

# **Kingdoms of Man**

## **Part Twenty**

(Majesty)

I am about to immerse some of you in a cruel mind game. Imagine that the earth and the current world on the earth are both here to stay. Imagine that it is our responsibility to whip the kingdom of man into shape, by purifying the kingdoms of man. Well, unfortunately for many minds (mine included), it is not just a cruel mind game; it is reality. Let us follow a path of Scripture that will get us all to a point of acceptance. First, consider these words of the apostle Paul.

*God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.*

(Hebrews 1:1-4)

Also, consider these words of the disciple John.

*Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.*

(1 John 2:18-19)

Finally, for now; consider these words of God's angel, Jesus Christ, delivered *unto his servant John*.

*The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.*

*Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.*

(Revelation 1:1-3)

The three passages, above, indicate that the time of the delivery of these messages, is, too, the time of settling of the Kingdom of God, overspreading the kingdom of man. They do not indicate that there is either a replacement of the kingdom of man by the Kingdom of God, or a replacement of the kingdom of man by the Kingdom of Heaven. Moreover, they do not proclaim that there will be a destruction of the kingdom of man, as some interpreters have struggled to glean from them. There is, though, a part of the kingdom of man that was replaced.

*And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying,*

*Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

(Revelation 21:1-4)

Though I believe that this is a spiritual replacement, let us think of the implications if this was an actual physical replacement. Even if such a replacement was done; other than the blessed renovation of Jerusalem, there seems to be a zero-sum affect on the new world that is outside the city. The new earth still retains a large section of the former earth's practices intact. There are two references that indicate that there are other portions of the kingdom of man that are outside of the New Jerusalem. The first Scripture specifically states that there is an outside region in the kingdom of man that lacks enlightenment.

*And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.*

*Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.*

(Revelation 22:10-15)

The next Scripture describes the activities that occur in the more enlightened areas that are not resident in the New Jerusalem. In order to see this as being so, you need only

remember that, in order for someone to bring something in, they come from the outside.

*And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.*

*And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.*

*And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.*

*And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

(Revelation 21:22-27)

So, what do we do if since we are the custodians of a world that has no end? Wait! Before you answer that, and in case you think that the Old Testament has somehow been replaced by the New Testament; here is Scripture from the New Testament, on the matter of the longevity of this, the new kingdom of man. It is the New Age extension of Isaiah 45:17.

*For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.*

*Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him. Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.*

*For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*

*Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end.*

*Amen.*

(Ephesians 3:1-21)

So, what do we do with this, our, world without end? It seems reasonable that we would listen to those who already have mastery of the world. The apostle Paul is one among the group of disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ that clearly demonstrated his God-given ministry of the world of Jesus Christ. To establish that I am referencing someone who does have such mastery, here is the Scripture of his credentials.

*And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?*

*For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.*

*So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.*

*Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.*

*According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon.*

*But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

(1 Corinthians 3:1-11)

Now, having established the credentials of my source, here is the new/rediscovered methodology that he presented to us, as stirred up in him by the Spirit of truth that is resident in him.

*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

*Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:*

*Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*

(Ephesians 6:10-20)

"Is that what life is all about; being in a constant state of struggle," I ask myself, for the sake of the reader.

Well, yes. Did you think that there was some point at which we can say that we have arrived? If so, let me introduce you to the goal we have before us.

*Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.*

*For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*

(Matthew 5:43-48)

An excellent example of the ongoing struggle is expressed in the following Scripture.

*Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.*

*Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.*

*Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

(Philippians 3:4-14)

The quieter name for struggle is growth. This is a constant part of the human condition. This is a very noble thing to do, when we are doing it in the light of the LORD.

*Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*

*Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in*

*which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.*

*Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

*To him be glory both now and for ever.*

*Amen.*

(2 Peter 3:11-18)

There is an acceptable exit from the struggle . . .

*Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.*

*For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.*

*And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.*

*Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

*For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.*

*There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.*

*Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.*

(Hebrews 4:1-11)

However, the exit from the struggle to achieve perfection, *even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect*, is not a part of the kingdom of man, and is not the proprietary to any of the kingdoms of man. The following describes an apostle's arrival at that exit.

