

A wooden cross stands in the background, partially obscured by a crown of thorns in the foreground. To the right, a wooden gavel rests on its sound block. The scene is set against a dark, textured background.

“By What Authority”

Part 3

**Adult Study Class
with Seventy Richard Neill**

By What Authority (Part 3)

Seventy Richard F Neill

Review on Authority (Inspired Version)

***Creation (Genesis 1:1-2)** Mention of God's Only Begotten.

- 1) The Lord God calls Jesus and Satan before Him to consider each one's plan of salvation. The main difference is Satan's plan would *destroy the agency of man which the Lord God had given him.* (Genesis 3:4)
- 2) Jesus responded this way by saying, *Father Thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever.*

***The Plan of Salvation.** The Lord God, the Only Begotten, and Satan.

- 1) Satan *sought to destroy the agency of man, which God had given.*
- 2) Satan sought the power and glory of God.
- 3) Jesus, the beloved Son, said, *Thy will be done, and the glory be thine.*

The Father gave agency to man in the Garden of Eden. (Genesis 7:40)

By What Authority (Part 3)

Review on Authority (Inspired Version)

***The Redemption of Adam and Eve.**

- 1) Adam and Eve called upon the name of the Lord. (Gen. 4:4)
- 2) They were given the commandment to worship God. (Gen. 4:5)
- 3) They were given a command to give a Lamb as an offering. (Gen.4:5)
- 4) Adam and Eve were told that this is in the similitude of the Son. (G:4:7)
- 5) Adam was obedient to the commandments. (Gen. 4:6)
- 6) Adam was told to do all things in the name of the Son and repent. (G.4:8)
- 7) The Holy Ghost fell upon Adam. (Gen. 4:9)
- 8) The Holy Ghost bore record of the Father and the Son. (Gen: 4:9)
- 9) Adam blessed God. (Gen. 4:10) and was baptized. (Gen. 6:67-69)

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***The City of Enoch, Zion**

- 1) As Enoch journeyed the Spirit of God descended upon him. (Gen. 6:26)
- 2) Enoch heard a voice say, *Enoch, my son, say unto them repent.* (G: 6:27)
- 3) The Lord dwelt with His people, and they dwelt in righteousness.(G. 7:20)
- 4) The fear of the Lord was upon all nations, (Gen. 7:21)
- 5) So great was the glory of the Lord which was upon His people.(Gen: 7:21)
- 6) And the Lord called His people Zion, (Gen. 7:23)
- 7) Because, they were of one heart and one mind, (Gen. 7:23)
- 8) They dwelt in righteousness, (Gen. 7:23)
- 9) And there were no poor among them. (Gen. 7:23)
- 10) Enoch continued his preaching in righteousness, (Gen. 7:24)
- 11) Unto the people of God. (Gen. 7:24)
- 12) And it came to pass in his days, that he built a city, (Gen. 7:25)
- 13) That was called the city of Holiness, even Zion. (Gen. 7:25)

By What Authority (Part 3)

In all ages, a question has been asked.
A question that men and women have requested.

Where does authority exist on the earth?

In Matthew 11 we find the story of John the Baptist being held in prison. He sent two of his disciples to Jesus to ask him an important question.

Art thou he of whom it is written in the prophets that he should come, or do we look for another?

Jesus answered this question this way, *“Go and tell John again of these things which ye do hear and see; How the blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, and the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached unto them.*

Jesus was confronted with a question from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. They asked, *By what authority doest these things, and who gave thee this authority to do these things?*

On another occasion, in Mark 1, Jesus called James and John to follow him. The two men left their boats and followed Jesus. What was it they saw in Jesus?

From there, Jesus entered a synagogue and began to teach. The people who were gathered in the synagogue were astonished and commented that Jesus taught as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

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In the Latter Days, this question on authority was asked by a young boy. Joseph Smith Jr. was confused by the different churches, which were contending with one another to claim authority.

Joseph reported his confusion this way. So great was the confusion and strife among the different denominations that it was impossible for a person as young as I was and so unacquainted with men and things to come to any certain conclusion who was right, and who was wrong. Joseph took these concerns to the Lord in prayer. He would encounter the Father and the Son.

After Joseph Smith was martyred, many factions emerged under different leaders. Once again, the people searched for true authority.

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Significant to the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ, coming forth, two inspired messages came forth, and both directed attention to authority.

On November 18, 1851, Jason Briggs received this message. *In my own due time, will I call upon the seed of Joseph Smith, and will bring one forth, and he shall be mighty and strong, and he shall preside over ... my church.*

On March 20, 1853, Henry Deam brought forth this message: Verily, thus saith the Lord, as I said unto my servant Moses, *see thou do all things according to the pattern, so I say unto you. Behold, the pattern is before you. It is my will that you respect authority in my church...*

The purpose of authority is to guide and protect us. The Lord is our Shepherd.