

WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

Recognizing Divine Authority

Study Guide

Old Testament Studies

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A lesson-by-lesson companion for reading, discussion, and written responses.

Downloadable classroom edition | 8.5 x 11 inches

Name / group

Date

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Using this guide

Read the corresponding chapter, then work through the themes, arguments, and Scripture references.

Write your responses before discussing the questions with others. Use the application pages to identify a practical next step.

The study material is retained from the existing lecture study guides. Added writing prompts provide space for your own response.

Print at Actual Size / 100% on US Letter paper. Single-sided and double-sided printing are both suitable. Lessons begin on the next available page; no blank pages are inserted.

Reading assignments refer to the September 30, 2026 edition of the companion book. Online lecture links and QR codes are collected at the end.

LESSON 1

Recognizing Divine Authority

Part One

October 09, 2005

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-23.

Major Themes

Lawful vs. Unlawful Authority

Weaver distinguishes between legitimate authority, which promotes freedom, and illegitimate authority, which enslaves, urging discernment.

Lecture support: There is indeed a lawful legitimate authority. And on the other hand, there is an unlawful and an illegitimate authority... The lawful authority... is really and truly for our freedom and our independence. The illegitimate and the unlawful authority is for our enslavement and for our own demise.

Faith Without Sight

The centurion believed in Jesus based solely on hearing about Him, exemplifying the blessedness of believing without seeing.

Lecture support: The centurion was one who had not seen Jesus, yet he believed... Blessed are they which have not seen and yet believed.

Humility Before God

True humility recognizes personal unworthiness regardless of accomplishments, as shown by the centurion's contrast with the Pharisees.

Lecture support: True humility recognizes its own unworthiness no matter what is accomplished, no matter what it's done... He said, 'Lord, it doesn't matter what I have done. I am still unworthy.'

Active Faith

Genuine faith leads to action, seeking Christ and His ordained means, rather than passive waiting.

Lecture support: Real faith is active. It moves us to seek Christ and to seek His blessings and His blessing upon the means that He's ordained.

Demonstrable Love

True love and compassion are always demonstrated through actions, not just words, as seen in the centurion's building of the synagogue and Christ's sacrifice.

Lecture support: True love is always demonstrable. True compassion is always demonstrable... He didn't just tell us He loved us. He demonstrated it. He laid down His life for us.

Key Arguments

Perception vs. Understanding of Authority

Weaver argues that perceiving authority (e.g., a uniform) is not the same as understanding its source and limits, which is crucial for recognizing divine authority.

Lecture support: One may truly understand and grasp the significance of authority, or one may simply perceive authority and not really understand it at all... If I had on a deputy sheriff's uniform, even with a pistol and badge, that does not mean that I have a deputy sheriff's authority.

The Centurion's Faith as Exceptional

The centurion's faith was extraordinary because he believed without seeing, unlike Thomas, and Christ marveled at it, highlighting its greatness.

Lecture support: Even Christ Himself... marveled at him... I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

Works Cannot Earn Grace

The Jewish elders mistakenly thought the centurion's good works made him worthy of Christ's help, but the centurion himself understood his unworthiness.

Lecture support: What are they saying? You can earn the grace and mercy of God. Oh, he's worthy. Look what he's done... You cannot bargain with God. You cannot impress God.

Christ's Sovereignty in Salvation

Even in wicked cities like Capernaum, Christ has His people and will save them, demonstrating His unstoppable power.

Lecture support: Even in the most wicked and even in the most vile cities, our Lord has some sheep... No amount of wickedness, no amount of worldliness can stop Jesus Christ.

Scripture References

Matthew 8:5-10

The centurion's request and Jesus' marvel at his faith.

Matthew 8:13

The servant healed at the same hour.

Luke 7:1-7

Parallel account of the centurion's servant, with elders sent.

John 19:1-3

Pilate charged with scourging Jesus though soldiers did it, illustrating authority by proxy.

John 4:1-2

Jesus said to baptize though He didn't personally baptize, showing actions done in His name.

