

The Authority of Jesus Christ

By Betty Harstad

“But that you know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins.”
(Luke 5:24a ESV)

“No one can take it (my life) from me, but I lay it down of my own accord, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I received from my Father.”
(John 10:18)

The Romans and the Pharisees did not have the authority or the power to take the life of Jesus Christ. He is the Son of God who came to earth to fulfill God’s plan of salvation by laying His life down as a perfect sacrifice for the sin of the whole world. I repeat: *He laid His* life down! No one had the power to take it from Him. Neither mankind nor the evil one had authority over Him then, just as they have no authority over Him now.

The entire Old Testament tells of the preparation and the great need of the promised Christ. *“Oh Foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer all these things and enter into His glory?”* (Luke 24:25, 26) He would not have been resurrected if He had not been the Son sent by God to fulfill all prophecies. He would not have entered into His glory as Jesus proclaimed above in Luke 24. *“And if Christ had not been raised from the dead, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins”* (1 Corinthians 15:17).

Some men, who claim to be New Prophets and New Apostles for God, declare that they are given authority to set the world in order, so that Christ can come back as King over a perfected kingdom. The grand effort to create a faultless society calls for many man-made “good” works, rather than pointing to the grace of Jesus Christ, the only Savior. Man may be able to change the outward circumstances for people, but only God can change the heart, and that comes to be through His Word and the Holy Spirit. *“Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you”* (1 Corinthians 15:1-2).

We may not fully understand what is meant by the verses in 1 Corinthians 15:24-25 or how the prophecy will be carried out: *“Then comes the end when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all his enemies under his feet.”* It is one of many passages that indicate God is the ultimate authority and will bring all prophecies to fruition according to His eternal purpose. At the precise time, Jesus Christ will come back on earth to put all things right. *“On His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, King of Kings and Lord of Lords”* (Revelation 19:16). All Believers can put their total faith and trust in the authoritative Word of God both now and forevermore.