*Man was created for a revealed purpose, which had to do with regality. Man was formed from a part of the earth, to rule the earth.*

**The Most High Ruleth**

*A study about world government — past, present, and future.*

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**Foreword**

Scripture begins with a very brief, succinct statement concerning God’s creation of the material universe:

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.* ([Genesis 1:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1&t=NKJV))

God, at a point in time, brought the material universe into existence. Then God established a perfect form of universal government, allowing Him to exercise absolute, sovereign control over the whole of His creation.

God placed angels, whom He had also previously created (*cf.* [Job 38:6-7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Job+38.6-7&t=NKJV); [Ezekiel 28:14-15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+28.14-15&t=NKJV)), in appointed positions to exercise delegated power and authority within His government. That would not only be true of the province upon which man presently resides (the earth) but of innumerable other provinces (undoubtedly multiplied billions) that God created, forming the innumerable galaxies (again, undoubtedly multiplied billions), which comprise a material universe of a size that can only stagger one’s imagination.

But the creation of man, though created *for regal purposes*, follows God’s creation of angels, the material universe, and the establishment of His universal government. Man, a latecomer within God’s creative activity, was brought into existence to replace one of God’s provincial rulers, one who had rebelled against divine power and authority. And man was created on the province (the earth) over which this ruler (Satan) had not only originally been placed but a province that he continued to govern following his fall.

(A principle of biblical government necessitates that an incumbent ruler, though disqualified, must continue holding the scepter until his replacement is not only on the scene but ready to assume the scepter [reference the account of Saul and David in the books of 1& 2 Samuel, and see [Saul and David Type/Antitype](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-one.php#Saul%20and%20David%20Type/Antitype) in this site].

In this respect, though disqualified to hold the scepter, Satan [with his angels] could only continue holding the scepter until God had not only brought forth his replacement [man] but had deemed his replacement qualified and ready to ascend the throne.)

Thus, man was created for a revealed purpose, which had to do with regality. Man was formed from *a part of the earth, to rule the earth*:

*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion* [Hebrew: *radah*, let them “rule”] . . . . ([Genesis 1:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.26&t=NKJV); *cf.* [Genesis 1:28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.28&t=NKJV); [2:7-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+2.7-8&t=NKJV))

Then man’s fall, recorded in [Genesis 3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+3&t=NKJV), was directly related to the purpose surrounding his creation. And, beyond that, God providing a means of salvation for fallen man was (and remains today) also directly related to the purpose surrounding his creation. *The reason for and goal of salvation have to do with man one day occupying the position for which he was created.*

That is to say, *the purpose surrounding man’s fall* (effected by Satan) had to do with his being brought into a position in which *he could not assume the scepter*, allowing the incumbent ruler to continue on the throne; and *the purpose surrounding man’s redemption* (effected by God) had to do with his one day being brought into a position where *he could assume the scepter.*

Thus, *regality* pervades the whole of the matter. God rules over all, angels rule under God, man was created to replace a disqualified angelic ruler, and man’s fall and redemption result from and have to do with the reason for his creation.

And, since the ultimate victory will be the Lord’s, *man will one day replace the disqualified, incumbent ruler.* “*The gifts and calling of God are without repentance* [without a change of mind]” ([Romans 11:29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+11.29&t=NKJV)). God is not going to change His mind concerning the reason He called man into existence. *Man will one day rule the earth in the stead of angels, realizing the reason for his creation in the beginning* ([Hebrews 2:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.5&t=NKJV)).

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Chapter One

**Over the Heavens and the Earth**

*The LORD has established His throne in heaven and His kingdom rules over all.*

*Bless the LORD, you His angels, who excel in strength, who do His Word, heeding the voice of His Word.*

*Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, you ministers of His, who do His pleasure.*

*Bless the LORD, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!* ([Psalm 103:19-22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+103.19-22&t=NKJV))

God exercises absolute, sovereign control over a universe that He Himself brought into existence, and the earth is a province within that universe. There is “*no power but of God*,” and “*the powers that be are ordained of God*” ([Romans 13:1-2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+13.1-2&t=NKJV)).

God is the One Who places rulers in positions of power (the power that emanates from Him); and, should it become necessary (both “should” and “when” in man’s case, for he is presently limited by *time*), God is also the One Who removes rulers from these same positions of power ([1 Samuel 15:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Samuel+15.17&t=NKJV), [23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Samuel+15.23&t=NKJV); [31:3-5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Samuel+31.3-5&t=NKJV); [2 Samuel 1:3-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Samuel+1.3-10&t=NKJV); [Daniel 4:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.17&t=NKJV), [25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.25&t=NKJV), [32-36](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.32-36&t=NKJV); [5:18-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+5.18-21&t=NKJV); [Matthew 20:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+20.23&t=NKJV); [Luke 1:52](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+1.52&t=NKJV)).

Consequently, there is no such thing as a ruler on this province (the earth) or any other province (any other world) in the universe exercising power within a governmental position apart from God. A ruler holds his position because of a divine act (appointment, placement by God), and he exercises power that emanates from a divine source (from the One who appointed, placed him in the position that he occupies, from God Himself).

In relation to this earth, the ruler himself may or may not acknowledge this (in fact, he may not even acknowledge the existence of God); or he may be a rebellious ruler, seeking to rule apart from God. But the simple fact remains: Any ruler on this earth, or any ruler anywhere in the universe, holds a governmental position and exercises power and authority within that position solely because of divine appointment (to his position) and divine delegation (of power and authority). Rulers exercising power and authority after this fashion actually govern, in numerous gradations of positions, within a chain of command that God has established under Himself.

*There are no exceptions.*

God rules from a throne that is located “*on the farthest sides of the north*” ([Isaiah 14:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+14.13&t=NKJV)). The direction of the compass locating God’s throne would be in relation to the earth. That is, Scripture states that God sits on a throne north of the earth in what would be either the northernmost point in the universe or a point beyond which no additional physical universe exists (*i.e.*, no more galaxies exist beyond this point).

Thus, all rule, power, and authority emanate from one Person (God) seated on a throne at a particular revealed point in the universe. And God rules the universe from this place through subordinates who occupy various appointed positions and exercise various degrees of delegated power and authority ([Psalm 103:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+103.19&t=NKJV); [Isaiah 14:13-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+14.13-14&t=NKJV); *cf.* [Daniel 4:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.17&t=NKJV); [5:18-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+5.18-21&t=NKJV); [7:9-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.9-14&t=NKJV); [Romans 13:1-2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+13.1-2&t=NKJV)).

**The Universe as a Whole**

Man has no idea of the size of the physical universe, outside our galaxy. His telescopes can only see so far, and beyond that he can only surmise, estimate, and guess. And that would even be true, to an extent, of numerous things within our own galaxy.

Our sun is a medium-size star, and there are an estimated two to four hundred billion other stars (some larger, some smaller) within our galaxy. Then beyond our galaxy it is estimated that billions of other galaxies exist, comprising the physical universe.

It is one hundred thousand light years across our own galaxy (a movement at the speed of 186,000 miles per second for one hundred thousand years), and it is an estimated two to two and one-half million light years to the next nearest galaxy. And beyond that are other galaxies separated by comparable distances. Thus the universe is of a size and design that can only stagger man’s imagination.

Returning to our own solar system as a beginning point, this system is comprised of nine planets revolving around a medium-size star (possibly ten planets according to late astronomical discoveries); and the earth is apparently unique as the only planet within our solar system upon which God saw fit to place individuals within His ordered system of government.

But, when viewing the remainder of the galaxy or the universe as a whole, is our own solar system unique in this respect? That is, considering the matter after one fashion, is our sun the only star anywhere in the universe around which planets revolve? Or, considering the matter after another fashion, if other similar solar systems do exist, is the earth within our solar system the only inhabited planet among existing planets within solar systems throughout the universe?

In line with previous statements, the answer to the questions would have to be, “No.” There is *an inhabited universe* over which God exercises absolute, sovereign control. Man though, as a creature within that universe, is a different matter. The creation of an individual *in the image and likeness of God* ([Genesis 1:26-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.26-27&t=NKJV)), to have a part in God’s governmental rule of the universe, is an act peculiar to the earth. In this respect, the earth would be unique insofar as man himself residing on a province and having a part in the government is concerned, but it would not be unique insofar as there being other similar solar systems with worlds upon which individuals (angels) reside within God’s ordered system of government.

Astronomers within the scientific community can today state, with certainty, that there are numerous solar systems similar to our own (other stars [suns] with revolving planets). Prior to the time of the Hubble telescope, though astronomers could not see these planets, through infrared techniques developed in recent times they could see systematic blockages of light in connection with different stars that seemingly could only be attributed to planets revolving around these stars.

Then, once the Hubble telescope was placed in orbit above the earth’s atmosphere, allowing astronomers to look into the heavens and not only see things that they had never been able to see before but also to bring everything into a much clearer focus, any question concerning the existence of other solar systems, similar to our own, was removed. Though revolving planets around other stars still could not be seen, the compilation of additional evidence made available through the use of this telescope removed any possible doubt concerning the existence of numerous other solar systems — possibly billions — in our galaxy alone.

But all of that is really neither here nor there, for Scripture has already told us that such worlds exist. And man’s scientific discoveries *never* verify Scripture, for Scripture can’t be verified. “Scripture” is the *standard* by which all else is judged, and there can be no such thing as the standard being verified by that which is being judged by the standard.

Where Scripture and Science touch on the same matters, Scripture will always reveal the accuracy or inaccuracy of man’s scientific discoveries. In the case of the astronomers’ deductions concerning planets revolving around numerous other stars in the galaxy, Scripture reveals that they are correct.

*The whole matter of viewing Scripture and Science together is really that simple.*

“Scripture” lies within the realm of *the Creator*, but “Science” lies within the realm of *the created*. And the creature never asks the Creator, “*Why have you made me like this?*” ([Romans 9:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+9.20&t=NKJV)). Accordingly, as in creation itself, the beginning point must *always* be the Scriptures — the God-breathed Word (originating from and inseparably connected with the Creator) — *never* Science (the created).

A main basis for the teaching concerning inhabited planets within other solar systems in the universe is taken from that which is revealed in the first two chapters of the book of Job. Satan is the messianic angel whom God placed over this earth in the beginning, along with a great host of subordinate ruling angels ([Ezekiel 28:14ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+28.14ff&t=NKJV); [Daniel 10:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+10.13&t=NKJV); [Matthew 25:41](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.41&t=NKJV)); and Satan is seen in the book of Job, on two separate occasions, as he appeared in the Lord’s presence with other “*sons of God*,” which could only be his equals, for Satan appeared “*among them*” *as one of them* ([Job 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Job+1.6&t=NKJV); [2:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Job+2.1&t=NKJV)).

The appearances of the sons of God in the Lord’s presence on these two recorded occasions apparently constituted two of what could only have been scheduled congresses of messianic angels (angels placed over various worlds within the universe). Such is evident, for Satan, whom God had placed over the earth, appeared in God’s presence at these meetings as one of the “*sons of God*.” And since Satan was the messianic angel whom God had placed over the province upon which man was later created, it can only be concluded that the other “sons of God” among whom Satan appeared — his equals — were messianic angels whom God had placed over provinces in other parts of the universe. They apparently appeared together in God’s presence at scheduled times to render reports concerning activities on the particular provinces over which they had been placed (congresses of the sons of God).

In both instances in the accounts in Job, attention is directed to Satan and the earth rather than to any of the other messianic angels and other worlds ([Job 1:7ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Job+1.7ff&t=NKJV); [Job 2:2ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Job+2.2ff&t=NKJV)). In fact, other than the simple mention of their presence at these meetings, *nothing* is revealed concerning the other messianic angels or the worlds over which they ruled.

And this would be in perfect keeping with the way Scripture is structured, for, in the preceding respect, God’s revelation to man has to do with His government of the earth, not with His government of other parts of the universe. The latter is seemingly introduced in Scripture (in a very limited sense) so man can place things concerning the former in their proper perspective.

That is, man understanding the overall scope of God’s government of the universe (beginning in the past and extending into the present) could better understand God’s government of a small part of the universe, *i.e.*, His government of the earth — past, present, and future. Thus, for this apparent reason — along with the fact that man, beyond the millennium, will apparently have a part in God’s government of the universe — God has seen fit to reveal certain things concerning the overall structure of the government within His universal kingdom.

