



The Babylon Posture Pt 5: Taking Dominion in Babylon

April 16, 2023

Holy Text: Genesis 1:26-28

What we've learned and been exhorted in so far...

In the previous four parts, we've attempted, by God's grace, to paint a picture of our spiritual climate. These aren't easy waters in which to swim, so why go there at all? Why not just talk about nice things?

1. Because we live in spiritual Babylon! All around us we find the celebrations of idolatry and pagan worship. There is gross and perverted sexual immorality and the worship of death. There is institutionalized pressure to bow down and worship Nebuchadnezzar's Golden Image (the cultural false ideas, use of certain unbiblical words, and the reception and acceptance of the demons of the day). We can all hear the satanic siren call:

***Daniel 3:4-7 (KJV)** Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages, **5** That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up: **6** And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. **7** Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of musick, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.*

2. Because those who do not conform are cast into the cultural fiery furnace! (Dan 3:8-30)

***Daniel 3:16-20 (KJV)** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. **17** If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. **18** But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. **19** Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated. **20** And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.*

3. Because you are loved by God even in Babylon! He therefore commands you to:

- Build Godly houses!
- Dwell in them with hope and joy!
- Plant gardens...that is...be active and productive!
- Eat the fruit! Be physically nourished and strong. Don't waste away in Babylon!
- Take wives. Create new, Godly households!
- Begat sons and daughters. Think generationally. Be fruitful and take dominion in Babylon!
- Increase in the midst of captivity!

- Fight the spiritual principalities and powers that exercise great influence over the nations.
4. Because this is what Christ's under-shepherds are commanded to do. We must protect those loved by Christ, and equip them for the battles they face!

Acts 20:28 (KJV) *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*

2 Timothy 4:2-4 (KJV) *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*

Titus 1:9-11 (KJV) *Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. 10 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: 11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.*

As we close up this series, let us today consider some practical exhortations that we might stand strong, love deeply, and increase regardless of Satan's schemes...

The Dominion Mandate: What is it?

1. In our Text, we see the summary of our great and loving God's creation of man. More details is given in Chapter 2.
2. Our LORD formed Adam out of the dust of the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and he became a living soul. (Gen 2:7)
3. God then sees that Adam is alone (and that wasn't good), so out of Adam's side, using one of his ribs, He creates "an helpmeet" for him. (Gen 2:18, 21-25)
4. Together, *Man* was created in God's image, **male and female created He them!** (Gen 1:27)
5. *Man* was then given a *Mandate*, or a series of commands. Adam and Eve are commanded to "have dominion" or to rule "over all the earth." (Gen 1:26)
6. This was not a bad thing; it was and is **the Blessings of God** (Gen 1:28): Blessings of fruitfulness! Blessings of multiplication! Blessings of filling the earth, subduing it, and having dominion over all of it! (Gen 1:28)
7. **Dominion** implies great intentionality of living, and great authority:
 - **Dominion** is *râdâh* in Hebrew. It means, "to tread down, that is, *subjugate*; to prevail against, reign, (bear, make to) rule, (-r, over), take."¹
 - To "**subdue**" (*kâbash* in Hebrew) means "positively to *conquer*, *subjugate*, *violate*: - bring into bondage, force, keep under, subdue, bring into subjection."²
8. **Propositions: 1) This command isn't just about farming or husbandry; it is about living a God-honoring, Christ-like life of intentional, daily stewardship. 2) This**

¹ Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary

² Ibid.

command wasn't just given to Adam and Eve, but also to "Man," that is, all of our first parents' spiritual and physical children, including us.

9. Our Definition of the Command or Mandate:

The Dominion Mandate is the command to establish the rule of Jesus Christ in all areas and jurisdictions of life (the Family, the Church, and the State); the intentional expansion of His Kingdom by His subjects, the preaching of the Gospel, the disciplining of hearts, and the raising up of Godly generations that declare, "Thy Kingdom come, and Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

10. To us, it is an unqualified mandate. **In times of both prosperity or captivity, the Christian seeks to establish and extend Christ's rule. He is King of Kings and Creator of all things!** God's people were created to worship Him. One way we do that (other than with our prayers, praise, and purity) is with our production!

The Motives for such a Mindset

There is a lot of talk in Christian and cultural circles about "Christian Nationalism." We don't claim such a label. All we know is that Christ rules over all, and the disciplining of the nations will naturally manifest the desire to bring all things under Christ's rule by those same disciples! Call that what you will. Meanwhile, these things motivate us:

1. The Glory of God!
2. A Love for Christ!
3. The Great Commission and a love for lost people!
4. Obedience to Scripture!
5. A Desire for Multigenerational Faithfulness!

