

## THE FORNICATION OF THE KINGS OF THE EARTH

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Soli Deo Gloria!

"The whole world lieth in [the Wicked One]... with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication..."  
(1 John 5:19; Revelation 17:2)

God created man in His image (i.e., as His regent) to exercise dominion over all the earth (Gen1:26). However, Adam's sin disqualified the unredeemed human race from acting in this capacity. In the vast interim between the fall of Adam and coming of "the Last Adam" (i.e., the incarnated and glorified Lord Jesus Christ; 1Cor15:45) to reclaim the place of dominion for the human race (cf. Eph1:18-22; Rev5:1-7), Satan acts as "the god of this world" (2Cor4:4).

That Satan as a usurper genuinely exercises authority over the kingdoms of this world is seen in the temptation of Christ.

And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, showed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power (i.e., authority) will I give thee, and the glory of them; **for that is delivered unto me, and to whomsoever I will I give it.** (Luke 4:5-6)

Satan offered to give Jesus power/authority over "all the kingdoms of the world" if He would "worship" him. Certainly the Lord Jesus Christ will assume power/authority over all the kingdoms of the world, but not on Satan's terms or timetable; rather, He will be given that authority over all "the nations" as an "inheritance" from God His Father (Ps2:7-8) at the appointed time.

However, this begs an obvious question. If Satan exercises genuine authority over the kingdoms of this world, and has the power to delegate that authority to whomsoever he wills, how have the earthly rulers who govern the nations of the world obtained these roles? Do earthly rulers today acquire their positions by pledging their allegiance to Satan?

At the end of the apostolic era, the Apostle John asserted that "the whole world lieth in [the Wicked One]" (1Jn5:19; i.e., the whole world is in bed with the Devil). The same apostle revealed that during the coming 7-year Tribulation period, "the kings of the earth" will commit "fornication" with the Beast and his harlot church (Rev17:1-2). Why do all earthly rulers of both the past and the present, despite whatever hopeful promises they offer beforehand, always fail to rule righteously once they obtain their positions of power? Could it be that they only obtain those positions by means of a Faustian pact with the Devil? Though there may be exceptions to this conclusion, they must be exceedingly rare.

Our hope is not in earthly rulers, who must always disappoint, but in the return of the Lord Jesus Christ (cf. 1Thess1:10; Tit2:13), who as "king over all the earth" (Zech14:9) will finally and truly reign in righteousness (Isa11:4).