(God actually opens His revelation to man after this fashion, calling attention to the beginning of His universal kingdom and then centering His revelation on one province in that kingdom. Scripture opens with the statement, “*In the beginning God created the heaven* [*lit.*, ‘the heavens’] *and the earth*” [[Genesis 1:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1&t=NKJV)].

First, God makes mention of the entire universe out in the heavens, separate from the earth; but then “the earth” is immediately singled out for special consideration. And continuing from this point, Scripture, completely apart from any additional revelation concerning God’s activity in the previously mentioned “heavens,” begins to deal specifically with the earth — “*And the earth was without form and void…* [*lit.*, ‘*But the earth became without form and void*…’]” [[Genesis 1:2a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2a&t=NKJV)].

For further information regarding the preceding understanding of [Genesis 1:2a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2a&t=NKJV), refer to the author’s books, [The Study of Scripture](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/the-study-of-scripture.php), chapter 2, in this site, or [Bible One - Seven, Ten Generations by Arlen Chitwood](http://bibleone.net/STG.htm), the Foreword.

The rest of the universe had been mentioned [[Genesis 1:1a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1a&t=NKJV)], but God, in His revelation to man, concerns Himself centrally with the earth [and the heavens in the proximity of and associated with the earth], not with the rest of the universe [[Genesis 1:1b](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1b&t=NKJV) ff]. And the apparent reason that God’s activity in relation to other parts of the universe is even mentioned in Scripture is as previously stated: Man, viewing God’s activity in relation to the entire universe, could better understand and place within its proper perspective God’s activity relative to a small part of that universe, *i.e*., His activity relative to the earth, Satan and his angels, man, etc.)

**The Earth Itself**

Note that Satan’s fall resulted from his seeking a position of power above the other messianic angels, apart from divine appointment. Actually, such an appointment would have been out of the question, for Satan sought the very position that God Himself occupied.

In so doing, Satan said:

*I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God* [the other messianic angels]: *I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation* [the meeting place where the kings of the kingdom (the messianic angels) met in God’s presence], *in the sides of the north* [*lit.*, in the uttermost parts of the north]:  *I will ascend above the heights of the clouds* [*lit*., the Cloud, apparently a reference to deity]; *I will be like the most High*. ([Isaiah 14:13-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+14.13-14&t=NKJV))

Thus, Satan became dissatisfied with the governmental position that he occupied (a ruler over only one province in the kingdom, having equals who ruled other provinces in the kingdom). He sought to elevate his throne above all the other messianic angels and occupy the very place that God Himself occupied. He, in this respect, sought to become the supreme ruler of the entire universe.

As a consequence, God not only *rejected* him as the appointed ruler over the earth but God reduced the province over which he ruled to *a ruin*. This is the point in Scripture where “*the earth was* [‘became’] *without form and void; and darkness was* [became] *upon the face of the deep*” ([Genesis 1:2a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2a&t=NKJV)).

However, Satan continued to rule — though over a ruined province in God’s overall kingdom — for a principle of biblical government necessitates that an incumbent ruler hold his appointed position until he is actually replaced by another appointed ruler. This is the reason Satan is seen in Scripture among the other messianic angels in the book of Job, millennia following his fall. He still occupied the throne as the earth’s appointed ruler, for the time when his successor would appear on the scene and take the scepter awaited a future day.

And today, millennia removed from Job’s day, Satan still occupies the same position, for the time when he is to be put down and another Person ascend the throne still awaits a future day. Consequently, should there be congresses of the sons of God held during the present time (which there undoubtedly are), Satan would have to attend in the same capacity that he has held since time immemorial — as the earth’s appointed ruler, one of the “*sons of God*,” one of the messianic angels. Should he be asked questions at any of the present congresses, as at the two meetings revealed in Job; the questions would, of necessity, have to involve one or more of the Lord’s servants on earth today.

A knowledge of this fact will provide a probable reason for some Christians (past and present) having undergone (or presently be undergoing) untold sufferings in their lives. Such Christians, as Job, may have come under Satan’s accusation and *have been* “*counted worthy*” to undergo various trials, testing, or sufferings for Christ’s name (*cf.* [Acts 5:40-42](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+5.40-42&t=NKJV); [Romans 8:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.18&t=NKJV); [Revelation 12:10-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+12.10-11&t=NKJV)).

And the inverse of the preceding is equally true. Some Christians seemingly never undergo trials, testing, or sufferings; and the reason is evident. Because of unfaithfulness in their lives they simply find themselves in a category wherein they *are not “counted worthy”* to suffer for Christ’s name ([2 Timothy 3:11-15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Timothy+3.11-15&t=NKJV)).

That would be to say, within the congresses of the messianic angels, God would have no reason to call such individuals to Satan’s attention (as He did Job); nor would Satan have any cause to bring accusations before God concerning them (as in Job’s case). Consequently, they live their lives apart from the trials, testing, and sufferings of this nature, experienced by certain other Christians.

Man though has turned this whole thing around and associates “suffering” with God’s *disfavor* and “blessing” with God’s *favor*. But God views the matter in a completely opposite framework ([Isaiah 55:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+55.8&t=NKJV), [9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+55.9&t=NKJV)). The normal Christian life involves trials, testing, and sufferings. Anything else during the present day and time would, in reality, be abnormal and out of place.

(The preceding is not to suggest that all trials, testing, and sufferings experienced by Christians during the present time emanate from issues at congresses of the sons of God. It does though suggest that *some, possibly more than we realize*, may very well have an origin of this nature.)

But the “sufferings,” though they *must come first*, don’t last forever. At some later point in time “blessings” *must always follow* (*cf.* [Job 2:7ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Job+2.7ff&t=NKJV); [Job 42:10-17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Job+42.10-17&t=NKJV)). This is a Scriptural principle that cannot be broken.

The same thing is seen in the future glory of Christ following His past sufferings. It was necessary that Christ *first* suffer. *Only then* could He “*enter into His glory*” ([Luke 24:25-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+24.25-27&t=NKJV)). And the same principle applies to Christians undergoing present sufferings and one day having a part in Christ’s glory ([Romans 8:17-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.17-18&t=NKJV); [1 Peter 4:12-13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+4.12-13&t=NKJV)).

The latter (the glory) can, under no circumstances, be realized apart from the former (the sufferings). This is the reason Scripture states,

*If we suffer* [“patiently endure,” which involves trials, testing, sufferings ([James 1:2-4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=James+1.2-4&t=NKJV))], *we shall also reign with Him: if we deny Him, He also will deny us*. ([2 Timothy 2:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Timothy+2.12&t=NKJV))

*Denying* in the latter part of [2 Timothy 2:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Timothy+2.12&t=NKJV) is not denying a person *per se* (*i.e.*, our denying Christ or Christ denying us). The word “deny” must be understood contextually, and understanding the word in the sense of “disallow” or “not allow” would really better convey the thought that the context demands.

Contextually, the first use of the word “deny” has to do with Christians not patiently enduring with Christ during the present time (note the first part of the verse). They do not allow the Lord (they deny the Lord in this respect), through the ministry of the Spirit, to perform a work in their lives. That is, such Christians deny Christ the central place that He desires to occupy in their lives; and, resultantly, they do not allow the Holy Spirit to progressively work the change (metamorphosis) in their lives, they live apart from patiently enduring with Christ, do not suffer with Him, etc.

Then the second use of the word “deny” has to do with Christians who pattern their lives after the preceding fashion not being allowed to reign with Christ (again note the first part of the verse). Such Christians will not have allowed the Lord (they will have denied the Lord in this respect), through the ministry of the Spirit, to perform a work in their lives during the present time. There will have been no patient endurance involving trials, testing, sufferings; consequently, there can be no future reign.

“Suffering” *must always precede* “glory.” *The latter cannot be realized apart from the former, and the former guarantees the latter* ([1 Peter 4:12-19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+4.12-19&t=NKJV); *cf.* [Matthew 5:11-12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+5.11-12&t=NKJV)).

*1. The First Man; the First Adam*

Though Satan’s fall and disqualification to rule resulted in a portion of God’s kingdom being reduced to a ruin, God had plans for the earth as a province within His kingdom that would far exceed anything seen during Satan’s rule. This province would be the place where an individual created *in the image and likeness of God would one day rule*. Further, and foremost as the rulership relates to man, this province would be the place where God’s Son (as *the second Man, the last Adam*, the Head of a new order of Sons) would likewise one day rule. And then, ultimately, this province (actually, the new earth) would be the place where God Himself, along with His Son and man (redeemed through His Son’s finished work at Calvary), would rule the universe.

To realize all of this though, the earth must first be restored and a new ruler brought forth. And that’s what the opening two chapters of Genesis are about — the restoration of the earth ([Genesis 1:2-25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2-25&t=NKJV) [2b]), the creation of man as the earth’s new ruler ([Genesis 1:26-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.26-28&t=NKJV); [2:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+2.7&t=NKJV)), along with the removal of the woman from the man to reign as consort queen with him ([Genesis 2:21-25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+2.21-25&t=NKJV)).

Thus, the person eventually brought on the scene to take the scepter was not of the angelic creation. Rather, this individual constituted *an entirely new creation in the universe*. He was created uniquely different — *in the image and likeness of God*; and not only was he created uniquely different but he was also created for *a revealed purpose*, a purpose that had to do with *the government of the earth*. Man was created to replace the incumbent ruler, to take the scepter that Satan held — “*let them have dominion* [*i.e.*, ‘let them rule,’ which, of necessity, would have had to include *the man and the woman together*, for the woman was part of the man and completed the man]” ([Genesis 1:26-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.26-28&t=NKJV)).

(In line with the previous, there was both *a near* and *a far purpose* for man’s creation. The *near purpose* had to do with rulership over the earth [which will be realized during the Messianic Era], and the *far purpose* had to do with rulership within other parts of the universe [which will be realized following the Messianic Era].)

The ruined earth over which Satan ruled following his fall was restored with a view to man taking the scepter ([Genesis 1:2b](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2b&t=NKJV) ff). However, Satan, knowing what God was in the process of doing through the restoration of the earth and man’s subsequent creation, immediately sought to bring about man’s disqualification. And this is exactly what he did through deceiving Eve, which resulted in Adam having no choice but to also eat of the same forbidden fruit Eve had been deceived into eating.

Adam fell as the federal head of God’s new creation, man; and this not only resulted in man’s disqualification (placing him in a position wherein he could not assume the scepter) but it also resulted once again, as before, in a ruined kingdom (the earth brought under a curse but not ruined to the extent that it was uninhabitable for man).

However, unlike events following Satan’s fall, redemption entered the picture when man fell. God not only provided immediate redemption for Adam and Eve following their fall but He also foretold the ultimate victory (over the incumbent ruler) of mankind’s coming Redeemer ([Genesis 3:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+3.15&t=NKJV), [21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+3.21&t=NKJV)).

Thus, redemption was to be provided for man, with a view to his ultimately realizing the purpose for his creation. Man was to be redeemed so he could, as God intended, one day take the scepter and rule within God’s governmental structure of the universe (first over the earth, then throughout the universe itself).

*2. The Second Man; the Last Adam*

[Galatians 4:4-7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Galatians+4.4-7&t=NKJV) perhaps outlines the entirety of the matter about as well as any similar passage in Scripture. First, there is Christ’s first coming in order *to redeem* man ([Galatians 4:4-5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Galatians+4.4-5&t=NKJV)); and the stated purpose for redemption is then said to be *adoption* and *heirship*, which have to do with events surrounding Christ’s second coming ([Galatians 4:5-7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Galatians+4.5-7&t=NKJV)). This, of course, is the heirship previously mentioned in [Galatians 3:29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Galatians+3.29&t=NKJV):

*And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.* (*cf.* [Genesis 22:17-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+22.17-18&t=NKJV))

Christ came as *the second Man, the last Adam*, for He must not only redeem that which *the first man, the first Adam* lost in the fall but He must also occupy the headship that Adam possessed. Only through so doing could God one day give His Son “dominion, and glory, and a kingdom,” something that the Son is presently inviting redeemed man to share with Him in the position of *co-heir* in that coming day when He receives the kingdom from the Father ([Daniel 7:13-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.13-14&t=NKJV); [Revelation 11:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+11.15&t=NKJV); *cf*. [Romans 8:16-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.16-18&t=NKJV); [Revelation 2:26-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2.26-27&t=NKJV); [3:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3.21&t=NKJV)).

