

**Matthew 28:16-20**

*But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain, which Jesus had designated.*

*17 When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful.*

***18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.***

*19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,*

*20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

- Our prayer is that God speak to us in relation to cross-cultural missions to take us to the next step of full-engagement in God's great purpose to **make disciples of all nations**.
- As a Church we want to be Christ centered and Intentionally multicultural in all the Church plants around the world, in the first instance in the 10 strategic Cities in the G8 countries<sup>1</sup> and in India, China, Africa, Latin America and Israel.

Our Lord Jesus divides this into three breathtaking divisions as we learn about them let us meditate on each of them.

The three divisions are:

1. **The Colossal Claim**
2. **The Courageous Commission**
3. **The Caring Comfort**

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<sup>1</sup> The countries of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

## **THE COLOSSAL CLAIM - ALL AUTHORITY V.18**

"Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.'"

- Christ has died for sin, to triumph over guilt and condemnation.
- Christ rose from the dead to triumph over suffering and death.
- And in triumphing over guilt and condemnation and over suffering and death, he has also triumphed over Satan.
- All Satan can do is to destroy us with the guilt of sin, and torment us with suffering and death.

But we do not need to worry because Satan has been defeated and Our Lord has triumphed over guilt and condemnation, and over suffering and death.

In Philippians 2:9-11, the Bible says,

*Therefore, "God has highly exalted him and given him a name that is above every name that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:9-11).*

This is another way of saying:

*"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to [him]."*

Matt 28:18

## ALL AUTHORITY<sup>2</sup>.

- **He has Authority over Satan and all demons**
- **Authority over all angels** - good and evil
- **Authority over the natural universe, natural objects and laws and forces:**  
Stars, galaxies, planets, meteorites;
- **Authority over all weather systems:**  
Winds, rains, lightning, thunder, hurricanes, tornadoes, monsoons, typhoons, cyclones;  
  
(Our time in the USA and the Mini Tornadoes that caused chaos in the Midlands and South England- Northampton, Nuneaton, Farnborough, Luton and Nottingham)
- **Authority over all their effects:** tidal waves, floods, fires;  
  
The world has seen floods in the Central and North America, Central, East and West Africa, and Asia. Drought, Dust and Smoke, Fires, Severe Storms, and Volcanoes are

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<sup>2</sup> 1) Power of choice, liberty of doing as one pleases

a) Leave or permission

2) Physical and mental power

a) The ability or strength with which one is endued, which he either possesses or exercises

3) The power of authority (influence) and of right (privilege)

4) The power of rule or government (the power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed)

a) Universally

1) Authority over mankind

b) Specifically

1) The power of judicial decisions

2) Of authority to manage domestic affairs

c) Metonymically

1) A thing subject to authority or rule

a) Jurisdiction

2) One who possesses authority

a) A ruler, a human magistrate

b) The leading and more powerful among created beings superior to man, spiritual potentates

d) A sign of the husband's authority over his wife

1) The veil with which propriety required a women to cover herself

e) The sign of regal authority, a crown

other effects being suffered around the world.

But the Lord is Sovereign!

- **Authority over all molecular and atomic reality:**

Atoms, electrons, protons, neutrons, undiscovered subatomic particles, quantum physics, genetic structures, DNA, chromosomes

- **Authority over all plants and animals great and small:**

Whales and redwoods, giant squid and giant oaks, all fish, all wild beasts, all invisible animals and plants: bacteria, viruses, parasites, germs;

- **Authority over all the parts and functions of the human body:**

Every beat of the heart, every breath of the diaphragm, every electrical jump across a million synapses in our brains

- **Authority over all nations and governments:**

Presidents and kings and premiers, legislatures and courts

- **Authority over all armies and weapons and bombs and terrorists**

- **Authority over all industry and business and finance and currency (Northern Rock customers, do not worry)**

- **Authority over all entertainment and amusement and leisure and media**

- **Authority over all education and research and science and discovery**

- **Authority over all crime and violence**

- **Authority over all families and neighborhoods**

- **Authority over the church**

- **Authority over every soul and every moment of every life that has been or ever will be lived.**

There is nothing in heaven or on earth over which Jesus does not have authority, that is, does not have the right and the power do with as he pleases.

Both the right of absolute authority and the force of absolute power has been given to him.

The scope and the magnitude of the authority of Jesus is infinite, because Jesus is one with God the Father.

The Father has given him all authority not because the Father can give up being God, but because Jesus is God.

And when deity shares infinite authority with deity, he neither loses nor gains anything, but remains infinitely full and triumphant and all sufficient.<sup>3</sup>

This is a Colossal Claim.

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, has all authority in heaven and on earth, because our Lord Jesus is God.

Mandate to "**make disciples of all nations**" given by Christ to his disciples following his death and resurrection (**Matt 28:16-20**; **Mark 16:15-18**; **Luke 24:46-49**; **John 20:21-23**; **Acts 1:8**).

Because Christ has been given all authority in heaven and on earth (**Matt 28:19**), the Great Commission is to be taken with the utmost seriousness by all of his disciples, "to the very end of the age" (**Matt 28:20**).

The impetus for the Great Commission springs from the heart of God. He loved us and gave his Son for us (**John 3:16**).

The disciples are sent out to accomplish what God had started in the sending of his Son (**John 20:21**).

The Great Commission is thus linked to God's words to Abraham: that "all peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (**Gen 12:3**).

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<sup>3</sup> © Desiring God

The Great Commission is accomplished through witnessing ([Acts 1:8](#)), preaching ([Mark 16:15](#)), baptizing, and teaching ([Matt 28:20](#)).

Jesus' disciples are to replicate themselves in the lives of those who respond to the Good News. The Holy Spirit is the empowering agent for those who witness ([Acts 1:8](#)), as well as the one who convicts sinners of their need for Jesus ([John 16:8-11](#)).

The disciples will have success because Jesus, the Lord of heaven and earth, will be with them as they undertake their assignment ([Matt 28:20](#)).

The Great Commission necessitates taking the gospel message to "the ends of the earth" ([Acts 1:8](#)), to "all nations" ([Matt 28:19](#)).

The Good News is to be shared with all peoples, for all are sinners, Jews and Gentile alike, and in need of deliverance from sin ([Rom 3](#)). All peoples, by faith, can receive God's provision and are baptized into Christ. In Christ, all distinctions between Jew and Gentile disappear ([Rom 10:12-13](#); [Gal 3:28](#)).<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology  
The Great Commission