did the story change? Let's say everybody is under the dominion of the devil, which is also under the dominion of the flesh. Jesus came and overcame the flesh. Then He overcame the devil. And what does He do? As He ministered to other people He overcame the devil's power over their life first before helping them to overcome the flesh. Applied on an individual basis the flesh must be overcome before the devil is overcome. But some people had yielded so much of the devil's temptations that before they can deal with the flesh they must deal with the devil. There is an overcoming from inside out and there is an overcoming from outside in. The overcoming from outside in is where a person has reached a certain point where they need the demon powers to be dealt with before they could overcome the flesh. And that is why I say demon powers don't just operate as demon powers by themselves but that they operate through people to influence and oppress others. Sometimes to help a person you have to pull them out of their environment and put them in a different physical fellowship. There is a harmony of these truths that we can see. But first the person must overcome the flesh before he overcomes the devil. Then having overcome the devil he has the authority to shake off influences of the devil and minister to people who are still in the flesh.

There are pockets and groups of people all over the world who are in darkness. Another person who has been freed from the enemy comes and frees that group. But if nobody comes to that group, then somebody in that group by the grace of God might receive the word of God, overcomes the flesh, takes authority and then could help the other people. If you are in chains and in bondage, how can you help another person? You can't. You got to overcome that bondage before you can free another person. You have to have a free hand to free another person. And so the one that is free helps the others by taking authority over the demon powers. So we put it this way again by overcoming the power of demon powers it makes it easier to overcome the flesh.

The other side of the truth is that, that as you overcome the devil the flesh is overcome. So let's define it more accurately. The ultimate victory is when you overcome the flesh and you overcome the devil. Step one, the flesh; step two, the devil. The other side of the truth is where after overcoming the devil and then helping people to overcome the flesh is different. When you overcome the devil to help people to overcome the flesh. You are creating a spiritual environment. The most you can help is to isolate that person until that person faces himself or herself. That is why you must not only cast out the devil but you must teach that person how to walk in his authority in Jesus Christ. Otherwise that person will end up depending on you for constant deliverance. Remember the devil wanted to come against Peter and remember what Jesus said, Satan has asked for you. You must see that there is protection when you come under another person who has authority. We all work under spiritual authority. In the spiritual world there are different authorities. When you come under spiritual authority a spiritual covering comes over your life. All the disciples of Jesus were under the authority of Jesus. Jesus was always praying for them and covering them spiritually. The devil couldn't touch them. That is why before touching them the devil has to come to Jesus and make demands. The word *ask* could be translated as *demand*. *Satan has demanded for you*. Satan was trying to get Peter but could only get him by demanding Jesus to release Peter to him.

So the point to these two truths is this. On one side the overcoming of the devil only creates an environment where the person is free from demonic oppression. His will is now free from demonic oppressions to make choices for God. To help him further, you still need to teach the word. Every time deliverance takes place you

need the teaching to come in to help him overcome his flesh. Ultimately, overcoming happens only when you overcome the flesh. Remember to him that overcomes is given power over the nations. And that is the real overcoming. So when you put the two together which is greater? By overcoming the flesh I overcome the devil. By overcoming the devil I create an environment in which I can overcome the flesh. The most important thing in your life is to overcome the flesh. Your greatest enemy is not the devil. Your greatest enemy is the person you wake up in the morning and see in the mirror.

Now let me show how it brings the spiritual authority. When you gather here tonight to pray, how much power you can produce in prayer is dependant on every little thing that you overcome in your daily life. What you do tonight depends on what you do through out your life. Perhaps a good illustration is to take an extract from Nelson Mandela's biography. He spent many years in prison because he fought apartheid. He fought it in the streets. He fought it in the legal system. In the end he was taken and put in prison. It looks like that's the end. No more contact with society. In prison he treats the prison as a smaller version of the country. So every little thing he can overcome to him is one victory towards overcoming apartheid. And it makes him a stronger man. Because out there in the streets he was fighting for the right to vote. That is a big issue. And in prison he demonstrated his right to wear the same trousers as worn by the white prisoners. So he fought in prison for the right to wear trousers, which is a long way from fighting to vote. And when he got that right to wear the same trousers he saw it as a little victory that pave the way to a big victory. You see in every life that reached greatness there is some seed that you can learn. He learned to see the big things in the little things. Some people see the little things but they don't see the big things. Some people see the big things but they never see the little things that are important. Every step of the way, everything that you do, even that small little victory you have, you know how much it is a battle to fight with God for those of you working to have that extra 15 minutes to pray. Some of you may wake up early to pray, but suddenly for the next 3 days you have no devotion or prayer time. I know what its like. It's a battle. Some of you fight for your lunchtime to spend time with God. Demands are made on your time; your friends tempt you. The battle is not here tonight. The battle is where you are fighting in your daily life. And some of us don't see that as a battle. We don't see the small little thing. Maybe the effort you make to get up early to spend the extra time with God. Or the extra 15 minutes when your eyes are going to close. You really have to work very hard and you feel sleepiness coming on you

and all you feel like doing is just to drop in bed and just enjoy the rest. But you said no I must always spend some time with God. And you drag yourself to spend those 15 minutes with God. And you won the fight in your home. Tonight when you pray you will have more authority. If over the past 7 days some of you have fought and succeeded to read the word of God and do those things that God told you to do, when you pray in tonight's intercessory meeting you will have great power over the nation. But if for the past 7 days, you have been working very late and didn't spend time with God, your spiritual authority goes down. And tonight when you come and you pray your spiritual authority is diminished. Isn't it a surprise that your authority doesn't begin here? Your authority began at home. That's the reality that I like to bring forth tonight.

