

# The Mission of the Insurgence

by Frank Viola

If Jesus is really the Lord of the world, why is there so much chaos, corruption, and violence on the planet? If Jesus defeated Satan at the cross, why is the devil still active in the world today?<sup>1</sup>

These are difficult questions, but they do have a solid answer.

When Jesus was enthroned as ruler of the world in His ascension, He didn't squash all rivals and force humans and fallen celestial beings to submit to His reign.

Instead, Christ has allowed the kingdoms of this world to continue to build their alternative empires. But since His crucifixion, God put them all on a time clock.

Satan's days are numbered, and God uses him to accomplish His various purposes that are within His ultimate intention (Romans 8:28). Consider him a "lame duck" operator.

Through our union with Christ, we are delivered from the bondage of Satan. And we have been translated from Satan's kingdom into the kingdom of Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:18). This is why followers of Jesus are hated by those who are still under the power of the enemy. But Jesus is making the devil's work serve His own ends, thus displaying the sovereignty of God.

The truth is, the only power Satan has over you is the ground you give him. At the cross, God wrenched the kingdom from the devil's hand and put it into the hands of His Son. Speaking of that hour, Jesus said, "Now shall the prince of this world be cast out" (John 12:31 KJV).

The soul who is not under the lordship of Jesus sets up its own counterfeit kingdom. And it can counterfeit spiritual things, even. The soul who is not yielded and governed by the Holy Spirit gives ground to the enemy to operate.

The ascension of Jesus into heaven isn't about Jesus passively waiting to return to earth. Christ is not sleeping at the right hand of the Father, waiting for a trumpet sound to signal His return. As I've explained elsewhere, the ascended Christ is very active at the right hand of the Father, carrying out His sevenfold ministry in the earth.<sup>2</sup>

The Gospels tell the story of how God became Lord and King of the world in and through Jesus. They tell the story of Christ's universal presence, which is now in the Spirit. The ascension of Jesus is the story of how Jesus became the One who is in charge of the earth.

But if that's true, why is the world still in so much of a mess?

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<sup>1</sup> For a fuller answer to this question, see *Jesus Now* (Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2014), chaps. 7 and 8.

<sup>2</sup> In *Jesus Now*, I explore the sevenfold present-day ministry of Christ.

Jesus has been enthroned Lord of both heaven and earth since His ascension. So both realms now legally belong to Him. Satan, therefore, is no longer in control of the earth. But he is still the god of this world system, which is doomed to end. Creation bows before Christ. But humanity, the pinnacle of God's creation, remains deceived and lies in the power of the evil one (1 John 5).

Satan stands behind the world system, its values, and its false worship (in Revelation, those who worship the beast ultimately worship the dragon behind him). But Christ is Lord of history, limiting Satan's activity.

All told, Jesus doesn't force His lordship upon humans. Instead, He has called His body to break free of the world system and proclaim, embody, and demonstrate His kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven." And He's called and equipped His body to implement His rule in the earth.

Therein lies the mission of the insurgence.

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