When Heaven Invades Earth
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The Original Commission
The backbone of Kingdom authority and power is found in the commission. Discovering God's original commission and purpose for mankind can help to fortify our resolve to a life of history changing significance. To find that truth we must go back to the beginning.

Man was created in the image of God and placed into the Father's ultimate expression of beauty and peace: the Garden of Eden. Outside of that garden it was a different story. It was without the order and blessing contained within and was in great need of the touch of God's delegated one - Adam.

Adam and Eve were placed in the garden with a mission - God said, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it."(Genesis 1:28) It was God's intention that as they bore more children, who also lived under God's rule, they would be extending the boundaries of His garden (His government) through the simplicity of their devotion to Him. The greater number of people in right relationship to God, the greater the impact of their leadership. This process was to continue until the entire earth was covered with the glorious rule of God through man.

But in Genesis chapter 1 we discover it's not a perfect universe. Satan had rebelled and had been cast out of heaven, and with him a portion of the fallen angels took dominion of the earth. It's obvious why the rest of the planet needed to be subdued - it was under the influence of darkness. God could have destroyed the devil and his host with a word, but instead He chose to defeat darkness through His delegated authority - those made in His image who were lovers of God by choice.

A Romance Story
The Sovereign One placed us -- Adam's children -- in charge of planet earth. "The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's; but the earth He has given to the children of men."(Psalm 115:16) The highest of honors was chosen because love always chooses the best. That is the beginning of the romance of our creation...created in His image, for intimacy, that dominion might be expressed through love. It is from this revelation that we are to learn to walk as His ambassadors, thus defeating the "Prince of this world." The stage was set for all of darkness to fall as man exercised His godly influence over creation. But instead, man fell.

Satan didn't come into the Garden of Eden violently and take possession of Adam and Eve. He couldn't! Why? He had no dominion there. Dominion empowers. And since man was given the keys of dominion over the planet, the devil would have to get his authority from them. The suggestion to eat the forbidden fruit was simply the devil's effort to get Adam and Eve to agree with him in opposition to God, thus empowering him. Through that agreement he is enabled to kill, steal, and destroy. It's important to realize that even today satan is empowered through man's agreement.

Mankind's authority to rule was forfeited when Adam ate the forbidden fruit. Paul said, "You are that one's slaves whom you obey." (Romans 6:16) In that one act mankind became the slave and possession of the Evil One. All that Adam owned, including the title deed to the planet with its corresponding position of rule, became part of the devil's spoil. God's predetermined plan of redemption immediately kicked into play, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel. (Genesis 3:15). Jesus would come to reclaim all that was lost.

There Were no Shortcuts to His Victory
God’s plan of rulership for man never ceased. Jesus came to bear man’s penalty for sin and recapture what had been lost. Luke 19:30 says that Jesus came “to seek and to save that which was lost.” Not only was mankind lost to sin, his dominion over planet earth was also lost. Jesus came to recapture both. Satan tried to ruin that plan at the end of Jesus’ 40-day fast. The devil knew he wasn’t worthy of Jesus’ worship, but he also knew that Jesus had come to reclaim the authority that man had given away. Satan said to Him, “All this authority I give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.” Notice the phrase, “for this has been delivered to me.” Satan could not steal it. It had been relinquished when Adam abandoned God’s rule. It was as though satan was saying to Jesus, “I know what You came for. You know what I want. Worship me and I’ll give You back the keys.” In effect, satan offered Jesus a shortcut to His goal of recapturing the keys of authority that man lost through sin. Jesus said "no" to the shortcut and refused to give him any honor. (It was the same desire for worship that caused satan’s fall from heaven in the first place. Isaiah 14:12) Jesus held His course, for He had come to die.

The Father wanted satan defeated by man...one made in His image. Jesus, who would shed His blood to redeem mankind, emptied Himself of His rights as God and took upon Himself the limitations of man. Satan was defeated by a man -- the Son of God., who was rightly related to God. Now, as people receive the work of Christ on the cross for salvation, they become grafted into that victory. Jesus defeated the devil with His sinless life, defeated him in His death paying for our sins with His blood, and again, in the resurrection, rising triumphant with the keys of death and hell.

We Are Born to Rule
In redeeming man, Jesus retrieved what man had given away. From the throne of triumph He declared, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore... (Matt 28:18 - 19)" In other words, I got it all back. Now go use it and reclaim mankind. In this passage Jesus fulfills the promise He made to the disciples when He said, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven (Matt 16:19)." The original plan was never aborted; it was fully realized once and for all in the resurrection and ascension of Jesus. We were then to be completely restored to His plan of ruling as a people made in His image. And as such we would learn how to enforce the victory obtained at Calvary: "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet (Rom. 16:20)."

We were born to rule -- rule over creation, over darkness - to plunder hell and establish the rule of Jesus wherever we go by preaching the gospel of the Kingdom. Kingdom means: King's domain. In the original purpose of God, mankind ruled over creation. Now that sin has entered the world, creation has been infected by darkness, namely: disease, sickness, afflicting spirits, poverty, natural disasters, demonic influence, etc. Our rule is still over creation, but now it is focused on exposing and undoing the works of the devil. We are to give what we have received to reach that end. (Matt. 10:8) If I truly receive power from an encounter with the God of power, I am equipped to give it away. The invasion of God into impossible situations comes through a people who have received power from on high and learn how to release it into the circumstances of life.

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