*The first man, the first Adam* had a bride taken from his body who was to reign as consort queen with him. And so must it be with *the second Man, the last Adam*. The matter has been set within God’s activities surrounding the man whom He brought forth in Genesis, and it cannot change within His activities surrounding the Man whom He is about to “again” bring into the inhabited world ([Hebrews 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.6&t=NKJV), [9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.9&t=NKJV); [3:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3.14&t=NKJV); *cf*. [Ephesians 5:30-32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+5.30-32&t=NKJV)).

A husband-wife relationship of this nature is seen in Scripture at three different points within God’s overall revelation to man — *past, present,* and *future*. It is seen in the past in the relationship that existed between Adam and Eve, and it is seen in the *future* in the relationship that will exist between Christ and His bride. Then it is seen between these times, during the *present*, in the relationship that exists between a man and woman within the bonds of marriage.

A man leaves his father and mother, is joined to his wife, and they become “*one flesh*,” as in the beginning. The man and woman, in this position, as “*one flesh*,” then become “*heirs together of the grace of life*.” And the whole matter is said to be *a great mystery* surrounding “*Christ and the Church*,” pointing to a relationship that will exist yet future ([Genesis 2:21-24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+2.21-24&t=NKJV); [Ephesians 5:25-32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+5.25-32&t=NKJV); [1 Peter 3:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+3.7&t=NKJV)).

(Note: The preceding is why husbands are “*to love their wives as their own bodies*” [[Ephesians 5:28-29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+5.28-29&t=NKJV)]. The woman originated from the body of the man.)

The man and woman in Genesis were to hold the scepter together; they were to rule and reign as “*one flesh*.” The Man and woman yet future (Christ and His bride) are also to hold the scepter together; they are to rule and reign as “*one flesh*.” And during the present time there is a sense, on a spiritual plane, in which the man and woman are to “reign in life” (holding a scepter) as “*one flesh*” through being “*heirs together of the grace of life*” (*cf.* [Romans 5:17-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+5.17-21&t=NKJV); [1 Peter 3:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+3.7&t=NKJV)).

The latter would, of necessity, have to be the case, for that is the way in which God dealt with matters in the past, establishing an unchangeable pattern that continues into the future (at which time the relationship will be realized in its fullness). And a husband-wife relationship of this nature during the present time could only be looked upon as the highest possible form of the spiritual life within that relationship.

It is a *God-designed apex* upon which the marriage relationship should exist and function. This is something that Adam and Eve lost in the fall, this is something that a man and woman can possess on a spiritual plane today, and this is something that will be restored (in its fullness) within the relationship Christ and His bride will possess yet future.

God has set aside an entire dispensation, lasting two millennia, during which He is calling out a bride for His Son. This is the time in which we presently live (typified by events in [Genesis 24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+24&t=NKJV)); and God has set aside this rather long period of time, for this one centrally revealed purpose. In order to bring matters to pass within the person of *the second Man, the last Adam*, which matters were begun in the person of *the first man, the first Adam*, a bride must be acquired for the Son.

Salvation made available to man through Christ’s finished work at Calvary is for a purpose, and that purpose is to be realized within the framework of man having a part in God’s governmental rule of the universe. *Man’s destiny is to rule and reign*, but he must first be redeemed. And during the present dispensation — with the thought in mind of redemption for a purpose, having to do with rulership — God has directed His activities toward the acquisition of a bride to rule as co-heir with His Son. Thus, salvation during the present dispensation is with a view to ascending the throne with God’s Son as His bride, which will be realized during the coming Messianic Era.

(For a full discussion of the work of the Spirit during the present dispensation, in the preceding respect, refer to the author’s book, [Bible One - Search for the Bride by Arlen L. Chitwood](http://bibleone.net/SB.htm).)

Today we are living very near the end of the dispensation, very near that time when the Church (Christ’s body) will be removed from the earth, the bride will be seen removed from the body (following issues and determinations surrounding the judgment seat), and the bride will be presented back to Christ (with a view to the Messianic Era). The two will be “*one flesh*,” as in the Genesis account; and the two, as “*one flesh*,” will take the scepter and exercise the “dominion” that *the first man, the first Adam* lost in the fall. Seated on the Son’s throne, holding the scepter, Christ and His bride will, together, rule the earth for 1,000 years (*cf.* [Revelation 2:26-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2.26-27&t=NKJV); [3:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3.21&t=NKJV)).

**Times of Restitution of All Things**

*And that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,*

*whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.* ([Acts 3:20-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+3.20-21&t=NKJV))

The Messianic Era is referred to as “*the times of restitution* [‘restoration’] *of all things*.” And this restoration has to do not only with *conditions* that will exist during the Messianic Era but also with *the purpose for* this era.

*A restoration of all things* will exist during the Messianic Era in the sense that the curse will be lifted and a righteous Provincial Governor will once again administer affairs on the earth, but a restoration itself will also be effected through events occurring during the Messianic Era. This has to do with *the purpose* for this era.

Christ is to “*put down all rule and all authority and power*,” and He (with His bride) is to reign “*until He has put all enemies under His feet*.” And once this has been done — which will take 1,000 years — the kingdom is to be “delivered up” *to the Father, “that God may be all in all”* ([1 Corinthians 15:24-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+15.24-28&t=NKJV)).

Preparation is presently being made for that coming era — *i.e*., the bride is presently being acquired — and preparation will be made during that coming era, by Christ and His bride, for the eternal ages that follow.

The rule by Christ and His bride will be confined to the earth alone during the Messianic Era ([Psalm 2:6-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+2.6-9&t=NKJV); [Revelation 2:26-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2.26-27&t=NKJV)); but during the eternal ages that follow, man’s rule, first announced in Genesis, will extend out into the universe itself ([Revelation 22:1-5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+22.1-5&t=NKJV)).

(In relation to Satan’s aspirations to exalt his throne, resulting in his fall and disqualification to continue holding the scepter, note that there is a degree of irony in man one day exercising regal power and authority beyond this earth, out in the universe. This is the realm into which Satan sought to move; and man, brought on the scene to replace Satan, will one day be allowed to move out into this realm.

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Chapter Two

**In the Kingdom of Men**

*This decision is by the decree of the watchers, and the sentence by the word of the holy ones, in order that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men.* ([Daniel 4:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.17&t=NKJV))

The book of Daniel, in its overall scope, concerns itself with one major subject — the complete history of the kingdom of this world, with its center located in Babylon. “*The times of the Gentiles*” began during Daniel’s day, with Gentile world power centered in Babylon; and it will end in the immediate future, with Gentile world power once again centered in Babylon. In this respect, Babylon is *the only center* that Scripture recognizes for Gentile world power throughout “*the times of the Gentiles*.”

Within this framework, Gentile world power is looked upon after a dual fashion in Scripture. It is spoken of as emanating from *many kingdoms* (“. . . *all the kingdoms of the world*” [[Matthew 4:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+4.8&t=NKJV)]), and it is also spoken of as emanating from *one kingdom* (“*The kingdom of the world*” [[Revelation 11:15 ASV](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+11.15&t=ASV)]). The former is the manner in which Scripture views Gentile world power apart from Babylon, and the latter is the manner in which Scripture views Gentile world power in association with Babylon.

At the time of the events in [Matthew 4:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+4.8&t=NKJV) (Satan showing Christ “*all the kingdoms of the world*”), Gentile government was not centered in Babylon (as it was several hundred years prior to that time), for Babylon, as a power among the nations, had ceased to exist. And, accordingly, Scripture referred to the nations after an individual fashion — apart from a center — though Rome was the central power among the nations at that time. But, at the time of the fulfillment of [Revelation 11:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+11.15&t=NKJV) (when “*The kingdom of the world*” *becomes* “*the kingdom of our Lord, and his Christ*,” ASV), Gentile world power will once again be centered in Babylon.

Gentile world power, in that future day, will be under one man — Antichrist. He will rule the world through a ten-kingdom confederacy (viewed as *one world kingdom under one man*), with its governmental center once again located in Babylon.

“*The times of the Gentiles*” began in Babylon, and this period will also end in Babylon — the same Babylon where it began. That’s what the book of Daniel is about. This book covers the complete history of that depicted by the image in chapter two, or that depicted by the four great beasts in chapter seven (*ref*. [The Beast — In the Book of Daniel](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-two.php#The%20Beast%20%E2%80%94%20In%20the%20Book%20of%20Daniel) and [The Great Image and Four Great Beasts](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-two.php#The%20Great%20Image%20and%20Four%20Great%20Beasts) in this site). It covers that time that begins with Nebuchadnezzar and ends approximately 2,600 years later with Antichrist (though the center of Gentile world power does not exist in Babylon throughout this period, only for several hundred years at the beginning and immediately prior to the end).

And the time when the prophecies relating to the end-time form of this Gentile world kingdom will be fulfilled is near at hand. We are living very near the end of man’s allotted 6,000 years, Man’s Day; and it is certainly no mere coincidence that, in the Middle East, during particularly about the past fifteen years, certain events have occurred (and continue to occur) that bring (and continue to bring) things in perfect alignment with the way the prophets said that they would exist in the end time.

Recent events in the Middle East have caused the attention of the world to become focused on the Persian Gulf area in general and upon Iraq in particular. And, in the light of biblical prophecy, the reason is easy to understand. A rebuilt city of Babylon on the Euphrates in the country of Iraq is destined to shortly become, once again, *the center of Gentile world power*. The unfulfilled biblical prophecies relating to this city are about to be fulfilled; and they will be fulfilled, in the immediate future, over a very short period of time (the seven years of Daniel’s unfulfilled Seventieth Week [[Daniel 9:26-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+9.26-27&t=NKJV)]).

(Note that the kingdom of Babylon included more than just a city. It was a city-state. Sometimes the city alone was referred to by the name “Babylon,” and other times the country itself was referred to by this name.

And this is apparently the manner in which conditions will exist in the final form of the Babylonian kingdom. A literal city will exist, but there will apparently also be a city-state comprising the whole of the kingdom, existing within the confines of the original city-state.)

With these things in mind, the present unfolding of the entire Middle East scenario, in one sense, is really quite easy to understand. These events are as distant hoof-beats ([Revelation 6:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+6.1ff&t=NKJV)), growing louder with each passing day, which portend the soon fulfillment of the numerous unfulfilled prophecies in Daniel.

Though biblical prophecy is not presently being fulfilled through different events transpiring in the Middle East, the stage is rapidly being set for its fulfillment. Biblical prophecy relating to the Middle East in general and Babylon in particular will begin to be fulfilled only when the clock begins marking time in Daniel’s Seventy-Week prophecy once again; and during (and immediately following) this final seven years of Man’s Day, innumerable prophecies — throughout Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation — will be rapidly fulfilled.

This is where attention is focused in the book of Daniel; and since this book has to do with the beginning and the end of Gentile world power during Man’s Day, God has seen fit to reveal certain behind-the-scenes things relative to this power. God has seen fit to reveal certain things concerning how He sovereignly governs the earth as a province in His kingdom, though a rebel provincial ruler (Satan) holds the scepter, and fallen man exercises power under this ruler.

**Present Government of the Earth**

The manner in which the present government of the earth has been established is really quite simple in its overall scope, but within that scope specific matters become quite complex. In its simplicity, God rules over all, Satan (with his angels) rules under God, and man rules under Satan (and his angels). The matter then becomes quite complex within the framework of God’s sovereign control of matters through both a rebel provincial ruler and fallen man.

With one exception, the manner in which the government of the earth is presently carried out has not changed since the beginning. In the beginning, following the creation of the heavens and the earth, God placed Satan (in his unfallen state) in the position of provincial ruler over the earth, along with a great host of angels occupying various positions of power and authority under him ([Genesis 1:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1&t=NKJV); [Ezekiel 28:14-15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+28.14-15&t=NKJV); *cf*. [Matthew 25:41](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.41&t=NKJV); [Ephesians 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.12&t=NKJV); [Revelation 12:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+12.4&t=NKJV)). But, at a point in time following Satan’s fall and disqualification (which would be following the accompanying ruin and subsequent restoration of the earth, recorded in [Genesis 1:2-25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2-25&t=NKJV)), another provincial ruler was brought on the scene to replace the incumbent ruler. But the earth’s second provincial ruler was not of the angelic creation. Rather, an individual created *in the image and likeness of God* was brought on the scene to take the reins of government ([Genesis 1:26-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.26-28&t=NKJV)).

