

Stephens, GregSpeak the Word

4. God Is Not the Problem

Copeland argues that the popular saying 'God is in control' is unbiblical and misleading. God is Sovereign in rank and authority, but He delegated dominion over the earth to mankind at creation. The chapter's aim is to convince believers they carry real, God-given 'command authority' and are being defeated only because they don't know what their Covenant provides.

Key takeaways

- 'God is in control' isn't in Scripture; if the world's mess were God's doing, it would slander His competence. The devil, not God, is behind evil (John 10:10).
- 'Sovereign' means first in rank, order, and authority — not all-controlling. God exercised His sovereignty by giving man dominion over the earth (Genesis 1:28), and His Word still stands.
- Believers are no longer unworthy sinners but new creations made righteous in Christ; religion, not the Bible, teaches Christians they are 'no good.'
- The New Testament is Jesus' Last Will and Testament, and believers are its beneficiaries — it never assigns Christians poverty, sickness, or defeat.

- God's people are 'destroyed for lack of knowledge' (Hosea 4:6); 'knowledge' there means intimate relationship, so victory comes from knowing the Bible deeply.
- Prayer is an 'aiteo' Covenant request — boldly asking God for what He already promised, like withdrawing money you have on deposit, not begging.
- Faith to walk in this authority grows by hearing the Word (Romans 10:17); the goal is exercising dominion over the devil's works for a watching, lost world.

Passages worth keeping

“God is not the problem. He's not the one behind all the evil, chaos and destruction in this world.”

The chapter's central thesis, correcting the 'God is in control' slogan.

“A Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't.”

Spurgeon line used to link intimate Bible study with a victorious life.

How it connects

The chapter ties man's original dominion in Genesis to the believer's authority in Christ: what Adam forfeited, Jesus restored and handed back through the Cross and the Great Commission.

Scripture referenced

- **Genesis 1:27-28** -- God gives mankind dominion over the earth.
- **Psalms 8:3-9** -- David confirms man's God-given dominion still stands.
- **Hosea 4:6** -- God's people destroyed for lack of knowledge.
- **John 10:10** -- The devil steals and kills; Jesus brings abundant life.
- **John 14:12-14** -- Believers do Jesus' works and receive what they ask in His name.
- **Matthew 28:18-20** -- Jesus delegates His authority to the Church.