

THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY

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Sooner or later every individual must come face to face with the reality of the Kingdom of God, its Power and its Glory. It is unfortunate that sometimes when we come face to face with this reality, we translate it to be something else, rather than to face the truth. Let me give you an example: Once I was sent of the Lord to some brethren with a message. I was not aware of their particular circumstances, but when I arrived at a friend's house where we always stayed, we were refused entry. We did not know this but an order had come from the elders not to accept us. We went to the meeting place that evening and made things really worse. The Spirit of God made me get up and tell the elders everything which was transpiring in their midst. This convinced them that I had an informant. It should have convinced them that the Holy Spirit was on the job, but it created the opposite position, because of unbelief. They had come face to face with the function of the Kingdom of God, but they refused to believe it; it was too accurate to be true.

Could it be possible that we believe God on a certain level, according to our understanding of who He really is? Is it possible that because a man might think God to be of a certain stature, that he the man, cannot see Him as bigger than the stature of his own mind? Many of us are living in a world of our own creation, not seeing things from the perspective of truth and the Word of God, but from either a predefined position from our heredity and environment, or from the dictates of our senses, things we can touch and feel and see.

THE KINGDOM:

The Kingdom of God, however, is far beyond the ken of our senses both spiritually and naturally. We do not have the capacity to perceive the Kingdom, but for the very fringes of it. In the very height of our spiritual attainment, what we experience is just the outer courts of God's Kingdom, His power and His glory:

I Corinthians 2:9 "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him."

Many of us have astounding imaginations, but not in our wildest imagination, can we imagine the Power and the Glory of God's kingdom with any degree of accuracy. In verse ten of this same chapter we are told that God has "*revealed them to us by His spirit.*" This also is true, but again revelation can only work to the extent of our own capacity to receive and to comprehend it, and here again at best it can only be through a glass darkly that we see.

I Corinthians 13:12 "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."

God revealed through the prophet Daniel the stage for the emergence of the Kingdom of God in the last days as a dominant force in the world. Not by power nor by might, but by the Spirit of God the Kingdom will break in pieces every other Kingdom and possess the earth.

Daniel 2:44-45 "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 forever. For as much then as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without HANDS and that it break in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, and 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."

This prophecy was written by the prophet Daniel about two thousand six hundred years ago, the interpretation of which showed that there were only four great kingdoms to rule the world from his time to the time of the emergence of the Kingdom of God as a world power. Let us take particular note of the means by which this will be accomplished, and let us **BEWARE OF THOSE WHO AT THIS TIME FEEL THAT WE SHOULD TAKE OVER THE WORLD THROUGH POLITICAL ENDEAVOR.** The Stone cut out of the mountain "*without hands*" which means not by man's effort or help, will strike the image with repeated violent blows and will eventually grind it to powder; and the wind, which is the Holy Ghost, will blow it away. If this then, is not physical violence, it must be spiritual. We have seen Elijah call fire from heaven and burn up a whole army - we have seen him stop the heavens from raining for three and a half years. There are many, many instances in the Bible of this sort of spiritual power, so that we can understand when the scripture declares that "*fire will come out of their mouths,*" we can understand it to mean the power of the spoken word becoming a weapon of war against the enemy. All through the history of the church we see the Christian being beaten and imprisoned and crucified, but the crucifixion of Jesus Christ our Lord was intended to put a stop to all this. He died for us that we should not die, both physically and spiritually. When we fall prey to death, it is only because we have not fully appropriated that which Jesus Christ had accomplished for us by His death, His burial and above all His resurrection.

The first of these great kingdoms which would devour the whole earth, which he described as the "*head of gold*" was the kingdom of Babylon. This kingdom began with Nimrod, after the flood, and ended with Belshazzar, the son of Nebuchadnezzar. The second was the Medio-Persian kingdom, which was described as "*silver*", began with Darius and ended when it was overthrown by Alexander the Great. This was the third kingdom, described as "*brass*" which at the end was divided into four parts among the four generals of Alexander at his death. The prophecy of Daniel states that one of these roots of Alexander would result into the Roman Empire which is the fourth Kingdom, and that this kingdom would have in it a mixture of iron and clay (iron=spiritual, and clay=carnal), and that it would "*devour*" or consume the whole earth. **THE MOST NOTEWORTHY THOUGHT IN THIS SCRIPTURE IS THE FACT THAT IN THE DAYS OF THE TEN TOES OF THIS IMAGE (KINGDOM) THAT THE GOD OF HEAVEN WOULD SET UP HIS KINGDOM, BY SMITING THE FOURTH KINGDOM AND DESTROYING IT.** It was smitten and destroyed by this stone cut out of the mountain without hands. This stone, of course, is the Body of Christ or the Kingdom of God. This Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom which begins in time and continues through eternity. The kingdoms of this world are not yet destroyed. They comprise every organization where a human being reigns as the head. This therefore would include most of the church organizations and even some of the group meetings. Anything which does not have Christ as its absolute head is classified as a "*kingdom of this world*".

The Kingdom of God is outlined in Scripture; Hebrews 12:22-24:

"But ye are come unto:

1. MOUNT ZION - These are the company of the Elect of God of all ages who comprise His army both in earth and in heaven. Those who have obtained by sacrifice a place among the Chosen of His Kingdom.
2. THE CITY OF THE LIVING GOD, THE HEAVENLY JERUSALEM -These comprise all of those who are in heaven, saved by the Blood of Jesus Christ.
3. AN INNUMERABLE COMPANY OF ANGELS - Created angel beings who serve God and his people everywhere.
4. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CHURCH OF THE FIRST BORN -All those on earth who are born again.
5. GOD THE JUDGE OF ALL.
6. THE SPIRITS OF JUST MEN MADE PERFECT -These are those who have received perfection or completion in their spirits, and now only await the resurrection wherein spirits, souls and bodies will be joined together again. When the Holy Spirit enters into the human spirit, man is completed in spirit.

