

March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## Kingdom of Heaven: The Beginning

God is the same yesterday, today and forever. God knows the ending, from the beginning. The Old Testament is a reflection, paradigm or foreshadow of the New Testament. In order for us to gain a greater revelation of the Kingdom of God, we need to start "**In The Beginning**." The #1 concept Jesus taught was the Kingdom of Heaven.

**The Kingdom of God has always existed.** When God created the Earth and man, He set up His Kingdom of Earth. He partnered with Adam and Eve and gave them dominion to be His Kingdom agents.

**In the Beginning Gen 1:26-28** *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have **dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

**Foot Notes SFLB:** "Dominion over...the earth: God created man to be **His kingdom agent**, to rule and subdue the rest of creation, including the aggressive satanic forces, which would soon infringe upon it." Adam and Eve were to keep out the Kingdom of Darkness, the satanic forces from the Earth.

**Gen 3:1-5** *Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die..."*

The serpent is Satan and he twists the Word of God to deceive people, and the most common way he does this is **through pride**. Pride will cause us to see the Bible (Word of God) through our carnal mind. Our carnal mind focusses on logic and reason according to man, and not according to God. The carnal mind does not see clearly the things of God, and is easily deceived. Pride deceives, but humility brings clarity.

### Satan continues:

**Gen 3:5-7** *For God knows that in the day you eat of it your **eyes will be opened**, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to **make one wise**, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the **eyes of both of them were opened**, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.*

By allowing **into her mind** the words (deception) of the enemy, it changed how she saw the fruit. The deceptive logic: "This is good fruit, I bet it tastes good (pleasant) and not only that, I want (desire) to be wise like God." How many times as Christians have we used this line of logic to substitute desire over obedience to God's Word? Adam and Eve substituted desire for obedience.

Adam and Eve were obedient to Satan, and disobedient to God. This transferred their Kingdom dominion to Satan.

After this, the world became very corrupt, so God flooded the Earth, saving Noah and his family. After the flood, the region repopulated and became 70 nations and the greatest ruler was Nimrod. They became one language, one government, one pagan religion. **The One World Order** existed over 3,500 years ago.

Under the rule of Nimrod whose name means "let us rebel" the people built the **Tower of Babel**, which means "confused" but later came to be known as "**the gate of the gods**." The Tower of Babel was built to open a portal to the demonic realm bringing back the Sons of God who are the fallen angels of the Old Testament, who were worshipped as gods before the flood.

**Gen 11:6-7** *And the Lord said, "Indeed the **people are one** and they all have **one language**, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. 7 Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."*

God promised He would never flood the Earth again and gave us the rainbow as a sign of that promise, so flooding the Earth and starting over was not an option. God scattered the people, but Nimrod built Babylon, the heart of Baal worship, child sacrifice and sexual immorality.

### **God's plan to reestablish His Kingdom on Earth**

God partnered with Abraham through a blood covenant to reestablish His Kingdom on Earth.

The Abrahamic Covenant started with a promise from God to Abram **Gen 12:1-3**

**Gen 12:1-3** *Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And **in you** all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Word Wealth SFLB; "All other promises are based on this one."*

There were 70 nations at the time of Abram, and instead of God choosing a nation to carry His Word and establish His Kingdom, He choose to start with one man and woman, just like **in the beginning** with Adam and Eve.

### **Gen 15:1-21 God makes a blood covenant with Abram ( through the sacrifice and splitting of animals)**

**Foot Notes SFLB:** "God humbled Himself to accept the role of the inferior party to this covenant. In the ancient Hittite covenant, a puppet ruler, the inferior party, would walk between the bleeding pieces of split animals, taking an oath of loyalty to his superior: 'May the gods do so to me (and more also) as I have done to these animals if I do not fulfill the terms of this covenant.'"

### **The New Testament Blood Covenant:**

This was a foreshadow of Jesus humbling Himself as God and yet man, as a sheep to the slaughter, dying on the cross in order to give us back the authority that Adam and Eve lost in the beginning.

### **God ratifies this covenant with Abraham after he was willing to sacrifice his son Isaac**

**Gen 22:17-18** *blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and **your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies**. 18 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have **obeyed** My voice. Obedience leads to blessings.*

The Tower of Babel, also called the "Gate of the Gods" was destroyed by God. Then He called Abram out of the land of Ur, and made a covenant with him promising him, his descendants shall **possess the gate of their enemies**. This was partially fulfilled through the military power of the nation of Israel, especially at the height of the reign of King Solomon. This prophetic proclamation-promise of controlling the gates was fulfilled in the New Testament by Jesus:

**Matt 16:18-19** *And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the **gates of Hades** shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the **keys of the kingdom of heaven**, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*

**Keys represent authority.** Jesus gave us His authority to take action, to bind and loosen in the spiritual realm that would manifest on earth, this physical realm. We have authority over the gates of Hell. We are to break bondages and strongholds, setting the captives free and lead them into abundant life in Christ, thus manifesting His Kingdom on earth.

The Church is "in" the Kingdom, it is not "the" Kingdom. The Kingdom of God is greater than the Church. When Christians think the Church "is" the Kingdom of God, we have confined the Kingdom into a box and limit its magnitude. The Church is only part of the Kingdom, it is not the whole Kingdom.

Are you walking in obedience to the Lord, or in your own desire? Blessings flow through obedience.