



Spirits

in the

Kingdom

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RIVERS IN THE DESERT

As citizens of the Heavenly Jerusalem, we are involved in the affairs of our King, Jesus, Son of Yahweh. We have privileges and responsibilities with regard to His government and His engagements with His enemies. We will be held to account for how we rise to the responsibilities and challenges of our citizenship, even with regard to how we steward the treasure our King entrusts to us.

One of the categories of our interaction with the Kingdom of Heaven includes the privileges and responsibilities that are related to our relationships with angels and other spirit beings who are servants of our King. We know very little about them, and we know even less about how our relationships with them should work and should be developed. This will soon change.

ANGELS SAW THE CREATION OF THE EARTH

Yahweh asked Job:

“Where were you when I established the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who fixed its dimensions? Certainly you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? What supports its foundations? Or who laid its cornerstone while the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”

(Job 38:4-7, Holman Christian Standard Bible®©)

When Yahweh laid the foundations of the earth, the morning stars and sons of God were present. They celebrated His work with songs and joy-filled shouting. No humans saw it happen, though, hence Yahweh’s rhetoric to Job: “Where were you?”

The sons of God and the morning stars saw the process of the creation, but were not part of it. Everything that has been created was created *by* and *for* Jesus. Everything that has been redeemed has been recovered by Him and for Him.

He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

**He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn over all creation;
because by Him everything was created,
in Heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible,
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—
all things have been created through Him and for Him.
He is before all things, and by Him all things hold together.
He is also the head of the body, the church;
He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
so that He might come to have first place in everything.
For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him,
and through Him to reconcile everything to Himself
by making peace through the blood of His cross—
whether things on earth or things in Heaven.
(Colossians 1:13-20, Holman Christian Standard Bible®©)**

Moses, credited with the written record of the creation of humans, was memorializing someone else's experiences. Yahweh maybe told Adam about his creation and how He made Eve while Adam was sedated, and Adam told his children and grandchildren. Maybe Yahweh told Moses how it all came to pass. They had many conversations, apparently. Joshua was present for some, and had some of his own. He may have served as a scribe and helped Moses write down the first books of remembrance we now call Scriptures.

TIME BEGAN BEING MEASURED FOR HUMANS

Yahweh had an undisclosed number of interactions with His first creations before He made Adam. No sun or moon or orbits counted time. Then, one day, or better: on *day one*, Yahweh made Heavens. He made earth. He made the sun and other stars. There is no mention of clocks or calendars before humans needed them to measure time. There is no mention of time before the "first day." Then time started. Either it started at zero and has been adding up, or because He knew the end from the beginning, it began ticking down.

YAHWEH GAVE THE EARTH TO ADAM, AND THEN TO NOAH, FOR MANAGEMENT

He made humans from the earth, and *gave them authority over it*. **The Heaven, even the Heavens, are the Lord's; but the earth He has given to the children of men (Psalm 115:16)**. He co-missioned humans to rule over everything that was in and that entered the earth. He first gave that authority to Adam and Eve, and then to Noah and his family. He authorized them to represent Him to the earth and to every creature in it.

Yahweh created a garden in the earth and gave it to Adam. He invited him to eat of every green plant He had put in the earth including a tree He called the tree of Life, but He warned him not to eat the fruit that was on what He called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If he ate that fruit, he would die.

Eve was not in the garden when Yahweh warned Adam about the tree of death. Yahweh brought her to Adam in the garden. They did not eat from the tree of Life, but they did eat from the tree of death.

YAHWEH SET TWO CHERUBS OVER THE GARDEN TEMPORARILY

After they had eaten fruit from the tree of death, Yahweh removed them from the garden so they would not eat from the tree of Life after having been affected by death. He kept them out of the garden by assigning cherubs to guard the entrance with flaming swords.

John saw the tree of life when he was given a revelation of Jesus. He was told it was in paradise (**Revelation 2:7**), and then saw twelve kinds of fruit on either side of the river of life, growing on the tree of life (**Revelation 22:1-2**), and was told that overcomers would be able to enter the New Jerusalem, and to eat from the tree of life.

Those sightings imply that the tree was removed from the garden, and the guards were apparently removed with it. The earth was back in the hands of and under the authority of humans.