Let me give you one life before I close. The life of Jesus is obvious. Do you think many people were aware of His 40-day fast? I don't think so. Was anybody there with Jesus for His 40 days fast? You see your battles are in the secret places where nobody sees. The times when you struggle to spend extra time with God. The times when you were tempted for certain things. I ask you tonight have you said no to the devil throughout the past one week? If your answer is the devil has not disturbed me for the whole week, then either you must be very spiritual that the devil didn't dare to approach you. Or he has actually been with you all the time and you didn't know it.

Now Daniel is a man who has authority over nations. *To him who overcomes the flesh I will give authority over the nations.* That is speaking of demon powers. Let me qualify now and add the whole truth together in one statement. This is my paraphrase: to him that overcomes, to him that overcomes the flesh, Jesus said I would give power over demon power and over Satan himself. Your battle starts at home. Now Daniel had authority over nations. Remember the natural is only a picture of what is in the spiritual. At the peak of his life in the natural he was an advisor and he ruled and reigned in his position although he may not have been a king. But his influence was so great that whoever sat on the throne was almost like a puppet. He was the main guy making the decisions. He had authority over kingdom. Over 4 kingdoms he was the main guy. Kings come and go but Daniel remained. Even in his prayer life, when he prayed the demonic prince of Persia was shaken. This is a man who had authority over the nations. How did he get that authority? It started very strangely with food. Something has to change; some

discipline has to come into your life to make your prayer go further and more powerful tonight.

In Daniel chapter 1 look at how he started. He says I will not compromise with food that makes me break my Jewish law or the law of Moses that I have learned. Every other young Jewish boy forgot the law and went for the food. Was it worth it to give up all the delicious food? Nobody would dream that out of that would come authority over nations. I want to show you that all of Daniel's authority came from the gift of God he received because of that uncompromising stand he took not to defile himself with the king's food. God made him 10 times smarter. God gave him wisdom. How did Daniel first have authority? Wasn't it through the gift of interpretation of dream? Wasn't it because of that one interpretation of dream that Nebuchadnezzar recognize in him and put him as the key man? Now where did he get that gift of interpretation of dream? Because of the food that he restrained himself from. Now when it says God give you power over the nations, it doesn't mean that He takes you out on high and makes you chase demons for the rest of your life. We are not chasing demons. We want to stop their influence and power over areas where we want God's word and gospel to go. Chasing is not what we do. Chasing is a part of what we do.

Dan.1: 11-12 *Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, "Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. I think for some people it is very difficult to resist good food. Some people can never say no to chocolates. Some people can never say no to a good meal. I find as I grow in God, certain inclinations in me, including my appetite, change. You become more disciplined and this discipline in the end shows itself in other ways in the spiritual world. And it's because of that in verse 17 As for these four youths, (the sad story is this happened only to these four young Jewish boys. There were hundreds of other young Jewish boys) God gave them learning and skill in all letters and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. Out of that came authority and power over the nations. It was a simple question of food. It was a simple question of getting up in the morning. It was a simple question of spending more time with God in the night. It was a simple question of saying no to the devil; simple question of saying no to distraction; simple question of choosing the right area to go. Simple things make the big things. Small little things make the things that change the world. It is still not too late*

tonight. Small little things like the small little efforts that you began to do to stay awake, to pray through, to have a goal to press through, not to yield to the comforts. Sometimes when you off the lights during this overnight prayer vigil, some people are arranging their chairs for their bed. What we want is everyone to do his or her best to pray. The small little thing goes a long way. And the discipline that you develop here tonight will get back into your daily life to reverse your bad habits now. Things don't end here; our life continues and the little efforts that you make now will slowly creep back into your daily life. It's a never-ending story. Every victory you have builds up to stronger authority and stronger success. At the same time every failure does pull you down. If you ever fail gets over it fast don't think too much of it. The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord though he falls, though he falls, he shall not be cast down. If you ever fail, if you ever fall, don't get too condemned Just make sure there is more going. And the only way you can make sure that there is no more going is the more you fall get up quickly and go. Because in a life span, you fall, you stop, and if there is too much stopping, too much falling, on the general equation in the end you actually reverse and backslide. Just keep going and you will reach the shore in heaven strong in God, strong spiritually, achieving and receiving the rewards of God.