Matthew 4:13

Jesus dwelt in Capernaum.

Matthew 11:23-24

Jesus condemns Capernaum for unbelief.

Luke 10:15

Capernaum thrust down to hell.

Acts 18:8-10

God tells Paul He has many people in wicked Corinth.

Luke 19:10

Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.

John 10:27

My sheep hear my voice and follow me.

Matthew 1:21

Jesus shall save His people from their sins.

Isaiah 53

He shall see the travail of His soul and be satisfied.

Luke 3:10-14

John the Baptist instructs soldiers to avoid violence and false accusation.

Matthew 5:41

Go the extra mile when compelled.

John 4:46-53

Healing of the nobleman's son in Capernaum, possibly how the centurion heard of Jesus.

John 20:25-29

Thomas' doubt and Jesus' blessing on those who believe without seeing.

Mark 6:6

Jesus marveled at the unbelief in Nazareth.

Proverbs 29:21

A servant delicately brought up becomes like a son.

Philippians 3:8-9

Paul counts all things loss for Christ.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between perceiving authority and understanding it, and why does this matter in our daily lives?

Consider: Weaver introduces the distinction early in the sermon.

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2. How can we discern between lawful, legitimate authority and unlawful, illegitimate authority today?

Consider: Weaver states that not all authority is lawful and that questioning authority is sometimes necessary.

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3. What does the centurion's faith teach us about believing in Christ without physical evidence?

Consider: The centurion believed based on hearing alone, and Jesus blessed those who believe without seeing.

4. Why did the Jewish elders' commendation of the centurion's works fail to impress Jesus, and what does this reveal about grace?

Consider: The elders argued the centurion was worthy, but Jesus focused on his faith.

5. In what ways can we demonstrate genuine love and compassion in our church and community?

Consider: Weaver concludes that true love is demonstrable, citing 1 John 3:16-18.

Applications

Question Authority Wisely

Believers should discern between lawful and unlawful authority, questioning illegitimate authority to avoid enslavement.

Lecture support: Question authority... not all authority is lawful and legitimate... usurped and unlawful and illegitimate authority is tyrannical and it is used for our enslavement and our destruction.

Cultivate Humility

Like the centurion, we should recognize our unworthiness before God, regardless of our accomplishments.

Lecture support: He said, 'Lord, it doesn't matter what I have done. I am still unworthy.'

Exercise Active Faith

Faith should move us to actively seek Christ and His ordained means, not passively wait.

Lecture support: Real faith is active. It moves us to seek Christ and to seek His blessings and His blessing upon the means that He's ordained.

Demonstrate Love Practically

Love must be shown through tangible actions, not just words, following Christ's example.

Lecture support: True love is always demonstrable... He laid down His life for us... let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

Study notes

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 2

Recognizing Divine Authority

Part Two

October 16, 2005

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 25-43.

Major Themes

Divine Authority of Christ

Christ possesses total, absolute authority as God incarnate, which is the basis for the centurion's great faith.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'The centurion recognized that Jesus Christ was God in the flesh. He recognized that our Lord had divine authority.'

Delegated Authority

All human authority is delegated by God, and understanding this principle is key to recognizing and submitting to God's chain of command.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'Man's authority, however, is never inherent, never intrinsic, and never absolute, total, or complete. Any authority that man receives is always delegated authority.'

Submission as a Prerequisite for Leadership

One must learn to submit to authority and take orders before God will use them to give orders.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'If you do not know how to submit to God's lawful authority, and if you do not know how to take orders from lawful authority, God will never use you to give orders lawfully.'

Christ as the Sent One and Servant

Jesus Christ modeled perfect submission to the Father, acting only under delegated authority during His earthly ministry.

Lecture support: Weaver notes, 'The power that Jesus Christ exercised upon this earth, even until his death, was the power and the authority that his Father had given him as the Father's servant.'

The Unchanging Authority of Christ's Word

Neither time nor distance diminishes Christ's authority; He need only speak the word for His will to be accomplished.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Once you recognize Christ's divine authority... then you must also understand that neither time nor distance diminishes that authority.'