*For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.*

*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

(2 Timothy 4:6-8)

Fortunately for us, as the science fiction writers say, we are not alone. The humans of the kingdom of man are not the only ones who are struggling in growth. Scripture tells us that the whole creation is pressing against its limitation, in an attempt to move closer to the eternal standard; which is, God, the Almighty.

*For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.*

*For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.*

(Romans 8:18-22)

The struggle can be fun; for, the struggle is not done in a vacuum. The LORD God has placed many aids in the kingdom of man. The LORD God has also placed a most important guarantee in the kingdoms of man. The guarantee is that we will reach times of refreshing, both as individuals and in the kingdoms of man. This is what the Lord Jesus Christ had to say about that time.

*Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*

(Matthew 5:6)

The guarantee is a portion of a beautiful itemization of categories of spiritual satisfactions. We refer to this itemization as, the beatitudes.

*And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,*

*Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.*

*Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*



*Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of  
God.*

*Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall  
say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be  
exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they  
the prophets which were before you.*

(Matthew 5:1-12)

Did you notice the reference to the group that paved the way for our times of refreshments? Did you notice the word, prophets, in the discussion of the itemization of categories of spiritual satisfaction? The prophets provide us with a key ingredient of the meal that the LORD has prepared for the kingdom of man, to satisfy the *hunger and thirst after righteousness*. But, just what is a prophet? This is a question that does not have a direct answer in the Scripture. There is no biblical definition of the word, prophet. There is, though, a statement of the environment that cries out for a prophet.

*The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests that were in  
Anathoth in the land of Benjamin: To whom the word of the LORD came  
in the days of Josiah the son of Amon king of Judah, in the thirteenth year  
of his reign. It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king  
of Judah, unto the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah the son of Josiah  
king of Judah, unto the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth  
month.*

*Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Before I formed  
thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the  
womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.*

*Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.*

*But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all  
that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.  
Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the  
LORD.*

*Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth.*

*And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy  
mouth. See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the  
kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw  
down, to build, and to plant.*

(Jeremiah 1:1-10)

I guess there is a bit of a job description for the prophet in the Scripture, after all. We read it in the latter portion of the Scripture that is recited above. There is, too, a description of the work environment of the prophet, in Scripture.

*The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, that was the first year of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon; The which Jeremiah the prophet spake unto all the people of Judah, and to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, From the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon king of Judah, even unto this day, that is the three and twentieth year, the word of the LORD hath come unto me, and I have spoken unto you, rising early and speaking; but ye have not hearkened.*

*And the LORD hath sent unto you all his servants the prophets, rising early and sending them; but ye have not hearkened, nor inclined your ear to hear.*

*They said, Turn ye again now every one from his evil way, and from the evil of your doings, and dwell in the land that the LORD hath given unto you and to your fathers for ever and ever: And go not after other gods to serve them, and to worship them, and provoke me not to anger with the works of your hands; and I will do you no hurt. Yet ye have not hearkened unto me, saith the LORD; that ye might provoke me to anger with the works of your hands to your own hurt.*

(Jeremiah 25:1-7)

There is, too, a statement of the credentials that are required of a prophet. This is where the job of the prophet, and the job of every other child of God, comes into contact, and merge; becoming one and the same. The credential that is required of a prophet, and of us, too, is a very short list, of one thing. First, here is an example of the requirement, as stressed by the LORD God.

*And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee.*

*And the spirit entered into me when he spake unto me, and set me upon my feet, that I heard him that spake unto me.*

*And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto this very day. For they are impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD. And they, whether they*

*will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them.*

*And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house. And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they are most rebellious.*

*But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house: open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee.*

(Ezekiel 2:1-8)

The very short list--consisting of one credential--is this: *Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house.* This seems reasonable; for, if you plan on being filled, as pertains to our hunger and thirst after righteousness, then you must heed the LORD, as God says, *open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee.* For those who like a single word for the credential; the word is cooperation. As with all things, we need a durable example of how this should function in the kingdom of man. Well, the Bible provides us with that durable example.

*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.*

*And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.*

*Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.*

*And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people.*

*And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*

(Acts 2:38-47)

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