

Romans 13:1-2 *Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.* This morning, we are going to look at authority. The word, authority, is used four times in these 2 verses. If we are going to understand our relationship as Christians to the government, we must have a clear understanding of authority. **Exousia = privilege, delegated influence; i.e., delegated authority that comes from another.** Almost every time this word is used, its context shows that the power or authority comes from someone else. For example, in **John 17:2** "...as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him," Jesus speaks of his power or authority to give eternal life, but note the emphasis is on the fact that this authority or power was given to Jesus by the Father. This morning, we shall look at the

I. ALL OF CREATION IS UNDER GOD'S AUTHORITY *For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.*

A. All of creation is a product of delegated authority. **Mark 4:38b-41** *"Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" 39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. 40 But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" 41 And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"* In the beginning, Jesus, acting under the authority of His Father, spoke, saying, "*Let there be light,*"

B. All of creation continues in existence because of delegated authority. **2 Peter 3:5-7** *For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.* The delegated authority of Jesus holds together every atom and molecule in the universe. Jesus has tremendous authority!

II. HUMAN AUTHORITIES ARE UNDER GOD'S AUTHORITY

A. Pharaoh: **Romans 9:17** *"For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth."*

B. Nebuchadnezzar: **Daniel 4:25** *25 They shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen. They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.*

C. Pilate: **John 19:10-11** *Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" 11 Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."*

III. GREAT FAITH OPERATES UNDER GOD'S AUTHORITY **Matt. 8:5-13** *note verses 8-10 The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." 10 When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"*