

# **Kingdoms of Man**

## **Part Eleven**

(Phasing)

The flow of the maturation of the kingdom of man started with Adam, as a unit. It took a major step forward when the nation of Israel was presented to the world. Looking at it from the perspective of the time of Moses, one might be willing to practice some wistful nostalgia about the way the world would have been if we had stopped there; but that was only stage one. There were four more stages of development that were designed into the flow of the kingdom of man, with a fifth stage that would greatly enhance the kingdoms of man beyond anyone's expectation.

The four steps of the development of the kingdom of man, beyond the pattern of Israel's status with God, are our lesson in the methodology of God, taking us from the exit from Eden, to the doors of heaven. The prophet Daniel received the honor of delivering the LORD'S lesson.

*This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.*

*Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.*

*And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.*

*And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.*

*And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.*

*And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it*

*shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.*

(Daniel 2:36-45)

These four kingdoms were our homework, in the assignments of preparing the kingdom of man to receive the emissary of the LORD. Through each one of these homework assignments, we were being pushed more and more to a point of acknowledging that we need one another. The apostle Paul describes the destination.

*And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*

(Ephesians 4:11-16)

We also caught a glimpse of the pride that had to be discarded, to move us to our proper attitude in the LORD.

*For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many.*

*If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?*

*But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.*

*And if they were all one member, where were the body?*

*But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.*

*And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.*

(1 Corinthians 12:12-26)

The LORD was bringing us to the point at which we would be willing to install cooperation into the kingdom of man. Some may want to refer to the installation of cooperation as, civilization; however, there was civilization long before mankind understood the delicacy of cooperation. In the early days of our civilization, the prompts to move us forward in our assignment were brutal ones; for instance, in the matter of kingdom changes.

*Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts;*

*Because ye have not heard my words, Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations. Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle. And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.*

*And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations. And I will bring upon that land all my words which I have pronounced against it, even all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah hath prophesied against all the nations. For many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of them also: and I will recompense them according to their deeds, and according to the works of their own hands.*

*For thus saith the LORD God of Israel unto me;*

*Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to*

*whom I send thee, to drink it. And they shall drink, and be moved, and be mad, because of the sword that I will send among them.*

(Jeremiah 25:8-16)

Moreover, in those days, the change could be abrupt.

*And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.*

*This is the interpretation of the thing:*

*MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.*

*TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.*

*PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.*

*Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.*

*In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain. And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.*

(Daniel 5:25-31)

This was a time of relative freedom in performing our homework, as pertains to accountability. The apostle Paul describes this free-spirited time, as contrasted with the New Age of the Messiah.

*God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.*

*Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.*

(Acts 17:24-31)

The world of the Old Testament was a time when the implementation of God's design required strength such as that which is contained in king David's choice of retribution in the following episode of history. The choice that he made is still the best one, overall.

*And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.*

*For when David was up in the morning, the word of the LORD came unto the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, Go and say unto David, Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee three things; choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee.*

*So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him, Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee? or that there be three days' pestilence in thy land? now advise, and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me.*

*And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for his mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man.*

(2 Samuel 24:10-14)

However, the LORD, in taming the kingdoms of man, is bringing the other options to a point of being less burdensome than mass destruction of human life. Even so, it is still true that we should opt for the choice of king David; as he said, *let us fall now into the hand of the LORD.*

*So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba seventy thousand men. And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand.*

*And the angel of the LORD was by the threshingplace of Araunah the Jebusite.*

(2 Samuel 24:15-16)

Through this tough-love lesson, in time, we would reach the point where God presented us with His offer for the management of the kingdoms of man. This did not

involve our loss of control of the enterprise. Unfortunately for the lazy and conniving ones among us, we still must hold the controls of the kingdom of man, and in addition to that unavoidable assignment, God still commands us to properly steer the ship of world-state. However, the LORD gave us the blessed opportunity to enlist the resources of a powerful ally.

*Hear the word of the LORD, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah. To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats. When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts?*

*Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them. And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.*

*Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.*

*Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.*

(Isaiah 1:10-20)

*Come now, and let us reason together:* this statement contains a powerful gift, from the LORD, of shared control with the LORD, and, too, it throws a very difficult obstacle in the path of the human kingdoms of the kingdom of man. You might be able to understand how greatly longsuffering the LORD is, when you consider the option that God could have exercised. This option was revealed in the time of the wilderness journey of the children of Israel.

*And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.*

*And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.*

(Exodus 32:7-10)

Even before the wilderness journey of the children of Israel, we had already seen the LORD exercise this option, on a world-wide scale. In that case, the LORD used another human vessel, Noah, to make many great nations.

*In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.*

*In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark; They, and every beast after his kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and every fowl after his kind, every bird of every sort. And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life. And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in.*

*And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth. And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters. And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered.*

*Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered. And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.*

(Genesis 7:11-23)

Do not worry, though; God did promise that this sort of thing would never happen

again.

*And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.*

*And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done. While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.*

(Genesis 8:20-22)

However, the promise about the destruction of all mankind, does not limit the LORD from removing cancerous sections of the kingdom of man. The ambassadors of the LORD demonstrated this in the latter day.

*And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.*

(Revelation 6:7-8)

The kingdom of man has a measure of security, relative to total destruction as an action coming from the LORD. However, the kingdom of man has no security relative to progressive decay, and deeply crippling destruction, as coming from the kingdoms of man of the kingdom of man; at least, there was no security until a certain point in the timeline of the kingdom of man.

In a certain day, the LORD removed the ability of mankind to totally destroy mankind. Hopefully, it was not just for that day.

*When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!*

*But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except*



