

ORGANIZED FORCES OF GOOD

ASSESSING THE STRUCTURE OF GOD'S KINGDOM

Thesis: God's kingdom is a highly organized structure of concentric circles moving in a pattern of self-giving service. From every position in the structure each member is endowed with a certain level of responsibility and empowered with sufficient authority to engage in a constant outward-tending motion of ministry to others. God occupies the center point as the axis of all benevolent action. Angelic rulers and authorities surround Him as ministering sentinels on behalf of the human race, ever poised for action at the command of their Creator-King. Through the holy angelic forces God does all the good He possibly can in all the situations He possible can in response to the contingent factor of human cooperation.

The Concentric Structure of God's Kingdom

Ezekiel 1:1, 4-5, 16, 28—1 I saw visions of God... **4** Then I looked, and behold, a whirlwind was coming out of the north, a great cloud with raging fire engulfing itself; and brightness was all around it and radiating out of its midst like the color of Amber, out of the midst of the fire. **5** Also from within it came the likeness of four living creatures... **16** The appearance of their workings was, as it were, a wheel in the middle of a wheel... **28** This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord.

Revelation 4:2-6—2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne... **3** and there was a rainbow around the throne... **4** Around the throne were twenty-four elders... **6** and around the throne, were four living creatures.

Circle 1—The Three Who Are One

Deuteronomy 6:4—Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one!

1 John 5:7—For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.

1 John 4:8—God is love.

Circle 2—The Two Covering Cherubs

Exodus 25:18-22—18 You shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. **19** Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat. **20** And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat. **21** You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. **22** And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim, which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.

Isaiah 37:16—O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.

Circle 3—The Four Living Creatures

Revelation 4:6—Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.

NOTE: con-cen-tric 1. used to describe circles and spheres of different sizes with the same middle point 2. with a common axis, as when rotating elements are mounted on shafts that have a common center line.

NOTE: More likely the circle-shape of God's organizational structure is spherical rather than discus. Picture a massive three dimensional, ball-shaped clustering of beings surrounding God from every side and angle, rather than a flat structure of lined formations around Him.

NOTE: Literal translation—"Hear, O Israel! Yahweh, our Elohim, Yahweh is one." Or, the One is more than one and yet is One. There are two Hebrew words for "one," *Yacheed* and *Echad*. The first indicates singular unity, as in *one and only*. The second indicates compound unity, as in *the oneness of two or more*. *Echad* is the word used in this text, which make sense because it is preceded by the plural name of God, *Elohim*.

NOTE: See 1 Kings 6:23, 27.

Ezekiel 1:13-20—13 As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches going back and forth among the living creatures. The fire was bright, and out of the fire went lightning. **14** And the living creatures ran back and forth, in appearance like a flash of lightning. **15** Now as I looked at the living creatures, behold, a wheel was on the earth beside each living creature with its four faces. . . **16** The appearance of their workings was, as it were, a wheel in the middle of a wheel. **17** When they moved, they went toward any one of four directions; they did not turn aside when they went. **18** As for their rims, they were so high they were awesome; and their rims were full of eyes, all around the four of them. **19** When the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up. **20** Wherever the spirit wanted to go, they went, because there the spirit went; and the wheels were lifted together with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

Circle 4—The Twenty-four Elders

Revelation 4:4—Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.

Revelation 5:8-10—8 The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. **9** And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, **10** and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.”

Circle 5—The One Million Elite Angel-Rulers

Daniel 7:10—A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him. . .

Circle 6—The 100 Million Angel-Army

Daniel 7:10—A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him.

Circle 7—The Innumerable Company of Angels

Hebrews 12:23—You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels.

Focus Earth

Hebrews 1:14—Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation.

Matthew 26:53—Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?

Matthew 18:10—Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven.

John 1:51—Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.

Revelation 4:5—From the throne proceeded lightnings.

2 Kings 6:17—Elisha prayed, and said, “LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

NOTE: What is here described is a vast circular network of angelic beings in constant motion under the direction of the four living creatures. The whole system is intersecting with the earth, which means with peoples lives.

NOTE: “The four wheels had rims and they had spokes; and their rims were full of eyes round about” (RSV). The KJV uses “rings” instead of “rims.”

NOTE: Directed in unison like a well-regimented army of soldiers.

NOTE: Legion—“a legion, a body of soldiers whose number differed at different times, and in the time of Augustus seems to have consisted of 6826 men (i.e. 6100 foot soldiers, and 726 horsemen).” Strong’s.

“Behold Your God”—Isaiah 40:9