



“WHO’S IN CONTROL?”

2/1/09

(All Bible verses are from the New Living Translation unless noted)

1ST GOD’S ROLE IN THE UNIVERSE

A. GOD IS THE OWNER OF EVERYTHING.

Psalm 24:1 **“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.”**

Haggai 2:8 **“The silver is mine and the gold is mine,”**

Leviticus 25:23 **“The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine . . .”**

Psalm 50:10-12 **“Every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills . . . the creatures of the field are mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it”**

Luke 14:33 **“. . . Any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.”**

B. GOD IS IN CONTROL OF EVERYTHING.

Deuteronomy 8:11-18, **“Beware that in your plenty you do not forget the Lord your God and disobey his commands, regulations, and decrees that I am giving you today. For when you have become full and prosperous and have built fine homes to live in, and when your flocks and herds have become very large and your silver and gold have multiplied along with everything else, be careful! Do not become proud at that time and forget the Lord your God, . . . (and) say to yourself, ‘I have achieved this wealth with my own strength and energy.’ Remember the Lord your God. He is the one who gives you power to become rich.”**

Deuteronomy 8:19-20 **“But I assure you of this: If you ever forget the Lord your God and follow other gods, worshiping and bowing down to them, you will certainly be destroyed. Just as the Lord has destroyed other nations in your path, you also will be destroyed if you refuse to obey the Lord your God.”**

Romans 8:28 **“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”**

Genesis 50:19-20 “Don’t be upset, and don’t be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives.... it was God who sent me here, not you!”

C. GOD WILL PROVIDE OUR NEEDS.

Matthew 6:33 “**Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things [meaning food and clothing] will be given to you as well.**”

Philippians 4:19 “**My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.**”

2. OUR ROLE IN THE UNIVERSE

A. We are stewards of God’s possessions.

B. We are to be faithful.

1 Corinthians 4:2 (NKJV) “**Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.**”

(1) WE ARE TO BE FAITHFUL WITH ALL THAT WE HAVE.

(2) We are to be faithful in little things.

Luke 16:10 “**Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.**”

WHY GOD SAYS SO MUCH ABOUT MONEY

1ST MONEY IS A PRIMARY COMPETITOR WITH CHRIST FOR THE LORDSHIP OF OUR LIVES.

Matthew 6:24 “**No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money**”

2ND THE WAY WE HANDLE MONEY DEMONSTRATES OUR LEVEL OF FAITH AND MATURITY

Luke 16:11 (NASB) “If you have not been faithful in the use of [worldly] . . . wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you?”

BENEFITS OF FAITHFULNESS

1ST WE GROW CLOSER TO JESUS CHRIST.

John 14:21 “Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”

2ND WE WILL BE ENTRUSTED WITH MORE

Matthew 25:21 “The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities.’”

3RD WE EXPERIENCE GOD’S PROSPERITY

Joshua 1:8, “Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.”