

## **Kingdom of God** **Our Introduction**

The Kingdom of God has always existed, and it has always been complete. Wherefore it is not our intention to map out a progression of development of the Kingdom of God. Rather, we will move through that process of unfolding which gives mankind its very fragmentary glimpse of the Kingdom of God (as much as we can absorb it, at this time). This is, of necessity, a fragmentary view: the entire Kingdom of God has not been made available to our world, at this time. To give you an impression of the magnitude of the Kingdom of God, here is a statement of one of the chosen kings of Israel, of the Old Testament time.

*And Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven: And he said,*

*LORD God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart: Who hast kept with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him: thou spakest also with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled it with thine hand, as it is this day. Therefore now, LORD God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit on the throne of Israel; so that thy children take heed to their way, that they walk before me as thou hast walked before me. And now, O God of Israel, let thy word, I pray thee, be verified, which thou spakest unto thy servant David my father.*

*But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?*

(1 Kings 8:22-27)

Actually, the original indication of the tremendous depth and breadth of the realm of God flowed through Moses, in an earlier time than that of king Solomon. It, too, presented the insufficiency of *the heaven and the heaven of heavens* as, collectively, a container for the expanse of God.

*And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?*

*Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the LORD'S thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is.*

(Deuteronomy 10:12-14)

We will only be able to delve into the portion of the Kingdom of God that is framed by two of its systems: Heaven and earth. As pertains to our fuller intersection with them, these are the portions to which we were introduced, in power, in the time of Jesus of Nazareth. We say, fuller, because God sealed our base-level intersections with them in the Day of the Genesis of mankind.

*Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.*

*And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:*

*Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.*

*So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.*

(Genesis 3:21-24)

As Jesus Christ; the man, Jesus of Nazareth, lived in the earth-portion of the Kingdom of God. While in this portion, Jesus told of the means of joining the earth-obvious two pieces of the Kingdom of God, *in heaven and in earth*, as he described the power-flow that regulates them; which flow is, him.

*Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.*

*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*

(Matthew 28:16-18)

As you see, above, the translators of the ancient language of Scripture did not capitalize the "h" in the word, *heaven*. Our capitalization of the "H" in the word, Heaven, provides the strong hint that we are not referring to the physical, star-gazers portion of the universe. Rather, our reference to Heaven is to a force that is different from the physical heaven.

On the other hand, the word, *earth*, is, primarily, the physical portion of Creation that connects us to the cosmos. However, the word, *earth*, is not sufficient for our

understanding; we must fully absorb the phrase, *in earth*. The phrase, *in earth*, includes the mandate of our Creation charter, as well as the absorption of the larger cosmos, into the kingdom of man. In that respect; from a local perspective, the word, earth, evolves into the broader concept of, world. Heaven is a place of extreme power; a portion of which is directed at the affairs of man. So, too, the earth has its focus of power that can be delegated by the LORD. In the early part of our creation, one of the portions of the earth's power base was given to man, as a point of control. In the Beginning, the LORD declared this into being, in two episodes.

Episode one is Adam:

*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

*And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.*

(Genesis 1:26-29)

Episode two is Noah:

*And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.*

*And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.*

*Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things. But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat. And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.*

*And you, be ye fruitful, and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply therein.*

(Genesis 9:1-7)

To give our minds an easier mental view of the delegation of earthly authority, the LORD motivated the Psalmist to write the following.

*To the chief Musician upon Gittith, A Psalm of David.*

*O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.*

*When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.*

*O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!*

(Psalm 8:1-9)

The LORD did not restrict our reach to the Genesis-obvious portions of reality, as they are described here . . .

*And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.*

*And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.*

(Genesis 1:20-22)

*And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.*

*And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.*

(Genesis 1:24-25)

. . . In addition to the Genesis-*specified* portions of Creation, the LORD also gave us elements of authority over some Genesis-*mentioned* portions, portions that are of the environment of the earth. Elijah showed us how a power such as that which is in lightning is accessible to us.

*Then the king sent unto him a captain of fifty with his fifty. And he went up to him: and, behold, he sat on the top of an hill. And he spake unto him, Thou man of God, the king hath said, Come down. And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.*

*Again also he sent unto him another captain of fifty with his fifty. And he answered and said unto him, O man of God, thus hath the king said, Come down quickly. And Elijah answered and said unto them, If I be a man of God, let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And the fire of God came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.*

*And he sent again a captain of the third fifty with his fifty. And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and besought him, and said unto him, O man of God, I pray thee, let my life, and the life of these fifty thy servants, be precious in thy sight. Behold, there came fire down from heaven, and burnt up the two captains of the former fifties with their fifties: therefore let my life now be precious in thy sight.*

*And the angel of the LORD said unto Elijah, Go down with him: be not afraid of him. And he arose, and went down with him unto the king.*

(2 Kings 1:9-15)

Moreover, for those individuals that are of a more potent bent, here is more intense expression of earth-force control. This level of force brings to mind some of the more nuclear forces that have been identified by our scientists of today.