7. JESUS THE MEDIATOR OF THE NEW COVENANT - Jesus us a part of the church. He is the head and we are His body.
8. THE BLOOD OF SPRINKLING, THAT SPEAKETH BETTER THINGS THAN THAT OF ABEL -After Abel was dead, his blood spoke to God for justice against his murderer, but now the blood of Jesus Christ speaks life for the murderers and sinners, and gives hope to the otherwise hopeless, and power to the powerless.

This then is the full complement of the Kingdom of god in heaven and on earth.

THE POWER:

"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?" Psalms 8:4.

When one thinks of the power of God, one is humbled by the thought of the universe. The sun has been a source of light and energy for the earth for the past 6,000 years, as far as we know. It is more than 90,000,000 miles away and yet strikes the earth with such powerful rays, so that if there were no ozone layer in the atmosphere around the earth, we would all be scorched to cinders. The thought of how small and weak we are comes home to us when we consider that our sun, which is so big and powerful, actually is a small star among billions of larger ones, and that the Milky Way of which our universe is a part, is only a very small constellation among untold numbers.

The scope of this kind of power which it would take to run God's operation, is far beyond the human mind to comprehend. At least we should be able to understand that mind to comprehend. At least we should be able to understand that we cannot comprehend it neither with our finite minds nor with our spiritual understanding.

This however is only still on the natural plane. When we think of God's power in the spiritual, we realize that He is **OMNIPRESENT**. Can you conceive of a person who is here, and there, and everywhere at the same time? Can you think of a person who is the heart of the earth and in the sea and in the heaven and monitoring every bird and bee and flower at the same time? God is not only omnipresent, but He is **OMNISCIENT**. He sees everything, seen and unseen; He sees hell and heaven all at the same time. He is **OMNIPOTENT**, all powerful. It is a word we cannot conceive in our minds, because if we can only think of power within the ambit of our knowledge, or the imagination, then it is impossible to conceive the word Omnipotence in its fullness. He attends every detail of our individual thoughts always.

THE POWER OF RESURRECTION:

A body is atomized whether it is by the slow process of decomposition or the blast of an atom bomb, matter is dispersed into their original gaseous forms and disseminated into the atmosphere. Then comes the Trump of God and the voice of the Archangel, and soul and body find nexus in the "aera", coming together, rebuking the strength of nature to hold them, and reclaiming them, to reconstruct the being that once was two thousand years ago, or yesterday, time does not matter.

I have seen this power create a new tongue in a boy's mouth, instantaneously. None other could do that but God. Satan can play tricks on us and create false miracles, but only God can create a true miracle. I have seen Satan place a bump on a person's body and then remove it as a great miracle, but that is what the scripture describes as lying wonders.

In our day and age, God is at work creating many miracles to teach us of His power, but sometimes I see men taking the glory, and sometimes people even give the glory to the enemy, but God is still on the job showing us His love and His power.

THE GLORY:

The Glory of God, and for us to give him the glory are two slightly different things. When we speak of the Glory of God we are basically dealing with the power which emanates from God's presence in the form of light. This power and glory in all its force dwells in the **FIRST HEAVEN** where no man or angel can approach. God covers himself in darkness or with clouds in order to insulate himself from His creatures. None of us, angel or man, could approach unto this realm. God whose name is **Je-ho-vah (YHVH) SENT HIS SON TO BECOME HUMAN** in order that we might have access to Him. He insulated His power and glory with humanity and became one of us in order that we might have access to the heavenlies. Thus, God appears on every plane in a light and glory that can be seen and touched by us lesser beings. It thus transpires, that when we were on one level we saw Jesus in a certain glory, but on another level we still see Jesus in a greater glory.

On the mount of transfiguration, Jesus allowed a little of the glory to break through and what Peter, James and John saw, was a transfiguration of a human being of flesh and blood and bone, into a creature of light. This light was encapsulated in Jesus Christ, and He just let a little of it come out. We also have this light in us in varying degrees and we are being changed from glory to glory, unto that perfect day, for it is written that the Day Star will arise in our hearts. When this occurs, then the veil of flesh shall be rent and consumed and we shall be seen as we really are. The change continues as we

GLORIFY God IN our heart, minds and bodies. When we acknowledge God in all things, putting Christ first, then we glorify Him. In John 17:5 Jesus is praying to the Father:

John 17:5 "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."

The flesh man was totally subdued and put under the Spirit, and in this hour of triumph, Jesus Christ Our Lord, as a man, asked God the Father to give the glory of the First Heaven. It was difficult to comprehend, but He was doing this not for himself but for all mankind. Once this was given to a flesh and blood man, it could not be rescinded. Man now possessed the power to sit with God in His throne. The 22nd verse proves this thought to be correct:

John 17:22 "And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one even as we are one."

It is not possible that one can walk in the light of God and not be one with those who walk in the same light. The divisions we experience in the church realms is caused from lack of godliness:

I John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."

The glory of God burns all the dross from our lives as fire purifies gold and silver.

In conclusion let me give you the words which came from the Lord and motivated this message:

"FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER AND THE GLORY FOR EVER AND EVER, AMEN." Matthew 6:13.

It is comforting to know that by the Blood of Jesus, and by this only, that we belong to the Kingdom, and this power and this glory.

