



Redeemed Authority Jimmy Evans

- Focus** We were created to rule. God gave Adam and Eve authority in the Garden of Eden. When they sinned, they turned over that authority to Satan. But Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection purchased back dominion of the earth. Now, we have spiritual authority. But when Jesus returns He will restore total authority to us. We were born to rule as kings and priests.
- Fun** Imagine you are going on an extreme adventure. Would you choose traveling the Sahara desert, crossing over Siberia, or trekking through the Amazon?
- Review** Key Scriptures: Luke 19:11, 21:25–28; Genesis 1:27–28; Revelation 1:4–6, 2:24–27, 22:3–5; 1 Peter 2:9–10; 2 Timothy 2:12; James 4:7
- 1. We were created to rule.**

In the Garden of Eden, God gave dominion over the earth to mankind. He calls us kings and priests and gave us the stewardship of the earth to expand His kingdom until the day He returns. During the thousand years of His reign, we will rule with Him over cities and geographic regions. And the kingdom of God, His ways and His principles, will be fully established on the earth.
 - 2. You have as much authority as you are under.**

Sin is not just rebelling against God, it is giving the devil authority. When Adam and Eve sinned, dominion of the earth was handed over to Satan (John 14:30; Luke 4:6). Sin is an agreement with the enemy. It is giving him a place of influence in our lives. When you walk in rebellion, you no longer have authority. Through His victory on the cross and His resurrection from the dead, Jesus took back all the authority of the enemy. Satan no longer has power. He can only operate in the power vacuum that is created when we are not operating in the

authority God gave us. But when you are submitted under God's authority, you have total authority over the devil.

3. Our actions on earth will continue to have an effect on our eternity.

There is no reset button at the rapture. How we have stewarded our lives (the gifts, talents, opportunities He has given us) will directly translate to the level of reward and the level of authority we will carry in the millennial reign of Christ. We have spiritual authority right now to expand His kingdom.

Group Dynamics Idea Pick a time to do a game night together. You may also ask everyone to bring a different snack or dessert (or you may make it a full meal). Taking time to laugh and play together is a great way to build friendships and strengthen relationships.

Discuss

1. Read 1 Peter 2:9–10. Have you considered before that God has called you both king and priest? What does that mean to you? How can you live differently today out of this place of revelation?
2. In John 14:30, Jesus declared Satan had no claim on Him, meaning that He had not given the devil any place in His life. Is there an area of your life that you have given place to the enemy by not fully submitting to the Lord? Maybe it has been through lies that you have agreed with or fears that you have entertained. How can you take authority in these areas?
3. You have as much authority as you are under. Who are the authority structures in your life? Obviously, Jesus is our highest authority. But He also charged us to submit to others. Do you have spiritual mentors and leaders whom you are submitted under and have allowed access to speak into your life?
4. In Luke 19, Jesus tells a parable paralleling His ascension into heaven, our stewardship of His kingdom, and His imminent return. What are the minas (the talents, gifts, areas of influence, opportunities) that God has given to you to see His kingdom expanded?

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- We were born to rule and reign under the authority of Jesus.
- The enemy has no authority except what we give him.
- We have spiritual authority right now to expand God's kingdom.

Prayer

Lord, we submit every area of our lives to You today. We cut off any agreement with the enemy and declare that You are our highest authority! Would You teach us how to steward our time on this earth using the spiritual authority You have given to us now to release the kingdom of God. Thank You for Your beautiful plan of redemption. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip At Gateway, there many opportunities to mentor someone or be mentored. For anyone looking for a spiritual mentor or wanting to grow in the area understanding and submitting to authority, mentorship can be a great way to go! Have people look around for a seasoned believer whom they trust and see if they'd be interested in mentoring them. Or if anyone would like to increase their discipleship skills by becoming a mentor, classes about mentorship can be found at equip.gatewaypeople.com.