NEITHER ADAM NOR YAHWEH GAVE THE EARTH TO SATAN

Adam did not hand the earth over to Satan. Yahweh did not hand the earth over to Satan. Satan said to Jesus in the wilderness that authority and glory over all the kingdoms of the earth had been delivered to him, and offered those things to Jesus (**Luke 4:6**). There is no Scripture indicating that he wasn't lying. He is always lying. After He gave the earth to the domination of Adam, Yahweh gave it to Noah.

For clarification, imagine a playground that has 40 8-year-old children on it every day during recess at school. 3rd graders. There are two bullies in the crowd who don't like each other. They each have 4 children who follow them and help them terrorize the other children. They steal food and money from other children. They hurt children who resist them.

When the timid children submit to the bullies, obeying them out of fear, they have not changed the playground rules. The rules could be enforced by the teachers who should be watching the activities during recess and the bullies could be detained and punished. The timid children have not given the playground to the bullies. They don't have that much ownership of it. They are only giving them their property and their obedience. At playground level, and at school level, nothing has changed regarding the rules or the ownership.

In the earth, the Hindus can give what they own to demons they fear and worship. The Marxists can steal from people who work and give it to whomever the Marxists serve. The Muslims can give to their moon god what they work for or steal. The humans can only give the unclean spirits what the humans can get control over, though. No one has given Satan the earth. All of humanity would have to agree on it.

SATAN HAS POWER, BUT DOES NOT HAVE AUTHORITY

Satan does have power over the parts of the earth where his servants live, but he doesn't have authority over any of it. Just power. He has that over anyone who lets him have it. Just like the bullies are pretending they own everything on the playground, they can't even agree between themselves that it is true regarding

the other. One says he owns it all, the other says she owns it all. Neither one owns any of it.

Jesus has been given all authority in Heaven and on earth, because when He became a man He added human authority in the earth to the authority He already had in Heaven (**Matthew 28:18**).

ONE DAY ONE SPIRIT WILL LOCK SATAN IN A PIT FOR A THOUSAND YEARS

One day, a spirit will apprehend Satan, bind him with a great chain, and shut him in the abyss that Apollyon opened (**Revelation 9:1-11; 20:1-3**). Two points I raise from this truth are that Satan is not in charge of anything, and that the King of Heaven and Earth is not worried about Satan being a threat to anything He wants to do in the Earth.

John was shown a time when Jesus will temporarily give the beast authority in the earth and then remove the authorization (**Revelation 13:1-10; 19:19-21**), and He will give Satan the same kind of authority and subsequently relieve him of it (**Revelation 20:7-10**).

HUMANS ARE “LOWER THAN THE ELOHIM”

In **Psalm 8**, the writer marveled at the position that God has put man in. In **Genesis 1:26**, “**God said, ‘Let us make man...’**” In **Psalm 8:5**, David wrote of man that Yahweh had “... **made him to be a little lower than...**” and then used the same word translators generally agree to translate as “**God**” in the **Genesis 1:26** passage.

Translators argue about how to translate it in **Psalm 8:5**. Arguable options include God, god, gods, Heavenly beings, and angels. **Verse 6** points out that in the “just a little lower than awesome” position Yahweh put us in, He has given us authority over everything His hands made.

If it finds its way into the earth, and was created by Yahweh, He has lent us His authority over it to dominate it.

The writer to the **Hebrews** quoted **Psalm 8**:

But one has somewhere testified:

What is man, that You remember him, or the son of man, that You care for him? You made him lower than the angels for a short time; You crowned him with glory and honor and subjected everything under his feet.

For in subjecting everything to him, He left nothing not subject to him. As it is, we do not yet see everything subjected to him. But we do see Jesus—made lower than the angels for a short time so that by God's grace He might taste death for everyone—crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death.

For it was fitting, in bringing many sons to glory, that He, for whom and through whom all things exist, should make the source of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the One who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. That is why He is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying:

I will proclaim Your name to My brothers; I will sing hymns to You in the congregation.

(Hebrews 2:6-12, Holman Christian Standard Bible®©)

BEING “LOWER THAN” ELOHIM DOES NOT MEAN BEING “UNDER” ELOHIM

Some have argued to me that we have been made lower than the angels, and we therefore cannot and should not presume to tell any of them what to do. Being lower than them clearly has some meaning other than rank in **Psalm 8** and **Hebrews 2**, though, because Jesus was clearly made lower than angels so that He could be sacrificed, yet was claiming authority over them when He informed Peter that He could ask for 12 legions of angels to serve Him (**Matthew 26:53**).

