

## **The Authority of the Righteous, Part 1**

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Sunday, January 9, 2022

### **Opening Summary**

When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice! Part one of this series is an overview of who the righteous are and what authority is. You will discover who has authority, how to use it and not lose it. You will see the effects wicked rulers have on an entire nation and why exercising your authority in prayer is highly important for your own sake as well as for your nation.

**Text:** Pro. 29:2

- I. John 4:24: God is a spirit. Spiritual things precede all natural things.
- II. Pro. 29:2: Who are the righteous?
  - A. 2 Cor. 5:20-21: *Righteous* means *justification*. If you are in Christ, God declares you righteous
  - B. Rom. 10:8-10: Faith in your heart and words out of your mouth cause you to accept Jesus as your Lord (supreme, highest of all, controller).
  - C. Rom. 3:23-26: If you believe Jesus is your Lord, God made you righteous.
  - D. Pro. 29:2 is talking about you, because God made you righteous.
- III. What is authority?
  - A. *Authority* (Heb.: *rabah*) means *to increase, enlarge, excel, grow up, be in charge*.
  - B. Webster's Ed. 1828 dictionary says *authority is legal power, or a right to command or to act, rule, sway*.
  - C. Authority is transferable downward. Saul uses this authority to kill Christians.
    1. Acts 9:13-14: He was given authority to arrest people.
    2. Acts 26:10-11: He was given authority to put Christians in prison and to death.
  - D. Authority is a legal, scriptural basis to stand on in the court of heaven.
- IV. You must know you have authority (Hos. 4:6).
  - A. Mat. 8:5-9: This centurion is not a covenant person; the believer is.
    1. He explains to Jesus how he understands authority.
    2. He recognized that Jesus is a man in authority.
  - B. Mat. 8:10: Jesus marveled at this man's faith.
    1. He knew he had authority, he acted like he had authority.
    2. It's like a police officer. He has authority to uphold the law.
  - C. This is the year of authority, if the righteous exercise their authority.
- V. Prov. 29:2: *Rejoice* (Heb.: *samach*) means *to brighten up, cheer up, be glad*.
  - A. Rejoicing shows in the face.
    1. I can see in my children's face when something isn't right with them.

2. God can see in your face when something isn't right with you.
3. Show you're in authority by brightening up your face. Rejoice!
- B. *Wicked* (Heb.: *rasha*) means *to be morally wrong*.
- C. The Bible determines what is morally right or wrong.
- D. The wicked *beareth rule* means *to have the power in their hands*.
- E. *Mourn* means *to groan*.
- F. We rejoice when God's blessings (health, wealth, long life) abound.
- G. We mourn when the curse (poverty, sickness, pandemics, death) abounds.
  1. If what you do is morally wrong, you provoke God. You trouble Him, grieve, enrage, anger Him. When the wicked are in charge, judgement occurs.
  2. 1 Kings 12:20: Jeroboam is king of Israel.
  3. 1 Kings 14:15-16: Jeroboam made Israel sin, because he's the head.
    - a. Leadership matters.
    - b. The head of the family influences their offspring.
  4. 1 Kings 15:25-26: Nadab, son of Jeroboam made Israel sin.
    - a. Government policy affects the whole nation.
    - b. Sin comes to a place where it overflows. That overflow provokes God.
    - c. The biggest of all is taking the life of 60 million lives of unborn children.
    - d. My best friend is a product of rape. Today he pastors a large church.
    - e. Over decades, sin overflows and judgment comes, such as a pandemic.
  5. 1 Kings 16:1-2: Baasha followed Jeroboam's ways and made Israel sin.
  6. 1 Kings 16:15-19: King Zimri followed Jeroboam's ways and made Israel sin.
  7. Those kings followed the ways of the leadership. Judgment followed.
  8. The Old Testament is for our learning.

#### VI. Who has authority?

- A. Mat. 28:18: Jesus has authority. He will pass all judgment.
- B. John 5:26-27: *Son of man*: Jesus came to earth and defeated the enemy for us.
- C. Eph. 1:21-22: The body of Christ has authority over every name (authority).
  1. The church executes the office of Jesus, because the church is Jesus.
  2. Jesus is the head. The church is the body. The head is attached to the body.
  3. The sole of the foot of the body of Christ has the same authority as Jesus.
  4. He has authority in earth and in the heavenlies.

#### VII. Mark 13:34: Use your authority. Don't waste your authority.

- A. Luke 9:1-6: The twelve includes Judas.
- B. Your authority is greater than the delta variant, omicron, and any other virus.
- C. Judas started out well, but he failed to correct himself (1 John 1:9).
- D. If you're going in the wrong direction, you correct it, and God will forgive you.
- E. Luke 10:1-11, 17-20: Jesus can't go everywhere, so He sends people.
- F. Jesus' authority had been transferred to His disciples (Mark 6:13).

#### VIII. How does authority work?

- A. Authority is a result of knowing, receiving, believing, speaking, acting like it's so.
- B. Mark 1:27: Jesus knew He had authority over satan. Satan can't kill you without your cooperation.
- C. Mat. 8:16: You cast out demon spirits with Word.

- D. Exercise authority by *meditating* Scriptures about authority.
- E. Can you *nullify* your authority? Yes!! Judas nullified his authority by offence (Luke 9:1).
  - 1. Mat. 17:14-20: You can nullify your authority by unbelief.
  - 2. You must feed your faith daily, constantly.
  - 3. Each day you either go forward or you slip back (Psa. 1:1-3).
  - 4. You cannot afford to leave the house without meditating the Word.
  - 5. If you do, you slip back. You won't have the strength when you need it.
  - 6. You lose strength because you stopped doing what you did in the beginning.
  - 7. It's like marriage: you cannot change after you say "I do."
    - a. You have to do what you did to get them, or else have lots of problems.
    - b. If you do what you did in the beginning, over time your marriage will blossom.
- F. James 5:15-17: Authority can be *exercised* through prayer.
  - 1. *Avaieth* means *have or exercise force*. A police officer has no power against a 4,000-pound car. His badge says he has authority to arrest someone. The name of Jesus is your badge. Tell the devil to get out of your life!
  - 2. 1 Tim. 2:1-8: Exercise authority through prayer.
    - a. Supplication is definite requests.
    - b. Pray with all the various kinds of prayer.
    - c. Intercessions is prayer for those who cannot pray for themselves.
    - d. Thanksgiving is an expression of your faith.
    - e. *For all men* means *over* all men. I pray for the world every day.
    - f. Pray for the leaders of your country: presidents, kings, prime ministers, dictators, and for all that are in authority.
      - 1. Why? If the wicked bare rule, negative judgment happens.
      - 2. If the righteous bare rule, you can have a peaceable life.
      - 3. 1 Tim. 2:4: Pray that they have the exact knowledge of the truth.
      - 4. A person sent us a letter, criticizing us for leading our church to pray for this year's elections.
        - a) According to Prov. 29:2, we led the church to pray for ungodly democrats, ungodly republicans, and ungodly independents to lose and for godly democrats, godly republicans, and godly independents to be elected, so we can lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. That is what God wants. We should want it too.
        - b) It's time for the judgment to end. God's hand is turning back up.

### Closing Summary:

You, as a Christian (the righteous), rejoice when you walk in the authority Jesus transferred to you. It is highly important to daily spend time with God in prayer, in study and in meditating the Word. Additionally, you are to pray for political leaders in your nation, whether righteous or wicked, because those leaders have an effect on the entire nation. Also, pray that righteous people are elected so you can live a quiet and peaceful life in godliness and honesty.