This is the one exception to the past and present form of the government of the earth. In the beginning ([Genesis 1:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1&t=NKJV); [Ezekiel 28:14-15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+28.14-15&t=NKJV)), man did not fit into the equation. But for the past 6,000 years, matters have been different ([Genesis 1:26ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.26ff&t=NKJV)). Though Satan and his angels continue to rule, man now has a part in the government, but not in the manner for which he was created. Man was created to take the reins of government held by Satan; but, because of his fall, man presently rules on the earth, among his own kind, *under* the incumbent ruler, *i.e.*, *under* Satan, with his angels.

That is the manner in which Scripture presents the present structure of the earth’s government — a government in disarray, both within the ranks of the first and second provincial rulers.

The first provincial ruler, Satan, is not only presently holding the scepter in a rebellious fashion, but his kingdom can only be in disarray. Two thirds of the original contingent of angels, which God appointed in the beginning to rule with Satan ([Revelation 11:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+11.4&t=NKJV)), refused to go along with him in his vain efforts to exalt his throne. Thus, the remaining one-third can only fall far short of the number of angels that God had originally decreed necessary to properly rule the earth.

Man was created to rule *in the stead* of Satan and his angels. But man, because of his fall, finds himself occupying a position alien to that for which he was created. He can now only rule *under* the one he was created to replace.

Thus, certain things within the present structure of the earth’s government are completely out of place, and they will remain out of place until the end of the present age. At that time, Satan and his angels will be put down, Christ and His co-heirs will take the kingdom, and a God-ordained number of rulers will once again occupy positions of power and authority.

*1. Heavenly Princes, Earthly Princes*

The manner in which the earth is presently governed is clearly set forth in Daniel chapters four and ten. But for purposes of this part of the study, first note that which is revealed in Daniel chapter ten.

In this chapter, Daniel had been “mourning” (to walk with the head down, to lament) for three full weeks. At the end of this time, Daniel saw a vision ([Daniel 10:5-7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+10.5-7&t=NKJV)); and this was followed by the appearance of a heavenly messenger to make known the things in the vision ([Daniel 10:10ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+10.10ff&t=NKJV)), which corresponded to the things within Daniel’s thoughts. The vision had to do with the things that would befall Daniel’s “*people in the latter days*” ([Daniel 10:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+10.14&t=NKJV)), which concerned mainly the future day of Antichrist and the ultimate deliverance of the Jewish people ([Daniel 11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+11&t=NKJV); [12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+12&t=NKJV)).

(By way of passing, note that [Daniel 10:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+10.14&t=NKJV) makes it very clear that events in chapter 11 [also chapter 12] have to do with “*the latter days*,” not with events surrounding Antiochus Epiphanes, over 2,200 years ago as many attempt to teach. Rather, events in this chapter [beyond [Daniel 10:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+10.4&t=NKJV)] have to do with the future day of Antichrist and the deliverance of the Jewish people at the time Antichrist is put down [[Daniel 11:45-12:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+11.45-12.3&t=NKJV)]. In this respect, [Daniel 11:2-4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+11.2-4&t=NKJV) corresponds to events prophesied in [Daniel 8:3-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+8.3-8&t=NKJV), and events in [Daniel 11:5ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+11.5ff&t=NKJV) correspond to events in [Daniel 8:9ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+8.9ff&t=NKJV).)

However, for purposes of the subject at hand — the government of the earth — another matter other than this fourth and final vision shown to Daniel needs to be considered. The heavenly messenger sent to Daniel, who made known things occurring during his three weeks of mourning (corresponding to things in the vision), had been dispatched at the very beginning of his time of mourning, but detained at a point in-route. He had been detained *in the heavens* for twenty-one days by “*the prince of the kingdom of Persia*” ([Daniel 10:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+10.13&t=NKJV)).

This prince was so powerful that Michael, “*one of the chief princes*,” had to be dispatched from that part of the heavens where God dwells in order to effect the deliverance of this messenger. And during this time the heavenly messenger who had originally been sent to Daniel remained in the heavens with “*the kings of Persia*” (v. 13).

Comparing this verse with verse twenty ([Daniel 10:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+10.20&t=NKJV)), where “*the prince of Persia*” is again mentioned, along with “*the prince of Greece*,” an individual can arrive at only one conclusion. Earthly rulers in the human realm have counterparts within Satan’s kingdom in the heavenly realm — powerful angels ruling within a chain of command under Satan. And since “*the heavens do rule*” ([Daniel 4:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.26&t=NKJV)) — beginning with the most High God, with Satan still holding the earth’s scepter, under God — it can only be further concluded that any rule by man would have to be under Satan and his angels (who rule from the heavens) within this chain of command. And man ruling after this fashion, because of his disqualification to assume the scepter in Eden, continues to hold a position during the present time described as “*a little lower than the angels*” ([Psalm 8:4-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+8.4-6&t=NKJV); [Hebrews 2:7-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.7-8&t=NKJV) [note that these verses are set within a context having to do with *governmental rule*]).

(But, as will be shown, this rule from the heavens [a rule from Satan’s domain in the heavens through men upon the earth] has to do with the Gentile nations alone, *not* with Israel.)

Satan is the provincial ruler, the ruler over all the Gentile nations. Then under Satan, *within his heavenly kingdom*, there are lesser (but powerful) rulers governing various individual nations. Then under these angelic rulers, still *within the heavenly kingdom*, there is a further breakdown of powers and authorities (note “*the kings of Persia*,” which could only be a division of rulers under “*the prince of Persia*”). Then “*the prince of Greece*” is mentioned (in a prophetic frame of reference) because he ruled, from the heavens, over the earthly kingdom that would eventually succeed the kingdom of Babylon under the Medes and Persians.

As seen in Daniel chapter ten, among the Gentile nations on earth, all existing government is structured after a parallel fashion to an existing government in the heavens. There is a breakdown of powers under the earthly rulers that corresponds to a breakdown of powers under the heavenly rulers. And, accordingly, there is no such thing as Gentile rulers occupying positions of power and authority during the present time apart from occupying these positions directly under a breakdown of powers within the kingdom of Satan.

Thus, (1) God sovereignly rules over all, (2) Satan rules under God, (3) angels within the kingdom of Satan rule under him (occupying various positions of power and authority), and (4) man then rules under these angels (holding various counterpart/parallel positions on earth to those held by angels ruling under Satan in the heavens). And since both fallen angels and fallen men are involved in the government of the earth, *numerous things* would be done outside the will of God; but *nothing* would be done outside God’s sovereign control of matters.

Exactly to what extent earthly rulers are influenced and moved to act on the basis of decrees and determinations rendered by their counterparts in the heavens could only be open to speculation. There are fallen creatures ruling in the ranks of both, and Satan’s kingdom itself is presently in disarray (note again that two-thirds of the angels formerly ruling under Satan refused to have a part in his rebellion [[Revelation 12:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+12.4&t=NKJV)]). Suffice it to say though that possibly far more acts by world leaders than we may realize conceivably have their origin in prior decrees and determinations rendered by powerful fallen angels in Satan’s kingdom in the heavens.

But, there is *one exception* to the preceding type rulership among men on earth and angels in Satan’s kingdom. The nation of Israel is *not* to be “*reckoned among the nations*” ([Numbers 23:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Numbers+23.9&t=NKJV); *cf.* [Deuteronomy 7:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Deuteronomy+7.6&t=NKJV)). Scripture reveals that Michael is the “prince” among heavenly angelic beings over Israel ([Daniel 10:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+10.21&t=NKJV)), and Michael is not part of Satan’s present kingdom.

Thus, there is the major governmental distinction between Israel and the Gentile nations which would have allowed God to place Israel at the head of the nations within a theocracy during Old Testament days, out from under Satan’s governmental control. Israel could have ruled the nations, within a theocracy, apart from Satan’s kingdom ([Exodus 19:5-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+19.5-6&t=NKJV)). But no Gentile nation has ever occupied or ever will occupy a governmental position of the nature occupied and held by Israel.

(Refer to the author’s book, [God’s Firstborn Sons](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-six.php#God%E2%80%99s%20Firstborn%20Sons), chapter 2, [Israel](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-six.php#Israel), in this site, for more information along the preceding lines.)

*2. Watchers and Holy Ones*

Daniel chapter four, along with showing God’s sovereign control over the entire matter, reveals another behind-the-scenes facet of the earth’s government. This chapter deals with “watchers” and “holy ones” who are operative within God’s government of the earth ([Daniel 4:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.17&t=NKJV), [23-26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.23-26&t=NKJV), [32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.32&t=NKJV)).

Nebuchadnezzar was the first king of Babylon within the framework of that period covered by the book of Daniel — “*the times of the Gentiles*,” beginning with that period depicted by the head of gold on the image in chapter two and ending with that period depicted by the feet part of iron and part of clay on the same image ([Daniel 4:37-45](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.37-45&t=NKJV)). God had given Nebuchadnezzar a kingdom and had established him as the ruler. And along with the kingdom and position of power; God had given him *strength, glory, majesty, and honor* (*cf.* [Daniel 2:37-38](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+2.37-38&t=NKJV); [4:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.17&t=NKJV), [25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.25&t=NKJV), [32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.32&t=NKJV); [5:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+5.18&t=NKJV)).

Nebuchadnezzar though looked upon the matter after a different fashion. Nebuchadnezzar looked at his kingdom, his position, and all that he possessed, and said,

*Is not this great Babylon that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?* ([Daniel 4:30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.30&t=NKJV))

And because Nebuchadnezzar had failed to recognize that “*the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomsoever He will*” ([Daniel 4:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.17&t=NKJV), [25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.25&t=NKJV), [32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.32&t=NKJV)), *all that he possessed* was taken from him. He was suddenly stripped of his *power, strength, glory, majesty, and honor*; and he was driven into the field to eat grass as the oxen for seven years. And he was forced to remain in this position until he recognized the truth about the origin of all that he possessed as king of Babylon ([Daniel 4:32ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.32ff&t=NKJV)).

The matter of Nebuchadnezzar’s attitude and his removal from power is where the “*watchers*” and “*holy ones*” enter into the picture. They are revealed as the ones who acted on the Lord’s behalf through watching affairs within the kingdom, issuing decrees, demanding that certain action be taken, and then themselves carrying out that action. And that which they did, acting after this fashion under what could only have been fixed laws previously established by God, was looked upon as having been done by the Lord Himself (*cf.* [Daniel 4:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.17&t=NKJV), [23-32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.23-32&t=NKJV); [5:18-20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+5.18-20&t=NKJV)).

Within this same light, since the watchers and holy ones were the individuals who actually removed Nebuchadnezzar from power and stripped him of all that he possessed, it would logically appear correct to view the watchers and holy ones as having also previously acted on the Lord’s behalf *after this same fashion* in establishing Nebuchadnezzar in his position of power, at the beginning. And, *in this same respect*, they were apparently also the ones who reestablished Nebuchadnezzar in the kingdom after he had spent seven years in the fields, removed from the kingdom.

The Lord uses angels after this and related fashions in numerous facets of everything which He does. Note for example that the law was given through “*the disposition of angels* [‘the direction of angels’ — God sovereignly acting through angels],” though the Lord Himself was present ([Exodus 19:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+19.3&t=NKJV); [24:16-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+24.16-18&t=NKJV); [Acts 7:38](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+7.38&t=NKJV), [53](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+7.53&t=NKJV); [Galatians 3:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Galatians+3.19&t=NKJV); [Hebrews 2:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.2&t=NKJV)). Then note how angels will be very instrumental in bringing matters to pass during the coming seven-year Tribulation, as revealed in the book of Revelation (*cf*. [Revelation 7:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+7.1&t=NKJV); [8:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+8.2&t=NKJV); [10:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+10.1&t=NKJV); [14:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+14.6&t=NKJV); [15:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+15.1&t=NKJV); [16:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+16.1&t=NKJV); [17:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+17.1&t=NKJV); [18:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+18.1&t=NKJV); [19:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+19.14&t=NKJV)). And, during the present time, angels are very instrumental in the Holy Spirit’s mission to acquire a bride for God’s Son, though the Holy Spirit Himself is present (*cf.* [Hebrews 1:13-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.13-14&t=NKJV); [Revelation 2:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2.1&t=NKJV), [8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2.8&t=NKJV), [12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2.12&t=NKJV), [18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2.18&t=NKJV); [3:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3.1&t=NKJV), [7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3.7&t=NKJV), [14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3.14&t=NKJV)).