*And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down. And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of*

*Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name: And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed. And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.*

*And he said, Do it the second time.*

*And they did it the second time.*

*And he said, Do it the third time.*

*And they did it the third time.*

*And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.*

*And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.*

*Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.*

*And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.*

(1 Kings 18:30-39)

In general; at the level of forces of nature, Jesus Christ of Nazareth displayed a hint of the broad expanse that is available for man, in the earth.

*And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.*

*And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.*

*And he said, Come.*

*And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he*

*was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?*

*And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.*

(Matthew 14:23-32)

Wait; let me back up somewhat. Jesus Christ's display is not the first of these types of exercises of God's delegated authority. In the day of Moses, he, too, invoked an almost personal dispensation of God's power. One of the episodes is the following:

*And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.*

*And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians.*

*And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.*

*And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.*

*And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them.*

(Exodus 14:21-28)

This was not an isolated event for Moses. Here is another exercise of the delegated authority of the LORD, as expressed through Moses.

*And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the congregation, saying, Get you up from about the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.*

*And Moses rose up and went unto Dathan and Abiram; and the elders of Israel followed him. And he spake unto the congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins.*

*So they gat up from the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, on every side: and Dathan and Abiram came out, and stood in the door of their tents, and their wives, and their sons, and their little children.*

*And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind. If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the LORD hath not sent me. But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD.*

*And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them: And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods. They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.*

(Numbers 16:23-33)

Lest you think that the authority of Moses was done as only a pass-through from the LORD; listen to what the people of his community, those who were witnesses to the event of delegated authority, saw and understood.

*But on the morrow all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron, saying, Ye have killed the people of the LORD.*

*And it came to pass, when the congregation was gathered against Moses and against Aaron, that they looked toward the tabernacle of the congregation: and, behold, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD appeared. And Moses and Aaron came before the tabernacle of the congregation. And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Get you up from among this congregation, that I may consume them as in a moment.*

*And they fell upon their faces.*

*And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a censer, and put fire therein from off the altar, and put on incense, and go quickly unto the congregation, and make an atonement for them: for there is wrath gone out from the LORD; the plague is begun.*



(Numbers 16:41-46)

The obviously phenomenal activity of Moses is only one of the levels of delegation that the LORD has released in earth, in the kingdom of man. We are also blessed to have the authority to impact some specific portions of the earth that are much less obvious to the human eye: the microbes. The Bible is filled with episodes of man's positive--for man, not for the microbes--interactions with the microbes, through healing.

The following Scripture tells of the overall objective of control over microbes and other maladies that flow in the kingdom of man: *there shall not an hair of your head perish*. Please note that this Scripture describes objectives that may become guarantees, if we behave. However, when we contrarily tempt the LORD, the following Scripture will not flow as a blessing that can be demanded in spite of our behavior.

*And they asked him, saying, Master, but when shall these things be? and what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?*

*And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them. But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by.*

*Then said he unto them,*

*Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.*

*But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. And it shall turn to you for a testimony. Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.*

*And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake.*

*But there shall not an hair of your head perish.*

*In your patience possess ye your souls.*

(Luke 21:7-19)

Moreover, even though we have authority over illnesses in our self; this is not an upper limit of capability. To illustrate the place beyond self-healing, there is a particularly intriguing extra-self interaction of man with the microbes that Scripture recalls to mind. This action of Jesus introduces us to one of those interactions.

*And he arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her. And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them.*

(Luke 4:38-39)

Please note the word, *rebuked*. That word is a word of communication; it is not a matter of passive (as on the part of the miracle) removal of an intruder. For instance, when a physician intervenes to either remove or destroy a microbe, the activity is passive, as far as the behavior of the microbe: the physician does not directly handle the microbe. Furthermore, the microbe does not, generally, enter into any sort of cooperative transaction with either the human host or the agent of remediation. That is, there is no, "if you do this, then I will do that," type of negotiated outcome. In the episode with Simon's wife's mother, the transaction was this, as seen from the microbes' perspective: when you say so, I leave.

Please understand that delegation comes in several measures of difficulty. For instance, in Jesus' action, as we read from Luke 4:38-39, there is a complexity that enters this type of delegated authority; sometimes, there is a combination of powers that are in play. This topic will move us to our capabilities in the kingdom of man, in the Kingdom of God. This is where we will go next. For now, consider this great capability in the Kingdom of God that the LORD identified in Abraham, in the early part of his walk with the LORD. It is a capability that is, too, accessible for inclusion in each one of our portfolios of existence.

*And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him,  
I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.*

*And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying,  
As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.*

*And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.*

(Genesis 17:1-6)

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**-- Next, in the Kingdom of God --**  
**Capability**

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