BEING UNDER TUTORS IS TEMPORARY, THEN IT IS REVERSED

The imagery that Paul used when he wrote a letter to the congregations in Galatia is an appropriate comparison in any situation in which angels are exercising authority over us temporarily. Paul was writing to believers who were being misled by “Judaizers” to believe they, being gentiles, were obligated to obey all the laws given to the Jews through Moses. He stated that the law was

like a tutor over the Jews in their father's household. The tutor was given authority to beat his students – the father's children – if their behavior and obedience were not acceptable. When the children grew up and inherited the household, however, they naturally became owners of the slave who had been their master when he had been their tutor (**Galatians 4:1-7**).

At a minimum, Yahweh's spirit servants are our peers. Some have authority above the earth, like the rulers **Daniel** mentioned in **chapter 10** of his writings. As the siblings of Jesus, we do, too. Paul wrote that the law given to Jews through Moses was a master until the children it was disciplining became mature.

The maturity he described was not a time in the future "in Heaven." It was the point in time at which the children became heirs with Jesus. We have been born of Yahweh, and are His "sons." We are now in authority over the masters that helped to raise us to maturity.

Wisdom would counsel us to continue to learn what we can from those tutors, and to share with them revelation we have received from the Spirit, with Whom we are one, though they are not.

ANGELS ARE "FELLOW SERVANTS"

In the **Revelation** of Jesus that he was given, John saw spirits who were indescribable. Others, he described and marveled. In **verses 8 and 9 of chapter 22**, he was so overcome by the messenger who was speaking to him that he fell on his face before him in awe and worship:

I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. When I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had shown them to me. But he said to me, "Don't do that! I am a fellow slave with you, your brothers the prophets, and those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

This astonishing messenger called himself a "fellow slave" with John.

ANGELS ARE “SERVING SPIRITS” TO THE HEIRS

In **verses 13 and 14** of the **first chapter** of the **letter to the Hebrews**, the question is written:

Now to which of the angels has He ever said:

Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies Your footstool?

Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve those who are going to inherit salvation?

(Holman Christian Standard Bible®©)

SERVANTS WITH AUTHORITY

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached Him and said, "Teacher, we want You to do something for us if we ask You."

"What do you want Me to do for you?" He asked them.

They answered Him, "Allow us to sit at Your right and at Your left in Your glory."

But Jesus said to them, "You don't know what you're asking. Are you able to drink the cup I drink or to be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?"

"We are able," they told Him.

Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink, and you will be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with. But to sit at My right or left is not Mine to give; instead, it is for those it has been prepared for." When the other 10 disciples heard this, they began to be indignant with James and John.

Jesus called them over and said to them, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles dominate them, and their men of high positions exercise power over them. But it must not be like that among

you. On the contrary, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be a slave to all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life—a ransom for many."

(Mark 10:35-45, Holman Christian Standard Bible®©)

Jesus described gentile leaders as "lording it over" or "dominating" their subjects, and instructed His followers to lead by serving and influencing, not by controlling. Even though religion that has its roots in late Roman mythology (Catholic-ism) would mislead us to believe that a minister is someone who runs a church or a mission, "lording it over them," that is the opposite of the truth. A master runs things. A minister is a servant. "Mas" indicates "more" or "greater," and "mini" indicates "small" or "tiny."

Are not the angels *servants* of those who inherit salvation? Have you not inherited salvation?

I have had people argue with me that we should under no conditions give instructions to angels. It seems odd to me that every one of these people order demons around with little concern. Servants of Yahweh, who are happy to obey Him and presumably anyone who stands in His authority, we should not give instruction to. Demons, who are rebellious and untrustworthy and destructive and liars, we should expect to be perfectly obedient to us, though, because we stand in the authority of the King of Heaven. The irrationality of that set of mismatched ideas sounds like it was originally taught by a spirit of religion.

