

Exegetical Analysis – Matthew 28:18

18 – And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (καὶ προσελθὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐλάλησεν αὐτοῖς λέγων Ἐδόθη μοι πᾶσα ἐξουσία ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς)

Jesus here tells the disciples that he has received “all authority” (ἐξουσία) which speaks of his glorification and victory over death. It refers to his mediatorial role which he now assumes at the right-hand of the Father. He does not assume the role of King from David’s throne until he returns again.

“All authority was given to me in heaven and on earth. An expression of His glorification and victory. The primary reference is to His authority as Mediator, extending over all in heaven and on earth, for His Church. It ‘was given’ by the Father, to Him as the God-man, though as the Eternal Word, He had such glory before the foundation of the world. Before the resurrection the disciples were not ready for this revelation, nor had the victory of the God-man been won. Hence to exalt the truths spoken by our Lord before His death above those which He uttered after His resurrection, or taught His disciples through this power, is to lose the full glory of the gospel. Our Lord now announces the fact, but this victory was won at the Resurrection. He lingers on earth to assure His chosen ones, and at the ascension enters into his Inheritance.”

—— Philip Schaff, Schaff’s Popular Commentary on the New Testament, Commentary on Matthew 28:18.

“Matthew 28:18. All power is given unto me, &c.— Our Saviour here declares all power and authority to be given to him as Mediator at his resurrection: in consequence of which power, he commissions his disciples to convert, baptize, and instruct the world. There is no doubt but this power is part of the exaltation spoken of by St. Paul, to which God raised the human nature of Christ, in his mediatorial capacity, for his sufferings. See Phillip. Matthew 2:6, &c.”

—— Thomas Coke, Thomas Coke Commentary on the Holy Bible, Commentary on Matthew 28:18.