Events surrounding the destruction of the cities of the plain during Abraham’s day provide an example of activity within the angelic world similar to that seen in Daniel chapter four. In this case a report had been presented to the Lord concerning activity in the cities of the plain; and the Lord, in the company of two angels, went down to see for Himself whether or not they had done “*altogether according to the cry of it.*” But even going down to see for Himself (though, in His omniscience, God already knew everything about that which He had come down to see), the two accompanying angels were the ones who actually went on down into Sodom to see and act on the Lord’s behalf. The Lord remained with Abraham in the high country, removed from the cities in the plain ([Genesis 18:20-22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+18.20-22&t=NKJV); [19:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+19.1ff&t=NKJV)).

The two angels, acting on the Lord’s behalf after this fashion (acting under fixed laws, previously established by God), conducted matters after such a manner that the Lord Himself was looked upon as the One doing these things. For example, the two angels brought about the destruction of the cities of the plain, but the Lord Himself was said to be the One Who destroyed these cities ([Genesis 19:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+19.13&t=NKJV), [24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+19.24&t=NKJV)).

And that’s the fashion after which the present government of the earth has been established and is being carried out. God is sovereign, and He so rules. Nothing escapes His attention; nor is anything done apart from His sovereign control of matters. He is the One who establishes and removes rulers, along with bestowing upon these rulers all that they possess; and He carries out all things within His kingdom through angels who hold various assigned positions and act on His behalf.

(Also note man acting in a similar capacity [[1 Samuel 15:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Samuel+15.1&t=NKJV), [17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Samuel+15.17&t=NKJV)], though angels undoubtedly had a prior part in the matter.)

Satan and his angels are still in power (acting on the Lord’s behalf, though in a rebel capacity) and will remain in this position until the end of the Tribulation. And man throughout the Gentile nations, occupying positions of power and authority today, *must, of necessity*, occupy these positions directly under Satan and his angels.

*There is no alternate form under which any present government among the Gentiles nations can find itself established today.*

*3. Earthly Rulers*

All rulers on earth today are like Nebuchadnezzar in the sense that they have received everything that they possess *from the Lord* (*their positions of power, glory, honor, etc.*). The Lord is the One who, through the direction of angels, placed them in their respective positions of power and bestowed upon them all that they possess. And, in this capacity, they are as Cyrus, King of Persia during Daniel’s day, or Saul, King of Israel during David’s day — “*the Lord’s anointed*” (*cf.* [1 Samuel 15:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Samuel+15.17&t=NKJV); [Isaiah 45:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+45.1&t=NKJV)).

And within a Scriptural framework, it is very wrong to do that which is being done on a massive scale today — *bring accusations against the Lord’s anointed*. Such accusations can only reflect, after a negative fashion, upon the Lord Himself, the One previously placing these individuals in their respective positions.

Note that those under Moses who rebelled against his divinely appointed leadership were, in reality, rebelling against the One who appointed him. They were rebelling against God Himself (*cf.* [Numbers 14:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Numbers+14.2&t=NKJV), [9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Numbers+14.9&t=NKJV)).

This is why David had such respect for the Lord’s anointed, Saul, even though Saul was a rebel king (typifying Satan within the overall framework of the type). Saul had been placed in his position by God, and this had to be recognized and dealt with accordingly ([1 Samuel 15:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Samuel+15.1&t=NKJV), [17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Samuel+15.17&t=NKJV)). David refused to stretch forth his hand against Saul during the time he was in exile ([1 Samuel 24:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Samuel+24.6&t=NKJV)). Then he later had one of his men slay the Amalekite who had previously slain Saul; and this was for a reason that went far beyond God’s command to slay Amalek and all that he had (cf. [Deuteronomy 25:17-19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Deuteronomy+25.17-19&t=NKJV); [1 Samuel 15:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Samuel+15.3&t=NKJV)). This particular Amalekite had “*slain the Lord’s anointed*” (*cf.* [1 Samuel 26:9-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Samuel+26.9-11&t=NKJV); [31:3-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Samuel+31.3-6&t=NKJV); [2 Samuel 1:14-16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Samuel+1.14-16&t=NKJV)).

Even Michael, when contending with Satan about the body of Moses, wouldn’t bring “*a railing accusation*” against him for the simple reason that Satan was (and remains today) *the Lord’s anointed*. Michael simply said, “*The Lord rebuke you*” (*cf.* [Ezekiel 28:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+28.14&t=NKJV); [Jude 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jude+1.9&t=NKJV)).

There was a case during David’s day where a man cursed the Lord’s anointed and cast stones at him. And the question was later asked, “*Shall not Shimei* [the guilty party] *be put to death for this…?*” ([2 Samuel 16:5-7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Samuel+16.5-7&t=NKJV); [19:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Samuel+19.21&t=NKJV)). Though Shimei received mercy at the hands of David ([2 Samuel 19:22-23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Samuel+19.22-23&t=NKJV)), his previous actions had been such that the death penalty was brought into consideration.

*4. Christians and Politics*

All of the preceding, for Christians, insofar as earthly rulers are concerned, should really be neither here nor there. Christians really should not find themselves involved in the politics of this present world system after any fashion, for Scripture clearly reveals that their political involvement with the government of the earth lies in an entirely different realm.

Scripture states,

*For our citizenship is in heaven* [*lit*., presently exists in (the) heavens]; *from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ*. ([Philippians 3:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+3.20&t=NKJV))

The word, “*citizenship*,” is a translation of the Greek word, *politeuma*, and is a form of the Greek word from which we derive our English word “politics” (from *politikos*). Accordingly, the thought within “citizenship” as a translation of *politeuma* would have to do with “politics.” That stated in the Greek text of this verse, in this respect, could perhaps best be conveyed in English by translating, “For our political sphere of activity presently exists in the heavens . . . .”

This heavenly political sphere of activity during the present time would center itself on the heavenly warfare ([Ephesians 6:10ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.10ff&t=NKJV)), with a view to Christ’s return and the establishment of His kingdom. Satan and his angels still occupy their appointed positions in the heavens. Thus, Christians cannot rule from a heavenly sphere today.

The objective though is *to overcome in the present warfare* in view of one day being accorded a position in the kingdom of the heavens *after* Christ takes the kingdom and Satan and his angels have been put down. In this respect, Christ is to replace Satan, and Christians are to replace the incumbent rulers presently holding positions of power under Satan (*cf.* [2 Samuel 1:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Samuel+1.10&t=NKJV); [2:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Samuel+2.4&t=NKJV); [5:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Samuel+5.3&t=NKJV); [Daniel 7:13-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.13-14&t=NKJV); [Matthew 20:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+20.23&t=NKJV); [Revelation 2:26-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2.26-27&t=NKJV); [3:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3.21&t=NKJV); [11:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+11.15&t=NKJV); [19:11ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+19.11ff&t=NKJV)).

(Refer to the appendix for additional information concerning Christ replacing Satan and Christians replacing angels ruling under Satan in the coming kingdom [[Bible One - The Most High Ruleth, Appendix, by Arlen Chitwood](http://bibleone.net/MHR_A.htm)]. Also, in this site, [Christians and Politics](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-six.php#Christians%20and%20Politics).)

With these things in mind, it’s a simple matter to understand how a Christian would be completely out of place involving himself in the political activities of this present world system. His present political sphere of activity is in an entirely different realm — both as to time and place. His outlook, politically, is to be *heavenly and future*, not earthly and present. It is to encompass the same time and place that the goal of the race in which he is presently involved lies. And while running this race he is not to look around; rather he is to keep his eyes fixed on the goal and not be distracted by the things of this present world system ([Hebrews 12:1-2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+12.1-2&t=NKJV)).

Should a Christian though choose to involve himself within the present system, he would only be involving himself in a system lying under the governing control of the god of this age. And should he aspire to hold a political office in the present system, he would only be seeking to hold a position of power under a fallen angel in the kingdom of Satan.

*It would be impossible* for a Christian to involve himself in the present world system and, at the same time, keep his eyes fixed on the goal out ahead. These two realms of involvement are *completely incongruous*; they are totally at odds with one another.

*No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please Him who enlisted him as a soldier.*

*And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.* ([2 Timothy 2:4-5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Timothy+2.4-5&t=NKJV))

In short, this is not the day in which Christians are to have a part in the governmental affairs of the earth. That day for them, as it does for Christ, lies in the *future* (*cf.* [1 Corinthians 4:1-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+4.1-8&t=NKJV)).

**Future Government of the Earth**

The future government of the earth is destined to be administered by *man*. Man was brought into existence for this purpose, and, according to [Romans 11:29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+11.29&t=NKJV), “*the gifts and calling of God are without repentance* [‘without a change of mind’].” God *will not change His mind* concerning the reason He called man into existence.

The world to come *will not be ruled by angels*, but by man ([Hebrews 2:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.5&t=NKJV)). This is really the message of the whole of Scripture. This is the manner in which Scripture both opens and closes; and *the central reason* for the fall and purpose surrounding redemption must be understood within this same framework.

But, prior to the purpose for redemption being realized, Satan is going to engineer his final thrust to thwart God’s plans and purposes. He is going to bring his man upon the scene, *the seed of the serpent* — Antichrist ([Genesis 3:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+3.15&t=NKJV)). We’re told though, in this same section of Scripture, at the very beginning, 6,000 years before it actually occurs that the *Seed of the woman* will have the final word in the matter. He will be the Victor in that day (*cf.* [Genesis 3:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+3.15&t=NKJV); [Daniel 7:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.11&t=NKJV); [11:36-45](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+11.36-45&t=NKJV); [Revelation 19:11ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+19.11ff&t=NKJV)), and then God’s purpose for bringing man into existence will begin to be realized.

*1. Day of Antichrist*

Satan is to one day give “*his power, his throne, and great authority*” to the final ruler of the kingdom of Babylon ([Revelation 13:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+13.2&t=NKJV)). This is the power, position, and authority that was given to him, by God, in the beginning; and he can, in turn, give it “*to whomsoever*” he wishes ([Ezekiel 28:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+28.14&t=NKJV); [Luke 4:5-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+4.5-6&t=NKJV)), which is exactly what he will do in the middle of the coming Tribulation.

Satan will give unto Antichrist the same thing that he offered to Christ in the temptation account ([Luke 4:5-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+4.5-6&t=NKJV)). Antichrist, unlike Christ, will accept the offer, and this man will then rule the earth in this capacity for three and one-half years, resulting in troublous times of such a nature that no parallel will have existed throughout man’s past 6,000-year history. Scripture states,

*For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

*And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.* ([Matthew 24:21-22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+24.21-22&t=NKJV))

*The elect* is a reference to “Israel.” For *Israel’s* sake, those days will be shortened. Then, through Christ’s return at the end of this period, God will bring an end to the earth’s present existing governmental system. The “*times of the Gentiles*” will be brought to an end by a final and fatal blow at the center of Gentile world power — the Stone smiting the image at its feet, the final form of Gentile world power ([Daniel 2:34-35](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+2.34-35&t=NKJV), [44-45](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+2.44-45&t=NKJV)). Babylon will be destroyed, Antichrist and those ruling with him will be put down, and Satan will be bound in the abyss for 1,000 years ([Revelation 18:1-20:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+18.1-20.2&t=NKJV)). “Man’s Day” will, through this sequence of events, be brought to a close; and then Christ and His co-heirs will move in and take over the government.

