

INTRODUCTION

1. Illustrations of the authority entrusted to us as sons of the Most High.
 - i. Gn 41:37-46 Joseph
 - ii. Dan 2:46-49 Daniel
 - iii. Perceive types of Christ - 1C 10:11 & insight on our salvation: taken from place of humiliation to glory.

2. Our experience is analogous to Joseph & Daniel.
 - i. Similar sequence - suffering then exaltation: seen in Jesus.
 - ii. In NCov we already experience benefits of Jesus' exaltation. Like Jesus when He was on earth, our heavenly identity is veiled - Col 3:1-4.
 - a. 2:20 we *died w/ Christ* & have been raised in Christ - Eph 2:4-6
 - b. When Jesus returns, the glory of our sonship will be revealed.
 - c. We display our sonship as sons of the Most High: overcomers.
 - iii. If we face the pit or prison - even martyrdom: we overcome.

f. Overcome by giving a blessing: Lk 6:27-28; Rm 12:21.

5. Do you want to exercise influence? To have authority, submit to authority.
 - i. Wield the power of the gospel in submission to King Jesus.

2nd: We are Authorized Sons of the Most High as We Serve Others for the Glory of the Most High

- 01. We are authorized to call sinners to repentance & promise forgiveness of sins - *in His name* [Lk 24:47] - the authority of the name!

2. Authority to teach - [Tit 2:15]

3. Authority over the demonic & a greater authority than that exercised in the lesser court-rooms of men - 1C 9:19; Jn 13:3-4

1st: We Are Authorized Sons of the Most High as We Submit to the Most High

1. We exercise authority under Christ's authority

2. 2 occasions when Jesus marveled: 1] Mrk 6:6 *wondered at their unbelief*; 2] Lk 7:1-10 Centurion's faith: under authority, perceived Jesus' authority.

3. Recall Jesus' authority in ministry: Jn 10:18. In submission to Father's authority, Jesus has authority over death [1C 15:55f].
 - i. the exercise of authority is a submission to authority
 - ii. we are authorized to obey Father & lay down our lives in love

4. We must take our place, authorized to obediently love: cf. marriage
 - i. 1C 11:3 - both husband & wife are submitted to authority & exercise authority in their respective places, functions - foster life.
 - ii. 1Ptr 2 worshiping people of Christ witness for Christ [v4-12] 2:13-3:9
 - a. 2:13-20 Take our place under God-constituted human authorities
 - b. v21-25 life of obedient submission exemplified by Jesus
 - c. 3:1-6 Wives: *in the same way*
 - d. 3:7 Husbands - *in the same way*
 - e. 3:8-9 - *you have been called for this purpose* [inclusio 2:21] - follow Christ in your place - as sons, *inherit blessing*

Applic #1: Be Sons of the MOST High not the RELATIVELY High

1. Mat 20:17-28 disciples did not understand the authority characteristic of Jesus' kingdom - tempted to conceive of His kingdom according to this age.
 - i. Jesus tells them they will share in His suffering.
 - ii. Exercise authority, not as Gentiles, but as servants - 1 Pt 5:2-3

2. Liable to overvalue this age & undervalue the age to come: truncated eschatology - 2T 4:10. *Seek 1st the Kingdom of God*

3. Temptation: take Jesus' name & use it to get a relative authority - often political. We are sons of the MOST, not the RELATIVELY High.

4. Let us give kingdom blessings to men as we live as sons of the Most High.