Taking Dominion in Babylon: Ten Thoughts

Note: some of these are God's commands. Others are biblically-based, "signs of the times" suggestions. We recognize that every household is in a different place in terms of maturity and call. Be "good Bereans" (Acts 17:10-11), obey the commands, and apply what is useful!

1. Build a Biblically Healthy Household. Build on the Rock!

Matthew 7:24-27 (KJV) *Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*

2. Make Disciples!

Matthew 28:18-20 (KJV) *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

3. Embrace the Steward's Revelation. Everything belongs to God! We are just managers!

Psalms 24:1 (KJV) A Psalm of David. The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

4. Research what Scripture says about Stewardship, including Borrowing and Debt.
Suggestion: pay everything off!
 - ***Proverbs 22:7 (KJV) The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.***
 - Also, consider other areas of household stewardship like *insurance* and *other protections*.
5. Have more savings than “normal.”
 - Saving money is not sinful; loving or worshipping it is. (Prov 10:4-5; 13:11, 13:22, 21:20; Matt 6:19-24; 1 Tim 6:10)
 - **Suggestion:** save at least one year’s worth of household expenses. *Why? Capricious Circumstances, Covid, and Cultural Chaos* teach us that having *Considerable Cash* between you and *Cancellation* seems like wisdom for most families!
 - This isn’t anti-faith. God is always our Good Provider!
6. Think through making more or developing passive Income. (Matthew 25:14-30)
 - As you work as unto the LORD, work to advance and earn more.
 - Also, consider entrepreneurship or starting businesses.
 - Consider investing in things that will create wealth: cash flow, interest income, and dividends. (Mutual or Index funds, real estate, etc.)
 - Homesteading is another option for some.
 - All these things help provide household sufficiency during difficult days.
7. Rethink views on housing: Cultural vs. Kingdom! (Jer 29:5)
 - Rethink the wisdom of older children/young adults living away from home prior to marriage. *Why? Increased temptations, higher costs, personal dangers, etc.*
 - **Don’t panic!** 😊 We are simply saying that there are many passages in Scripture where older children lived in their father’s house (Issac, David, Jacob’s sons, the parables of the Prodigal Son, the Two Sons, etc.). This concept is not sinful.
 - **To “rethink” is an encouragement to consider Scripture, your children and their passions and individual call, and then make wise (and avoid worldly) decisions.**
 - Consider buying generational homes/land to help ease the way for future generations.
8. Reconsider Education. Should Babylon teach our children?
 - Yes, it is possible for our children to be Daniels (who was likely in his later teens to early twenties when carried away):

Daniel 1:4 (KJV) Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.

- But remember...the biblical record shows the faithfulness of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, but no other Jews! Consequently, may we also prayerfully consider the other possible pitfalls and the positive commands of Scripture when making educational choices:

Judges 2:10 (KJV) *And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.*

Deuteronomy 6:6-12 (KJV) *And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates. 10 And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, 11 And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full; 12 Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.*

Luke 6:40 (KJV) *The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.*

2 Corinthians 6:14 (KJV) *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*

Colossians 2:8 (KJV) *Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*

1 John 4:2-3 (KJV) *Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.*

9. Commit to a local church and serve! Join. Attend. Use your gifts. Be generous. We need one another, especially in days like these!

Hebrews 10:24-25 (KJV) *And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

10. Don't ignore local/state/national jurisdictions. These are places of God-ordained authority (Rom 13). Seek to push the rule of men towards biblical righteousness!

Proverbs 29:2 (KJV) *When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.*

Psalms 33:12 (KJV) *Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.*

1 Timothy 2:1-2 (KJV) *I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.*

Final prayers:

May our LORD bless every CRC Household (and every Christian household) to:

- 1. See their children saved from their sin.**
- 2. Be filled with the Holy Ghost.**
- 3. Joyfully study the Scriptures and sing together.**
- 4. Hold the line of truth, regardless of the pagan pressures of the day.**
- 5. Love deeply and sacrificially.**
- 6. Repent and forgive quickly.**
- 7. Be physically and financially healthy.**
- 8. Have a generational plan to “Increase” in Babylon.**
- 9. Trust the LORD for Revival and Reformation in our Nation.**
- 10. Look fervently and expectantly to His Coming!**

In Jesus' Mighty Name, Amen!