*2. Day of Christ*

In that coming day when Christ and His co-heirs ascend the throne together and jointly exercise power over the earth, Israel will have been reestablished back in her proper place at the head of the nations. And man, in that day, will rule both *from the heavens and on the earth.*

The Church will be established as the ruling nation *in the heavens*, exercising power with Christ from His own throne (*cf.* [Matthew 21:43](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+21.43&t=NKJV); [1 Peter 2:9-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+2.9-10&t=NKJV); [Revelation 3:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3.21&t=NKJV)); and Israel will be established as the ruling nation *on earth*, with Christ reigning from David’s throne in the nation’s midst (*cf*. [Joel 2:27-32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joel+2.27-32&t=NKJV); [Luke 1:31-33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+1.31-33&t=NKJV)). Rulership will emanate *from Jerusalem above and from Jerusalem below, through the seed of Abraham* (Christ, Israel, and the Church). And the Gentile nations will, in turn, be blessed through the seed of Abraham, fulfilling verses such as [Genesis 12:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+12.3&t=NKJV); [22:17-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+22.17-18&t=NKJV).

That will be the day in which man will come into a full realization of his very existence. And when that future day is ushered in, there will be a 1,000-year period, to be followed by an eternity of endless ages, in which man will occupy positions in God’s government over not only this earth but ultimately out in the universe as well.

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Chapter Three

**From the Heavens Over the Earth**

*Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings that arise out of the earth.*

*But the saints of the Most High* [*lit.*, “the saints of the high places”] *shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.* ([Daniel 7:17-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.17-18&t=NKJV))

The final form of the kingdom of Babylon as it will exist under its last king, Antichrist, will be a conglomerate of the whole of the kingdom as it is seen in the book of Daniel. When the Stone strikes the image at its feet (feet “*part of iron, and part of clay*,” describing the kingdom in its last days under Antichrist), Scripture states that the Stone will *break in pieces together* “*the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold* [depicting the kingdom in its final form — a composite form of the whole of the kingdom, viewed from the days of Antichrist back to the days of Nebuchadnezzar]” ([Daniel 2:32-35](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+2.32-35&t=NKJV), [44-45](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+2.44-45&t=NKJV)).

The Stone striking the image at its feet forms the biblical description of Babylon’s prophesied destruction. Throughout “*the times of the Gentiles*” ([Luke 21:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+21.24&t=NKJV)), *Babylon has never been destroyed*. It has been conquered several times and has faded into obscurity, *but it has never been destroyed.*

And Babylon must not only be *destroyed*, but, according to the prophecies in Daniel, it must be *destroyed at a particular time and after a particular fashion*. It must be *destroyed at the end of* “*the times of the Gentiles*” (actually, the destruction of Babylon is the event that will mark the end “*the times of the Gentiles*,” for Gentile world power will be centered in Babylon at that time), and it must be destroyed *after such a fashion* that the kingdom depicted by the entire image — from the head of gold to the feet part of iron and part of clay, the kingdom existing from the days of Nebuchadnezzar to the days of Antichrist — will be destroyed *at the same time, never to rise again*. This is what is meant by the *iron, clay, brass, silver, and gold being “broken to pieces together,”* becoming like the “*chaff from the summer threshing floors,*” and being carried away by “*the wind”* ([Daniel 2:34-35](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+2.34-35&t=NKJV)).

Thus, since the kingdom depicted by a part of the image has yet to appear (that part that is to be smitten), the composite form that the kingdom must take at the time of its destruction can only await the reemergence of Babylon in that future day. The image *must be complete* at the time of its destruction. This is not something that could have occurred at any point in history; nor can it occur today. It can occur *only* during the future days of Antichrist, during the days of the last king of Babylon.

And, remaining within this same line of thought, one can easily understand what is meant in [Daniel 7:4-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.4-6&t=NKJV), [11-12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.11-12&t=NKJV) by the first three great beasts (likened to “a lion,” “a bear,” and “a leopard”) having their *dominion* “*taken away*” but their *lives* “*prolonged for a season and time*.” These beasts depict the kingdom as it existed from the days of Nebuchadnezzar to the days of Alexander the Great; and these three segments of the kingdom, though they have long since faded into obscurity, *didn’t die*. Rather, they are presented in the book of Daniel as *living* down through time, and they are further presented in the book as *being alive* as an integral part of the final form during the days of Antichrist.

*All of the great beasts* in [Daniel 7:4-7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.4-7&t=NKJV) (a “*beast*” in this section of Scripture represents *a form of the kingdom of Babylon* [[Daniel 7:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.17&t=NKJV), [23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.23&t=NKJV)]) will be *present together* — comprising the final form of the Babylonian kingdom — and they will be *destroyed together*.

Note the first three great beasts in verse twelve in this respect. Their dominion was taken away (in history, not at the time of events in the previous verse, [Daniel 7:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.11&t=NKJV)), but they continued to live, awaiting the days of Antichrist and the destruction of Babylon in its final form (occurring in [Daniel 7:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.11&t=NKJV)).

Thus, the death (destruction) of the first three great beasts ([Daniel 7:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.12&t=NKJV)) occurs at the same time as the death (destruction) of the fourth great beast — when the Stone strikes the image at its feet and *breaks in pieces together* “*the iron, the clay* [fourth beast], *the brass* [third beast], *the silver* [second beast], *and the gold* [first beast]” (v. 11; *cf.* [Daniel 2:34-35](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+2.34-35&t=NKJV), [44-45](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+2.44-45&t=NKJV)). Verse twelve simply provides additional information to help explain verse eleven and the preceding vision of the four great beasts, and these verses must be understood in the light of that which had previously been revealed about the image in chapter two.

Then, “*the kingdom of the world* [one world kingdom, with its governmental center in Babylon]” will become “*the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ* [a theocracy, with its governmental center in Jerusalem — Jerusalem above and Jerusalem below]” ([Revelation 11:15 ASV](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+11.15&t=ASV)). The kingdom will have previously been given to the Son by the Father ([Daniel 7:13-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.13-14&t=NKJV); *cf.* [Psalms 2:6-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalms+2.6-9&t=NKJV)); and the Son, at the time of His return, will then take possession of the kingdom, *suddenly and swiftly, through force*.

The Stone “*cut out of the mountain without hands*” will smite the image at a time when the kingdom will have reached its zenith of world power (note that *for the first time in Babylon’s history all four parts of the image will be living together*); and in this manner, Gentile world power will suddenly and swiftly be brought to an end ([Daniel 2:34-35](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+2.34-35&t=NKJV), [44-45](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+2.44-45&t=NKJV); [7:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.11&t=NKJV), [23-26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.23-26&t=NKJV); *cf.* [Revelation 19:11-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+19.11-21&t=NKJV)).

(For additional information concerning that which is depicted by the image in Daniel chapter two and the four great beasts in Daniel chapter seven, refer to the author’s book, [Bible One - The Time of Jacob’s Trouble by Arlen Chitwood](http://bibleone.net/TOJT.htm), chapter 3. Also [The Beast — In the Book of Daniel](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-two.php#The%20Beast%20%E2%80%94%20In%20the%20Book%20of%20Daniel) and [The Great Image and Four Great Beasts](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-two.php#The%20Great%20Image%20and%20Four%20Great%20Beasts) in this site.

Also, note Theonomy — the “Kingdom Now” theology — with particularly respect to the prophecies in Daniel. Theonomy [very prevalent thought in certain segments of Christendom today, especially among those in Charismatic circles] teaches that the Church is to gradually take over the kingdoms of this world, through present spiritual-political means, etc. This is looked upon in the same sense as the leaven permeating the meal, “*till the whole was leavened*,” in [Matthew 13:33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.33&t=NKJV) — a parable often misunderstood and used to depict the spread of that which is “good” rather than that which is “evil,” seeking, through this means, to give credence to false ideologies of this nature. And, viewing matters along these lines, would, correspondingly, form a major reason for Christians to involve themselves in the political structure of the present world system under Satan.

Theonomy is simply a reemergence of the old postmillennial ideology [restructured for the times, etc.], prevalent in Christendom during pre-WWII days. And it is no truer in its restructured form today than it was in its original form. According to Scripture, the Church can have no part — nor should the Church even seek to have a part — in bringing to pass the kingdoms of the present world system being controlled and governed by the Lord at the time of His return.

Rather, *nothing* can be done along the lines of a change in administration until that day when there is once again one world kingdom with its governmental center located in Babylon. It will be *then*, not before, that the Stone will strike the image at its feet; it will be *then*, not before, that “*the kingdom of the world*” will become “*the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ*” [[Daniel 2:34-35](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+2.34-35&t=NKJV), [44-45](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+2.44-45&t=NKJV); [Revelation 11:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+11.15&t=NKJV)]; and it will be *then*, not before, that “*the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High* [*lit.*, ‘the saints of the high places’ (*i.e.*, ‘heavenly places’)]…” [[Daniel 7:23-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.23-27&t=NKJV); *cf.* [Daniel 7:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.18&t=NKJV)].

Also, in this same respect, as previously seen, “*the times of the Gentiles*” will end with the Stone striking the image at its feet, *not before*. Thus, this period, which began with Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar, *cannot* end before Babylon appears in its final form under Antichrist.

Some have sought to teach that “*the times of the Gentiles*” came to an end when the Jews retook the old city of Jerusalem in the 1967 Six-Day War, allowing them to once again have access to the Temple Mount, with a view to rebuilding the temple. However, the Jews having access to or coming into possession of the Temple Mount has nothing to do with the matter. They possessed this Mount in history during “*the times of the Gentiles*” [from about 536 B.C. to 70 A.D.], and they will possess it once again in the immediate future during “*the times of the Gentiles*” [during the first part of the Tribulation, when the Jewish people rebuild their temple]. Aside from that, both [Luke 21:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+21.24&t=NKJV) and [Revelation 11:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+11.2&t=NKJV) specifically place the termination of “*the times of the Gentiles*” at *the end of the Tribulation*, which is when Babylon will be destroyed.)

**Saints of the High Places**

The scriptural references, “*kingdom of the heavens*” in the gospel of Matthew, “*heavenly places*” in Ephesians, and “*heavenly calling*” in Hebrews, do not form companion references peculiar to the New Testament. Rather, the overall thought of man occupying heavenly positions in the kingdom, as opposed to earthly positions, was previously set forth in different places in the Old Testament, beginning in Genesis (*cf.* [Genesis 14:18-19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+14.18-19&t=NKJV); [15:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+15.5&t=NKJV); [22:17-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+22.17-18&t=NKJV)).

Abraham, five centuries prior to the time of any written revelation, understood this matter and looked toward a calling beyond the earthly, to a heavenly ([Hebrews 11:8-16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+11.8-16&t=NKJV)). And numerous other Old Testament saints living at different times following Abraham did exactly the same thing. They looked beyond the earthly to the heavenly as well ([Hebrews 11:32-40](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+11.32-40&t=NKJV)).

Thus, it is nothing new in either Old or New Testament revelation when one finds a reference to saints being placed in positions of power and authority in the heavens following the overthrow of this present world system, as in the book of Daniel, the gospel of Matthew, Ephesians, or Hebrews. *This is a teaching which has its origin in Genesis.*

Satan and his angels presently rule from the heavens over the earth, and Christ with His co-heirs will one day replace the incumbent governmental powers and rule from the same location, from the heavens. Christ will replace Satan, and Christians will replace the angels ruling under Satan. The whole matter is really set forth in Scripture after that simple of a fashion.

*1. Israel in the Old Testament*

Two millennia following Adam’s fall, God called one man out of the human race to be the instrument through whom His plans and purposes for having brought man into existence would ultimately be realized. God called Abraham out from Ur of the Chaldees. And through the nation that would emanate from the loins of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob, God was going to accomplish three things: (a) provide man with a Redeemer, (b) provide man with a written revelation, revealing His plans and purposes, and (c) ultimately place man in the position for which he had been created.

The first two of these three purposes have been realized, but the latter waits for fulfillment. It waits for that day in the immediate future when Babylon reemerges as the center of Gentile world power, with the last king of Babylon present.

In the Old Testament, Israel was made the repository for both earthly and heavenly blessings. When viewing Scriptures such as [Genesis 14:18-19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+14.18-19&t=NKJV); [15:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+15.5&t=NKJV); [22:17-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+22.17-18&t=NKJV); [Daniel 7:18-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.18-27&t=NKJV), *Israel alone* was in view. And the same would be true in [Matthew 8:11-12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+8.11-12&t=NKJV) where Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are seen, in that future day, in the kingdom of the heavens. Accordingly, those cast into the darkness outside at this time would have to be looked upon as Israelites (*i.e*., saved individuals who could have been in the kingdom but, because of unfaithfulness, were cast without [note that the subject matter in this passage has to do with entrance into or exclusion from the heavenly sphere of the kingdom, not with matters surrounding eternal salvation or eternal damnation]).