Each of us is at a different level of maturity in Christ. Each of our work assignments has a job-specific level of authority, related to our job-specific level of responsibility. Our responsibilities are each in some way given to manifest ("reveal; make known") the Kingdom of Heaven. When Jesus found His disciples arguing about who among them was the greatest, He did not rebuke them for wanting to be the greatest. He told them how to win the competition! The one who was serving in the greatest way was the greatest.

Our leadership of His creation is under His authority and His authorization. His Kingdom is a government. As we lead, it is in the form of serving. Don't be afraid, little flock, because your Father delights to give you the kingdom. (**Luke 12:32**)

In **Luke 17, verses 5 through 10**, Jesus was asked for increased faith. His response seems to have been to a question about authority:

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."

"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed," the Lord said, "you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you.

"Which one of you having a slave plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he comes in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down to eat'? Instead, will he not tell him, 'Prepare something for me to eat, get ready, and serve me while I eat and drink; later you can eat and drink'? Does he thank that slave because he did what was commanded? In the same way, when you have done all that you were commanded, you should say, 'We are good-for-nothing slaves; we've only done our duty.'"

(Holman Christian Standard Bible®©)

The centurion Jesus met when He was in Capernaum one day understood the connection between faith and authority, and this understanding caused Jesus to marvel. The man who understood was in a governmental / militaristic set of circumstances and state of mind. This made him able to grasp what Jesus was teaching about His Kingdom (**Matthew 8:5-13**).

Every time we try to twist some teaching about the Kingdom of Heaven into a context of the church we created, we probably make Jesus marvel, too.

EKKLESIA WILL JUDGE THE EARTH, AND WILL JUDGE ANGELS

Or do you not know that saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you unworthy of the smallest of cases? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life?

(1 Corinthians 6:2,3 Holman Christian Standard Bible® ©)

Jesus instructed His disciples to attempt to restore someone who was found to be involved in sin by speaking with the person. If the person would not listen, the redeemer should take another person to be a witness who could confirm the problem to the offender. If the person would not listen to the two of them, an ekklesia should be formed to make a judgment about the matter, and that judgment would settle it. If the accused was found guilty by the ekklesia, but did not submit to that judgment, they would subsequently be treated as an unbeliever (**Matthew 18:15-17**).

Understand that the ekklesia was to judge the person, though. An ekklesia is a group of people called out of a larger group to perform some appointed function. When Jesus used the word, it was a governmental word that was understood to describe a group of people who would have authority to vote on laws, pass judgment in disputes, elect governmental officials in times and places when governments were democracies, and in the case of the riot in **Acts 19**, be public demonstrations.

The mistranslation of the Greek word **ekklesia** into the unrelated English word **church** was instruction number 3 of 15 given by King James 1 of England to his employees when they were hired to create an English translation that he could use to control “his” “church” when he formed it to control believers in England and prevent Rome from controlling them.

EKKLESIA WILL NOW REVEAL YAHWEH’S WISDOM TO HEAVENLY RULERS

This grace was given to me—the least of all the saints!—to proclaim to the Gentiles the incalculable riches of the Messiah, and to shed light for all about the administration of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things. This is so that God's multi-faceted wisdom may now be made known through the church to the rulers and authorities in the Heavens. This is according to the purpose of the ages, which He made in the Messiah, Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness, access, and confidence through faith in Him. So then I ask you not to be discouraged over my afflictions on your behalf, for they are your glory. (Ephesians 3:8-13, Holman Christian Standard Bible® ©)

Believers have access to the King that angels and other Heavenly spirits do not have. We have access to His Spirit that non-human spirits do not have. We will be revealing many facets of the wisdom of the King to other servants of His as He reveals it to us. That wisdom may include both understanding of His character and His intentions.

WHAT ARE ANGELS LIKE?

Some of the creatures He made before He made humans are messengers. Others seem to be warriors, some are worshipers, and some are for purposes that we don't know or don't understand. As Paul wrote, spiritual things and beings are normally invisible and undetectable to humans, especially unbelievers who have not been born of Yahweh.

Angels and other beings from Heaven have been the victims of much imaginative misrepresentation by humans. From impish babies with wings, to Cupid, to fairies, we have painted and sculpted them in ways that make them fit our stories since we don't have too many stories or details about them from God's stories. Most of the stories He has shared with us have been ignored.

