

# **Biblical Authority- *Pleasing God***

## **Lesson 1: “And God said...” - God’s Right of Authority**

### **What is authority? Why do we need it?**

In all aspects of our lives, we need order. We strive to organize chaos. From a simple activity such as playing a board game to the complex organization of international gatherings, some level of order is demanded. It is a natural yearning. Authority is required to set things in order, to provide structure and to reassure those seeking to follow proper guidance.

### **Who has authority in religion?**

During the periods of time between the rulings of God’s judges, the Children of Israel did “whatever was right in his own eyes” (Jud 17:6; 21:25). Chaos developed, and each time Israel drifted away from God. So many religious people today are looking for the right source of authority. God is our authority by absolute right. He announces His right to rule by His actions and through the writings of the Holy Spirit.

- **God has the right to rule because He created everything**

The history of the earth has its beginning with God. Everything we see around us was “spoken” into existence by the breath of the Almighty (Gen 2:4-7). Animals of all species, plants and the heavens above us were created by Him. He established the natural behavior, detailed characteristics and the sophisticated eating/breeding/migration habits within His animal kingdom. The very laws of nature (upon which we are all dependent) were fashioned by Him. Man should see God’s authority through His creation (Rom 1:18-21). As the Hebrew writer records, “He who built all things is God” (Heb 3:4). In Psalms 19, David both praises God for His creation (vs. 1-6) and praises Him for His established laws for man to follow (vs. 7-11).

- **God has shown He has all authority in demonstrating his control**

Through the revealed scriptures, the Holy Spirit clearly demonstrates God’s absolute control over the earth and its inhabitants. In Gen 18:17-33, the discussion between Abraham and God concerning the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah demands our understanding of God’s authority to destroy His creation. He annihilated these wicked cities (Gen 19:12-29). The story of Jonah shows us God’s authority extends everywhere and upon everything (from Israel/Nineveh to Tarshish; animal kingdom, plants, weather, oceans and the power to reconcile penitent hearts).

- **God demonstrates His authority by providing all spiritual blessings**

Another way that God demonstrates His authority over our spiritual lives is through His creation of man's scheme of redemption. God's eternal purpose for man is to provide a means in which those who truly respect His authority can live with him forever (Eph 1:3-14).

## **Pleasing God**

The true focus of this 13 week study of Biblical authority is on "*Pleasing God*". We read and study the scriptures to better understand God's nature and His will for man. We take the necessary time to discern between right and wrong, search for New Testament patterns, and learn what God defines as righteous (or determines unacceptable). We will be discussing "how to please God" in our worship and our walk as His chosen children. One way to please Him is to have faith that He has all authority and has the ability to give eternally life (Heb 11:6).

## **Questions:**

1. How would you define authority? How does one act that has authority, or how did you know they were in authority?
2. Why is it important to have authority for the things we do in our worship? Do we need to have authority to do things outside of our worship?
3. Why do you think some people today resent the fact that God has authority of them?
4. How can we be guilty of doing "what is right in their own eyes"? What does God warn about this (Pro 12:15: 21:2-3)?
5. What is the correlation between our "pleasing God" and "recognizing His ultimate authority"?
6. What does *Rom 9:20-21* reiterate about the relationship between God and man?
7. List some spiritual blessings that God provides to His children. How does this show His authority over man?