There was no Church at this time. Aside from that fact, all spiritual promises and blessings must be realized *through, and only through, the seed of Abraham.*  Thus, *only Israel* could possibly have been in view.

(And this will explain a central reason why Christ, when commissioning His twelve disciples to carry the message concerning the kingdom of the heavens to Israel, specifically told them, “*Do not go into the way of the Gentiles…*” [[Matthew 10:5-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+10.5-8&t=NKJV)]. *Israel alone* was the repository for the promises and blessings associated with the proffered kingdom of the heavens.

The Gentiles were “*aliens from the commonwealth of Israel…*” [[Ephesians 2:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.12&t=NKJV)]. “Commonwealth” in this passage is a translation of the Greek word *politeia*, a cognate form of *politeuma*, having to do with one’s “political sphere of activity” [refer to the section, “Christians and Politics,” chapter 2].)

Since Israel alone was in view after this fashion, how can the Church later fit into certain Old Testament promises (or passages such as [Matthew 8:11-12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+8.11-12&t=NKJV)), which it does? And, since the Church does later fit into certain promises and blessings given to Abraham and his descendants through Isaac and Jacob (or certain passages in the gospel accounts) — which had to do with Israel alone at the time they were given — where does this presently leave Israel?

Has the Church supplanted Israel, leaving Israel with nothing? Has God finished, is God through, with Israel within His plans and purposes in relation to man?

Some understand matters after the preceding fashion, but Scripture teaches something entirely different. God is no more through with Israel today than He was when certain promises were made to Abraham at the time he was called out of Ur of the Chaldees, four millennia ago. Israel, as in Moses’ day, is still God’s *firstborn son* (“sonship” implies *rulership*), and Israel will yet occupy her firstborn status in relation to the nations.

(This is what was in view when God announced Israel’s firstborn status in [Exodus 4:22-23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+4.22-23&t=NKJV) [cf. [Exodus 19:5-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+19.5-6&t=NKJV)], at the time Israel was called out of Egypt. And God will yet deal with Israel after the fashion set forth in Exodus, establishing Israel at the head of the nations following Israel’s removal from a worldwide dispersion at the time of Christ’s return [typified by the nation’s removal from Egypt at the time of Moses’ return; *cf.* [Exodus 2:23-25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+2.23-25&t=NKJV); [3:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+3.10&t=NKJV); [12:40-41](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+12.40-41&t=NKJV); [Deuteronomy 30:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Deuteronomy+30.1-3&t=NKJV); [Isaiah 2:1-5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+2.1-5&t=NKJV); [Jeremiah 31:31-34](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jeremiah+31.31-34&t=NKJV)].)

Paul, in [Romans 11:1-2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+11.1-2&t=NKJV), raised the issue concerning Israel’s present and future status; and he responded after a fashion that leaves no room for questions along these lines:

*I say then, has God cast away His people? Absolutely not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.*

*God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew.…* ([Romans 11:1-2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+11.1-2&t=NKJV))

The words, “*Absolutely not*,” are a translation of a Greek negative appearing with a verb in the optative mood, which is a very rare mood in the Greek New Testament. Paul used this expression fourteen of the fifteen times in which it appears in the New Testament, and he used it mainly to express his abhorrence to an inference that he had raised (*cf*. [Romans 3:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+3.4&t=NKJV), [6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+3.6&t=NKJV), [31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+3.31&t=NKJV); [Galatians 2:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Galatians+2.17&t=NKJV); [3:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Galatians+3.21&t=NKJV); [6:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Galatians+6.14&t=NKJV)).

The inference in [Romans 11:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+11.1&t=NKJV) had to do with God casting Israel aside, which was declared to be something completely abhorrent to Paul’s way of thinking. Paul, through the use of the optative mood, declared that such an act, in reality, was “impossible” (*i.e.*, it was “impossible” for God to cast away His people, Israel).

Then, later in the same chapter, in keeping with what he had declared concerning Israel, he reviewed the present status and future history of Israel ([Romans 11:17-29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+11.17-29&t=NKJV)). And neither Israel’s present status nor future history had anything to do with a nation removed from God’s plans and purposes. Rather, exactly the opposite was true. Paul’s portrayal of Israel set forth a nation — separate from the other nations of the earth — which had been, presently remains, and always will be an integral part of God’s plans and purposes.

*2. Christians in the New Testament*

But, if God already had a nation through which His plans and purposes could be realized, why call into existence a new entity — the Church — through which at least a part of His plans and purposes would, as well, be realized? Why did God not just simply accomplish the entire matter through the lineal descendants of Abraham, leaving matters, in this respect, as they had stood for the preceding two millennia?

The answer is derived from that which Israel did at Christ’s first coming, resulting in reciprocal action on Christ’s part. Israel, as a nation, rejected the proffered kingdom of the heavens. And, not only did the Jewish people reject the message, but they rejected the Messenger as well, ultimately crucifying Him.

The nation’s rejection of the kingdom of the heavens resulted in this facet of the kingdom (the heavenly promises and blessings) being taken from Israel, with a new entity — the Church — then being called into existence to be the recipient of that which Israel had rejected.

Following the offer and subsequent rejection of the kingdom of the heavens, with the events of Calvary only several days away, Christ responded to that which Israel had done (and was about to climax at Calvary) through removing the nation from the position it held relative to heavenly promises and blessings. At that time, concluding a parable dealing with the Householder and His vineyard ([Matthew 21:33-39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+21.33-39&t=NKJV)) — which had to do with matters surrounding Christ and Israel — Christ allowed the religious leaders in Israel the opportunity to seal their own fate in this respect.

Christ asked,

*Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers* [the Jews, those to whom He was speaking, the ones who had rejected the Householder’s Son and were about to cast Him out of the vineyard and slay Him]?

*They* [these Jewish religious leaders, not yet realizing that He was speaking about them and the nation at large, responded] *said to Him, “He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons*.” ([Matthew 21:40-41](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+21.40-41&t=NKJV); *cf.* [Matthew 21:45](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+21.45&t=NKJV))

It was then that Christ drew from the Old Testament Scriptures, identifying Himself as the Chief Corner Stone, the One whom the nation had rejected and was about to cast out of the vineyard and slay ([Matthew 21:42](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+21.42&t=NKJV); *cf.* [Psalms 118:22-23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalms+118.22-23&t=NKJV)). And He then made the announcement concerning the proffered kingdom being taken from Israel, in complete keeping with that which the Jewish religious leaders had already stated:

*Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God* [referring to that facet of the kingdom of God which had been offered, the heavenly portion of the kingdom] *will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it*. ([Matthew 21:43](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+21.43&t=NKJV))

Then the Church, an entirely new entity, whose future existence had been previously announced ([Matthew 16:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+16.18&t=NKJV)), was shortly thereafter called into existence for the express purpose of being that “*nation bearing the fruits of it*” ([1 Peter 2:9-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+2.9-10&t=NKJV)). And since all spiritual blessings and promises must flow through Abraham and his progeny ([Genesis 12:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+12.1-3&t=NKJV); [22:17-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+22.17-18&t=NKJV)), the Church, in order to be the “*nation*” spoken of in [Matthew 21:43](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+21.43&t=NKJV) and [1 Peter 2:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+2.9&t=NKJV), *must be identified with Abraham.*

This is accomplished through the Christians’ positional standing “in Christ.” Christ is Abraham’s Seed, and Christians, through their positional standing “in Christ,” are likewise “Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” ([Galatians 3:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Galatians+3.16&t=NKJV), [29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Galatians+3.29&t=NKJV)).

Thus, during the coming age, in relation to the government of the earth and in line with [Genesis 22:17-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+22.17-18&t=NKJV), the Seed of Abraham will occupy positions in both *heavenly* and *earthly* places, though the vast majority of the numerous individuals occupying heavenly places in the kingdom will not be *lineal descendants* of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob. Rather, they will have become “*Abraham’s seed*” through their positional standing “*in Christ*.”

Governmental rule will emanate from both Jerusalem above and Jerusalem below. Christ with His “companions,” His “co-heirs,” will rule from His Own throne in Jerusalem above (the New Jerusalem, which will apparently be a satellite city of the earth at this time); and Christ Himself will also rule from David’s throne in the midst of Israel in Jerusalem below (Jerusalem in the earthly land covenanted to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob).

(In the preceding respect, Christ will have a dual reign at this time — both from His own throne in the heavens and from David’s throne on the earth. But neither Israel nor the Church will occupy a dual status of this nature. Israel will be placed at the head of the nations on the earth, and the Church will rule from the heavens over the earth [which will include all nations, even Israel; *cf.* [Matthew 19:28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+19.28&t=NKJV); [Revelation 2:26-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2.26-27&t=NKJV); [3:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3.21&t=NKJV)].)

Since the Church has become the repository for the heavenly promises and blessings originally held by Israel, sections of Old Testament Scripture such as Abraham’s seed likened to “*the stars of the heaven*” ([Genesis 22:17-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+22.17-18&t=NKJV)) or “*the saints of the most High* [‘saints of the high places’ (‘heavenly places’)]” ([Daniel 7:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.18&t=NKJV), [22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.22&t=NKJV), [25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.25&t=NKJV), [27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.27&t=NKJV)) would today relate to the Church. This would also be true concerning sections in the gospel accounts having to do with the kingdom of the heavens, such as entrance into the kingdom in [Matthew 7:13-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+7.13-14&t=NKJV), [21-23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+7.21-23&t=NKJV); [8:11-12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+8.11-12&t=NKJV).

But all of this has nothing to do with Israel’s earthly promises and blessings. These *have not been* and *can never be* taken from Israel. And during the coming age, following Israel’s repentance, conversion, and restoration to the land, that which was promised through Abraham relative to the nation’s earthly calling *will be realized*.

(But what about those Old Testament saints who looked toward heavenly promises and blessings and died in the faith prior to Christ’s announcement in [Matthew 21:43](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+21.43&t=NKJV)? Scripture clearly reveals that the removal of this (heavenly) facet of the kingdom from Israel’s possession at Christ’s first coming *cannot* make null and void any previous acceptance by individual Jews of that which God had promised [*cf.* [Matthew 8:11-12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+8.11-12&t=NKJV); [Hebrews 11:13-16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+11.13-16&t=NKJV), [39-40](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+11.39-40&t=NKJV)]. Christ’s announcement in [Matthew 21:43](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+21.43&t=NKJV) though does *forever* do away with Israel *as a nation* occupying such a position, continuing to be the repository for these heavenly promises and blessings.

Following Christ’s announcement to Israel concerning the kingdom, only one way has existed for Jews to come into a realization of heavenly promises and blessings. They must become a part of *the one new man “in Christ”* through faith in Israel’s Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. Doing this, they relinquish their national identity and earthly calling, becoming “*fellowheirs*” with believing Gentiles, who have also relinquished their national identity [but, unlike Jews, had no calling to relinquish ([Ephesians 2:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.12&t=NKJV))]. And, “*in Christ*,” where “*there is neither Jew nor Greek* [Gentile],” they both, together — as *one new man* — become partakers of a higher calling, a “*heavenly calling*” [[Galatians 3:26-29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Galatians+3.26-29&t=NKJV); [Ephesians 2:13-15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.13-15&t=NKJV); [3:1-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+3.1-6&t=NKJV); [Hebrews 3:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3.1&t=NKJV)].)

**The Millennium and Beyond**

According to [Daniel 7:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.18&t=NKJV), [22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.22&t=NKJV), [27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.27&t=NKJV), the day is coming when “*the saints of the most High* [‘saints of the high places’ (‘heavenly places’)]” are going to take and possess the kingdom. It will be exactly *the same kingdom* that presently exists under Satan — a governed province within God’s universal kingdom. That’s why Scripture states,

*The kingdom of this world* [the present existing kingdom, under Satan] *is become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ* [the same kingdom, but under a new administration] . . . . ([Revelation 11:15 ASV](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+11.15&t=ASV))

In the type, in the books of 1 & 2 Samuel, when Saul was finally put down and David with his faithful men moved in and took over the government, they took and possessed *the same kingdom* that had previously existed under Saul. It was the kingdom of Israel. The *change* was in the administration of the kingdom, not in the kingdom itself.