If the warriors we need working with us look like most of the images from Hallmark's movies and greeting cards, we are in trouble. Descriptions that we have been given in the Scriptures range from them looking like men dressed in lightning to having six wings and actually having eyes in the backs of their heads, just like your Mom.

Many beings that Yahweh has created to be His servants have interacted with His human servants through the ages. They always seem to be difficult to describe and more difficult to imagine by the people who are reading others' sketchy descriptions of them. One whom John encountered in the Revelation of Jesus he received seems to be of quite a different nature than the Hallmark greeting cards fairies:

Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from Heaven, surrounded by a cloud, with a rainbow over his head. His face was like the sun, his legs were like fiery pillars, and he had a little scroll opened in his hand. He put

his right foot on the sea, his left on the land, and he cried out with a loud voice like a roaring lion. When he cried out, the seven thunders spoke with their voices. And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write. Then I heard a voice from Heaven, saying, “Seal up what the seven thunders said, and do not write it down!”

Then the angel that I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to Heaven. He swore an oath by the One who lives forever and ever, who created Heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it: “There will no longer be an interval of time, but in the days of the sound of the seventh angel, when he will blow his trumpet, then God’s hidden plan will be completed, as He announced to His servants the prophets.”

(Revelation 10:1-7 Holman Christian Standard Bible® ©)

He is mighty. His halo is a rainbow. He can stand on water. His face is as bright as the sun. His legs are fire. He is prophetic; truly an “angel” (“messenger”).

WHAT DO ANGELS DO?

What they do may be more important, but also more mysterious, than what they look like. A point I would like to raise is how some are related to government in the earth. Please pause and read **Daniel 10**.

The messenger who appeared in front of Daniel with the answer to Daniel’s prayer was so awesome that Daniel’s friends could neither see nor hear him, but were so filled with dread and fear at his presence that they ran away. Daniel could see and hear him. His response was to fall on his face like a man in a coma.

The messenger was awesome to men, but he had been trying to fight his way past a being he called, “the prince of Persia” for 21 days. Apparently, if Michael, whom he called, “your prince,” and “one of the chief princes,” had not joined him in the fight, he would never have gotten past the ruling spirit.

Clearly, if the prince of Persia could hold this being still for three weeks, he was not an earthly ruler. He was ruling in a high place above the earthly nation of Persia, though.

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN INCLUDES PRINCIPALITIES AND WORLD RULERS

Michael, called here a “chief prince” is called at times an “archangel.” A hierarchy is a system (hier) of authority (archy) that describes rank and relationship for those who have the keys to understand such, like the relationships of responsibility and authority in military organizations. The descriptions of Michael and the unnamed prince who ruled Persia evidence that in some way, they were in positions above the earth that are parts of Yahweh’s government.

Cities such as San Francisco, Los Angeles, Rome, Las Vegas, New York, the District of Columbia, and Sodom all clearly have had unclean rulers in the seats of spiritual power over them, given that power by the humans under their influence. Each of those cities, and all others, has a nature that is a manifestation of what their relationship is to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Each city or area or nation has a character that is a reflection of the spirit they have given permission to sit in the seat of power above them. If it is a spirit that was appointed by the King of Heaven, that spirit has authority over that area from above it. Unclean spirits that have been given permission to sit there are displacing the servant of Jesus, and will have power that creates a Haiti or China or Chicago or New Orleans or Las Vegas or Washington DC. Those spirits have power from below them.

HOW SHOULD WE INTERACT WITH ANGELS?

The days are coming in which we will learn as Yahweh’s people how to interact with the rest of the beings He has ordained to serve Him in these particular times. Some will hear the protocol for that interaction. Some will be intermediaries and liaisons for the interaction. Some will be intercessors who call forth the “hidden plan” to be revealed and fulfilled.

People are already receiving understanding about this set of relationships in the Kingdom of Heaven. When this restitution is complete, there will be liaisons among the Heavenly beings and among believers who will know what the protocol is for exchange of information and of instruction between these parts of God's government. We will learn how to displace usurpers like the prince of Persia with the beings ordained by God instead of those who are simply empowered by the evil in men's hearts.

We will also understand through these people's revelation what Jesus was talking about in **Matthew 24 & 25**, including the fact that He will judge nations, not just individuals. Unclean spirits will be controlling areas that Jesus will judge as goat nations.