Rejecting Delegated Authority is Rejecting Christ

Christ's delegated authority through preachers is equally His authority; to reject the preached Word is to reject Christ Himself.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Those who then reject and refuse the preaching and teaching of the Word of God are rejecting Jesus Christ.'

Key Arguments

The centurion's faith was great because he recognized Christ's divine authority.

The centurion understood authority from his military experience and applied that understanding to Christ, recognizing that Christ's word alone was sufficient for healing.

Lecture support: Weaver argues, 'Why is it this centurion had such a great faith? I'm going to submit to you. It is because he recognized our Lord's divine authority.'

Christ taught with authority because He is the living Word and had the Spirit without measure.

Christ's teaching was authoritative because He authored Scripture and was endued with the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'He was endued with the fullness of the Holy Spirit... The second reason Christ taught as no other man ever taught was because of the authority which He possessed.'

The written Word and the living Word are inseparable.

One cannot have a different attitude toward Jesus Christ than toward the Bible; they stand or fall together.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'You can't come and say, well, I believe in Jesus Christ, but I don't believe the Bible. Or, I believe the Bible, I don't believe in Jesus Christ. No, no, no. Jesus is the living word, the Bible is the written word, and they stand or fall together.'

Understanding delegated authority is essential for faith and obedience.

The centurion's military background taught him that authority is delegated, and he applied this to Christ, leading to great faith.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'The centurion understood delegated authority because that authority which he possessed had been bestowed upon him by those who were higher in authority than he was.'

Submission to authority is a prerequisite for being used by God to lead.

Those who cannot submit to lawful authority will not be entrusted by God to give orders.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'If you do not know how to submit to authority and take orders, God's never going to use you to give orders.'

Christ's earthly ministry was conducted under the Father's delegated authority.

Jesus, though fully God, emptied Himself and acted as the Father's servant, obeying perfectly and receiving all authority as a reward.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'The power that Jesus Christ exercised upon this earth... was the power and the authority that his Father had given him as the Father's servant.'

Christ's authority is not limited by time or distance.

The centurion recognized that Christ did not need to be physically present to heal; His word is effective regardless of location.

Lecture support: Weaver argues, 'Neither time nor distance diminishes his authority. So he said, Lord, you speak the word. You don't have to come into my house.'

Rejecting the preached Word is rejecting Christ.

Since preachers are ambassadors for Christ, speaking in His stead, to reject their biblical teaching is to reject Christ Himself.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Those who then reject and refuse the preaching and teaching of the Word of God are rejecting Jesus Christ.'

Scripture References**Matthew 8:5-13**

The primary text of the sermon, recounting the centurion's faith and Christ's healing of his servant.

Luke 7:2-10

Parallel account of the centurion's servant, highlighting the centurion's compassion and the elders' intercession.

John 3:34

Used to show that Christ spoke the words of God because the Spirit was given to Him without measure.

Matthew 7:29

Demonstrates that Christ taught with authority, unlike the scribes.

Luke 4:36

Shows the people's amazement at Christ's authority and power over unclean spirits.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Affirms that all Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for doctrine and instruction.

John 1:1, 14

Identifies Jesus as the living Word who became flesh, paralleling the written Word.

John 12:48

Connects rejection of Christ (the living Word) with rejection of His words (the written Word).

Matthew 21:23-27

The chief priests question Christ's authority; He counters with a question about John's baptism, exposing their unwillingness to recognize divine authority.

1 Timothy 3:16

Declares the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, affirming Christ's deity.

Daniel 2:21

Shows that God removes and sets up kings, demonstrating His sovereign delegation of authority.

Psalms 75:6-7

Promotion comes from God alone; He puts down one and sets up another.

1 Corinthians 11:3

Establishes God's chain of command: God, Christ, man, woman.

Hebrews 3:1

Calls Christ the Apostle (sent one) and High Priest of our profession.