(Refer to the Appendix, [Bible One - The Most High Ruleth, App., by Arlen Chitwood](http://bibleone.net/MHR.htm), for additional information concerning the typology seen in the books of 1 & 2 Samuel.)

And, as seen in the typology of the books of 1 & 2 Samuel, so will it be in the antitype. When Christ and His co-heirs move in and take over the government, they will rule *the same kingdom* that Satan and his angels previously ruled. They will rule the one province in the kingdom of God into which chaos entered, and they will rule this province for a specified period of time — for 1,000 years — in order to effect a complete restoration of order in this one part of God’s universal kingdom.

This is the matter dealt with in [1 Corinthians 15:24-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+15.24-28&t=NKJV):

*Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.*

*For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.*

*The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.*

*For He has put all things under His feet. But when He says “all things are put under Him,” it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted.*

*Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him that God may be all in all.* ([1 Corinthians 15:24-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+15.24-28&t=NKJV))

At the beginning of the Millennium, the curse will be lifted (with the creation restored to its condition preceding the fall), and there will be literally millions of individuals (Jews and Gentiles alike [both saved and unsaved among the Gentiles]) entering the earthly sphere of the kingdom ruled by Christ and His co-heirs, with Israel placed at the head of the nations on earth [*cf.* [Isaiah 11:6-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+11.6-9&t=NKJV); [35:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+35.1ff&t=NKJV); [Acts 3:19-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+3.19-21&t=NKJV)]). Israel will provide the evangels to carry God’s message to the ends of the earth during this period; and it will require 1,000 years of a righteous rule, “*with a rod of iron*,” to bring about *complete order out of chaos.*

That is, when Christ returns, Gentile world power will be destroyed, *suddenly, swiftly, and completely*, with Satan and his angels being correspondingly put down after the same fashion. Satan will be bound and cast into the abyss. Then the physical creation will be restored, Israel will be saved and restored to the land at the head of the nations on earth, Christians (previously shown qualified at the judgment seat) will be positioned “*in heavenly places*” in view of their impending rule as co-heirs with Christ, and the Gentiles surviving the Tribulation will then form the nations entering the kingdom on earth (*cf.* [Matthew 24:13-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+24.13-14&t=NKJV), [31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+24.31&t=NKJV); [25:20-23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.20-23&t=NKJV); [Revelation 20:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.1-3&t=NKJV)).

These things will apparently occur within the scope of a seventy-five-day period that will exist between the end of the Tribulation and the beginning of the Millennium ([Daniel 12:11-12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+12.11-12&t=NKJV)); but even with conditions as such, God is *still* going to take 1,000 years beyond that point to bring complete order out of chaos.

([Matthew 25:31-46](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.31-46&t=NKJV) comprises a section of the Olivet Discourse often used attempting to show that only saved individuals will populate the earth at the beginning of the millennium. Those following this line of thought teach that this section has to do with a judgment of all living Gentiles surviving the Tribulation, both saved and unsaved, with the saved being allowed to enter into the kingdom and the unsaved being cast into the lake of fire.

A teaching of this nature has its sole basis in a misunderstanding of this section of Scripture. By its own internal evidence, eternal salvation or damnation is *not* the subject matter in [Matthew 25:31-46](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.31-46&t=NKJV). The subject at hand has to do with *realizing or not realizing an inheritance in the kingdom*, *not* with eternal verities [[Matthew 25:34](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.34&t=NKJV)].

And, in keeping with the preceding, the Greek word aionios, translated “*everlasting*” and “*eternal*” in [Matthew 25:41](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.41&t=NKJV), [46](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.46&t=NKJV) would, in the light of v. 34, have to be understood as “age-lasting,” *not* “eternal” as it has been translated in most versions of Scripture.

Neither the Hebrew of the Old Testament nor the Greek of the New Testament contains a word for “eternal.” *Olam* is the word translated “eternal,” “everlasting,” or “perpetual” in English translations of the Old Testament, and *aion* [a noun] or *aionios* [the adjective form of *aion*] are the words translated “eternal” or “everlasting” in the New Testament [*aidios*, an older form of *aionios*, used only two times and meaning exactly the same as *aionios*, is the only exception ([Romans 1:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+1.20&t=NKJV) and [Jude 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jude+1.6&t=NKJV))].

*Olam, aion*, and *aionios* all have to do with “a long period of time,” which, if the context permits, can refer to “eternity” [*e.g*., the *Aionios* God in [Romans 16:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+16.26&t=NKJV)]. But the words standing alone, apart from a context, *cannot* be understood as “eternal.” *Context* is the all-important factor to ascertain the length of time in view when these words are used.

*Aion* and *aionios* are usually thought of and used numerous times in the New Testament in the sense of “an age.” And a usage of this nature is even brought over into English. For example, the English word “aeon [or ‘eon’]” is derived from the Greek word *aion*.

The only way in which the Greek text can express “eternal” apart from textual considerations is through a use of *aion* in the plural [*e.g*., [Luke 1:33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+1.33&t=NKJV); [Hebrews 13:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+13.8&t=NKJV), referring to “the ages,” *i.e*., ages without end, which would comprise eternity] or a double use of *aion*, in the plural and articular both times [*e.g*., [Revelation 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+1.6&t=NKJV); [4:9-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+4.9-10&t=NKJV), referring to “the ages of the ages,” again, ages without end].

And the use of *aionios* in [Matthew 25:41](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.41&t=NKJV), [46](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.46&t=NKJV), referring to an inverse of that seen in [Matthew 25:34](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.34&t=NKJV) [failing to realize an inheritance in the kingdom] can only be understood as “age-lasting.” It can only be understood as referring to the outcome of a judgment of unfaithful saved Gentiles coming out of the Tribulation.

A judgment of the unsaved, with eternal verities in view, could not possibly be the subject at hand in [Matthew 25:41](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.41&t=NKJV), [46](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.46&t=NKJV). First, the context will not permit such an understanding of these verses; and second, inheritance in the kingdom, contextually in view, would limit this judgment to the saved alone. Note [Romans 8:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.17&t=NKJV): “*And if children, then heirs…*”

“*Sheep*” and “*goats*” [[Matthew 25:32-33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.32-33&t=NKJV)], can only be understood contextually as a metaphorical way of describing two classes of saved individuals, similar to the *parable of the wheat and the tares* in [Matthew 13:24-30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.24-30&t=NKJV). The unsaved and eternal verities simply cannot be in view in either passage. Rather, in both passages, only the saved, with a view to an inheritance or non-inheritance in the kingdom, can be in view.

The extensive use of “metaphors” in sections of Scripture such as [Matthew 13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13&t=NKJV); [24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+24&t=NKJV); [25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25&t=NKJV) *must be recognized*. Note, for example, “meat” or “food” in [Matthew 24:45](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+24.45&t=NKJV); [25:35](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.35&t=NKJV), [42](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.42&t=NKJV), all part of the same discourse. The use is metaphorical in chapter twenty four [referring to that which is spiritual, the Word of God], when dealing with the judgment of a servant; and the servant rendering an account at the time of his Lord’s return is with a view to *regality* [realizing or not realizing a position with Christ in the kingdom (*cf.* [Luke 12:42-48](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+12.42-48&t=NKJV))]. Why should the matter be viewed after any different fashion in chapter twenty-five when also dealing with a judgment of individuals at the time of the Lord’s return, with a view to inheritance in the kingdom [exactly the same as regality previously seen in chapter twenty-four, though stated in a different manner]?

Understanding the preceding after this fashion [which, in reality, is the only contextually correct way to view this section of Scripture] will, again, show that *only saved individuals* can possibly be in view throughout [Matthew 25:31-46](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.31-46&t=NKJV). Both those depicted by the “sheep” and the “goats” are seen as being in a position to dispense “meat,” “food.” Unsaved man *cannot* occupy a position of this nature.

There is no such thing in Scripture as a judgment of unsaved Gentiles at the end of Man’s Day, prior to the millennium. Rather, the millennium itself will form their judgment in this respect, for the millennium will simply be 1,000 years of a righteous judgment, when Christ and His co-heirs will rule the nations with a rod of iron.)

Man, on the earth during the Messianic Era, will possess a body of flesh, blood, and bone, with the old sin nature still present (*i.e.*, he will possess a “*natural*” body [a “soulical” body; Greek:  *psuchikos*, [Romans 2:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+2.24&t=NKJV); [1 Corinthians 15:44](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+15.44&t=NKJV), [46](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+15.46&t=NKJV)], identical to that which man possesses today). This will be true both within the camp of Israel and among the Gentile nations. This is the reason Christ will be a King-Priest, after the order of Melchizedek at this time. He will not only be King over the earth but He will also exercise a priestly office as well, representing man to God and God to man. And Christ must be a Priest after a new order, under a new covenant, on Israel’s behalf, for He is not of the Aaronic line.

(Note that Christ can presently exercise a ministry in the heavenly sanctuary after the order of Aaron, though not of the Aaronic line, for the simple reason that His ministry today is on behalf of Christians [who do not come under covenants made with Israel] rather than with Israel [with whom the old covenant was made]. Christ could not exercise a priestly ministry on behalf of Israel after the order of Aaron [present or future], which will necessitate a change in the priesthood when God restores Israel [[Hebrews 7:11-12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+7.11-12&t=NKJV)].)

Man, on the earth during that future day, still possessing the old sin nature, will beget children who must be redeemed; and sin and death will correspondingly occur within activities surrounding man at that time. And, as a consequence of man’s condition, Scripture presents the possibility of man rebelling against the authority that will emanate from Jerusalem above and from Jerusalem below ([Isaiah 65:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+65.20&t=NKJV); [Zechariah 14:16-19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Zechariah+14.16-19&t=NKJV)) — something clearly seen in its climactic form in that which is revealed concerning Satan being loosed at the end of the millennium and leading a number described as “*the sand of the sea*” in rebellion against the King in Jerusalem ([Revelation 20:7-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.7-9&t=NKJV)).

And within this whole scenario lies the reason God has set aside 1,000 years to bring complete order out of chaos. As previously stated, Christ and His co-heirs will reign — “*with a rod of iron*,” *breaking the nations* and *dashing them into pieces*, likened unto “*a potter’s vessel*” being struck and shattered (*cf.* [Psalms 2:6-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalms+2.6-9&t=NKJV); [Revelation 2:26-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2.26-27&t=NKJV)) — until all things have been brought under subjection.

At the end of the 1,000 years — after all things have been “*subdued*” by Christ and He has “*delivered up*” the kingdom to the Father ([1 Corinthians 15:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+15.24&t=NKJV), [28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+15.28&t=NKJV)) — “*all things*” will then *be made new*. Then, not before, there will be no more “*death…sorrow…crying…pain…*” In that day there will be no need for a priest to represent man to God and God to man, for God Himself will dwell with man, “*and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God*” ([Revelation 21:3-5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+21.3-5&t=NKJV)).

This will be the scene beyond the millennium, after complete order once again exists in all parts of God’s universal kingdom. There will be a “*new heaven* [the heaven associated with this earth and solar system, not the universe] *and a new earth*” ([Revelation 21:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+21.1&t=NKJV)). The New Jerusalem will be the capital of the new earth ([Revelation 21:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+21.2&t=NKJV)), which probably will be a much larger earth than presently exists, large enough to accommodate a city of this size. And *universal rule* will emanate from “*the throne of God and of the Lamb*” *on the new earth* ([Revelation 22:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+22.1-3&t=NKJV)). That is, God Himself will dwell on the new earth and, with His Son, rule the universe from this location.

And man, in that day, will come into a complete realization of the *purpose* that God had in mind for His creation in the beginning. Up to this time, man’s rule will have been limited to *the earth* alone. But, during the eternal ages following the millennium, man will exercise positions of power and authority of *a universal nature* in God’s kingdom. And even the saved Gentile nations and those Christians not holding positions of power and authority during the millennium will be brought into and have a part in this rule ([Revelation 21:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+21.4&t=NKJV); [22:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+22.2&t=NKJV), [5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+22.5&t=NKJV)).

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