**As the organization of this present rule of the heavens over the kingdom is in three major ranks (with a fourth group outside of the kingdom and in obscurity), so will be the future rule of the heavens over the kingdom.**

**Organizational Set-up of Satan’s Rule over the Earth  
By Gary Whipple of** [**Beyond the Rapture**](http://www.bibleone.net/BeyondtheRapture.pdf)

**The Three Major Ranks**

Apparently the two highest selections from the saved (the chosen and the faithful) will be further sub-divided into three major ranks in order to accommodate the many ranks of all the saints who have had their souls saved at the Judgment Seat of Christ. To understand these three major ranks, one must study the present organizational set-up of Satan’s rule over the earth. For as Satan’s present kingdom is the “kingdom of the heavens” operating in darkness or obscurity, so will Christ’s coming kingdom be the “kingdom of the heavens” operating in light and full awareness. Thus, Christ’s coming kingdom is the antithesis of Satan’s present kingdom.

**Satan’s Present Organization of His Kingdom**

*“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities* [rulers]*, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world* [world forces], *against spiritual wickedness in high places* [spiritual forces]” ([Ephesians 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.12&t=NKJV)).

According to this verse in Ephesians, Satan’s rule from the heavens over this present earth is organized to accommodate three major ranks. These are:

(1) “**Principalities**” (Gr.*’arche’*)meaning chief or principle ruler. These are the highest-ranking angelic rulers under Satan himself, who rules over portions of his kingdom, *i.e.* all that he has.

(2) “**Powers**” (Gr.‘*exousia’*) meaning magistrates, potentates, or delegated influences. This second highest rank of rulers, are placed in positions of power and rulership under the Principalities, with full power to carry out and enforce the rule of the “Principalities” and Satan.

(3) “**Rulers of darkness**” (Gr. ‘*kosmokrator skotos’*) meaning rulers-world who under the “Powers” rules the nations of the world in obscurity. These lesser rulers have authority over the territory of this world only, and are probably princes over the nations and cities of the earth. They are the over-rulers of their flesh and blood counterparts, *i.e.* presidents, governors, mayors, etc. who unwittingly carry out their plans and directives, not knowing that they are being used by Satan. Daniel refers to two of these princes of Satan as being rulers of Greece and of Persia ([Daniel 10:13-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+10.13-21&t=NKJV)). Here, God tells us that one of them (the prince of Persia) had the power to capture an angel, sent from God to Daniel, for 21 days. Only with the intervention of Michael, the archangel, was he able to overcome him.

“Spiritual wickedness in high places” (Gr. ‘*pneumatikos poneria’*) is *not considered* a ruling rank. It refers to supernatural or spirit beings (probably the demons) who promote wickedness and iniquity on the earth. These spirit beings make up the lowest position in Satan’s kingdom and they have no rule or authority. They occupy the high places, *i.e.* the heavenly places (Gr. *Epouranious*), meaning above the sky, *i.e.*, earth’s atmosphere as well as the celestial portion of Satan’s kingdom, and are outside the prominence of Satan’s present rule over this earth.

**The Future Organization of Christ’s Kingdom**

As the organization of this present rule of the heavens over the kingdom is in three major ranks (with a fourth group outside of the kingdom and in obscurity), so will be the future rule of the heavens over the kingdom. There will apparently be three major ranks of rulership, with a fourth group being outside the kingdom in obscurity with no rewards whatsoever. Those who will be appointed as viceregents in this coming kingdom will be called kings and lords, and their ranks of rulership will probably be determined by the amount of victory crowns (Gr. ‘*stephanos’*) won at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

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Excerpted from [Bible One - Gary Whipple's Beyond the Rapture](http://www.bibleone.net/BeyondtheRapture.pdf), Pg. 101, available for purchase at [Gary Whipple's Books - Schoettle Publishing](http://www.schoettlepublishing.com/catalog/whipple.htm).

For examples of Christ’s coming kingdom as the antithesis of Satan’s present kingdom see [Five Parables regarding the Kingdom](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-one.php#Five%20Parables%20regarding%20the%20Kingdom) in this site:

[(1) The parable of the wedding feast.](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-one.php#(1)%20The%20parable%20of%20the%20wedding%20feast.), [(2) The parable of the wise and faithful steward.](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-one.php#(2)%20The%20parable%20of%20the%20wise%20and%20faithful%20steward.), [(3) The parable of the ten virgins.](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-one.php#(3)%20The%20parable%20of%20the%20ten%20virgins.), [(4) The parable of the talents.](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-one.php#(4)%20The%20parable%20of%20the%20talents.), [(5) The parable of the pounds.](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-one.php#(5)%20The%20parable%20of%20the%20pounds.)

Also see [God's Transition of Satan's Kingdom to Christ's Kingdom](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-four.php#God's%20Transition%20of%20Satan's%20Kingdom%20to%20Christ's%20Kingdom) in this site.