John 5:26-27

The Father has given the Son authority to execute judgment.

John 6:38, 40

Christ came not to do His own will but the will of the Father who sent Him.

Philippians 2:5-8

The kenosis passage: Christ emptied Himself, took the form of a servant, and became obedient unto death.

John 10:17-18

Christ has power to lay down His life and take it again, a commandment received from the Father.

John 8:29

The Father is with Christ because He always does what pleases the Father.

Matthew 28:18

After His resurrection, Christ declares that all authority in heaven and earth has been given to Him.

Study notes

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Discussion Questions

1. How does recognizing Christ's divine authority impact the strength of our faith, as seen in the centurion's example?

Consider: Weaver argues that the centurion's great faith was based on his recognition of Christ's authority.

2. In what ways do we struggle to submit to God-given authority, and how does that affect our ability to lead or be used by God?

Consider: Weaver states that those who cannot submit to authority will not be used by God to give orders.

3. What does it mean that Jesus Christ is both the living Word and the written Word, and why can't we separate our attitude toward them?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes the unity of Christ and Scripture, warning against having different attitudes toward them.

4. How does understanding delegated authority change the way we view the preaching and teaching of God's Word?

Consider: Weaver explains that preachers are ambassadors for Christ, speaking in His stead with His authority.

5. Why is it significant that neither time nor distance diminishes Christ's authority, and how should that affect our prayer life?

Consider: Weaver points out that the centurion recognized Christ could heal from a distance simply by speaking the word.

6. How does Christ's example of emptying Himself and becoming a servant challenge our own attitudes toward authority and submission?

Consider: Weaver uses Philippians 2 to show Christ's humility and obedience as a model for believers.

7. What are the implications of rejecting the preached Word of God, according to 2 Corinthians 5:20 and John 13:20?

Consider: Weaver argues that rejecting the biblical preaching of God's ambassadors is equivalent to rejecting Christ.

8. How can we cultivate an unshakable confidence in God's promises, knowing that His authority cannot be hindered?

Consider: Weaver concludes with the assurance that all God's promises are 'yea' and 'Amen' in Christ.

Applications

Grow in faith by comprehending Christ's sovereign authority.

Weaver urges believers to increase their faith by grasping the fact that Christ need only speak the word for His will to be done.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'If you and I wish to increase in faith, if we wish to grow in faith, if we wish to exercise our faith, in some degree we have to comprehend the sovereign authority of Jesus Christ.'

Submit to God-given authority to be used by God.

Believers must learn to submit to lawful authority and take orders before God will entrust them with giving orders.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'If you do not know how to submit to authority and take orders, God's never going to use you to give orders.'

Recognize the authority of biblical preaching.

Understand that when preachers faithfully expound Scripture, they speak with Christ's delegated authority, and rejecting that message is rejecting Christ.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Those who then reject and refuse the preaching and teaching of the Word of God are rejecting Jesus Christ.'

Trust in Christ's promises regardless of circumstances.

Because Christ's authority is not diminished by time or distance, believers can have unshakable confidence that He will fulfill all His promises.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'What He said, He will do. What He has promised, He will perform... He cannot be hindered.'

Model Christ's humility and obedience.

Imitate Christ's example of emptying Himself and becoming a servant, submitting to the Father's will in all things.

Lecture support: Weaver points to Philippians 2, saying, 'Let this mind be in you, which also was in Christ Jesus.'

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

Online Lecture Resources

Scan a code or select the lecture link in the PDF. The original lecture identifiers and destinations are preserved.

Lesson 1: Recognizing Divine Authority - Part One

Lecture JW00957

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00957&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



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Lesson 2: Recognizing Divine Authority - Part Two

Lecture JW00956

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00956&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



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Source information

Study material: existing Major Themes, Key Arguments, Scripture References, Discussion Questions, and Applications from the corresponding Weaver Bible College lecture records. Original lecture titles and provenance are retained in those source records.

Layout upgraded September 30, 2026. Original manuscripts, study-guide data, and previous PDFs have not been changed.