

Kingdom Age Spiritual Growth and Development

(This is #3 in the series “Coming Out of the Old Covenant”)

Within life in the world there are various spiritual levels that people are on. They may not know anything about where they are, but in relation to the Kingdom of God, which is the ruling force in the the spiritual and natural order, everyone can be categorized this way. There are those who are outside the Kingdom of God, and the there are those who are well on their way to becoming the New Jerusalem¹ which is the ultimate state in Father’s plans.

These various spiritual locations can be called ‘statuses’ or ‘states’ of understanding within the Kingdom of God. For those who are born again, these ‘states’ can represent the progress of their spiritual maturity as they travel down the “path”² towards their spiritual destination. Each person jumps from state to state as they receive new revelation, just like computer games like “Super Mario”. Each stage (state) expands a person’s experience and perspective as they progress to their ‘home’.

The diagram on the next page illustrates this journey of spiritual maturity as it applies currently, in this part of the Last Days. It will of course change as the Bride rises up over time to become who she is meant to be. New revelation will be released to allow the Bride to mature, so additional states are expected.

NOTE: This process wasn’t supposed to be as it is. Religion from the 1st Century destroyed the original growth and development of believers. This model is the present recovery process required to have us be where we’re supposed to be before the King returns.

(0) Anti-Christ

This is the base level, the state where everyone begins. We all start outside of God’s family because of the Fall. Atheists remain here, as do those who choose to serve the kingdom of darkness.

(1) Religion (Ante-Christ)

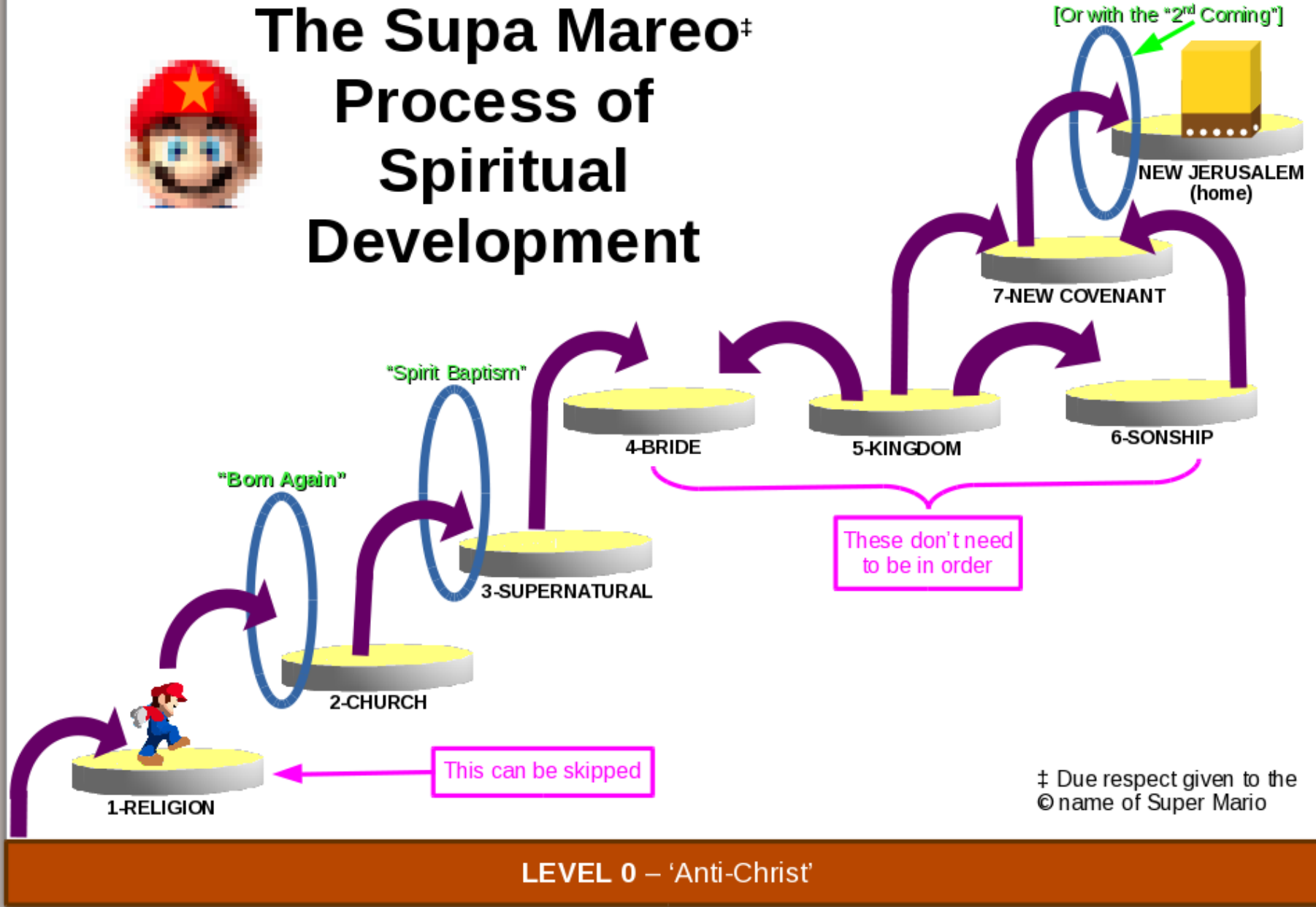
This state is the one where people belong who are sensitive to the spirituality of life and start looking for spiritual meaning. This is the status of all those who choose the Christian religion and who aren’t born-again. Many remain here all their lives, while others hear a call from Father who draws them to his Son, our King. Those who ascribe to other religions remain here also.

1 – See: Rick Joyner (2013) “The Path” (Fire on the Mountain - Book 1) MorningStar Ministries, Inc.

2 – Rick Joyner (2013) “The Path” (Fire on the Mountain - Book 1) MorningStar Ministries, Inc.



The Supa Mareo[‡] Process of Spiritual Development



‡ Due respect given to the © name of Super Mario

(2) Church

NOTE: The church³ is the whole of God's people, not an organisation or a building.

To be in the church, a person must be a member of God's family.⁴ They must have come in via the new birth that Jesus spoke of.⁵ There is no other way to be part of the genuine church than to be born again.⁶ This is the home of evangelical Christians as well as those from religious denominations who have been genuinely born again. The majority of genuine Christians seem to remain at this level.

(3) Supernatural

The NT adequately shows that the new birth should be followed immediately by an infilling of the Spirit.⁷ This is called the baptism of the Holy Spirit.⁸ This state was reinstated in modern times with the advent of the Pentecostals.⁹ It later infiltrated the denominations with the Charismatic Renewal.¹⁰ Most Pentecostals and Charismatics remain at this level seeing it as the pinnacle of spiritual life.

~~~ These next 3 don't need to be in order ~~~

## (4) Bride

An understanding of the supernatural leads many to look for the spiritual component of the Gospel as shown in the NT. Many also experience a touch of the presence of the Lord during certain spiritual experiences. These 2 combine to open the hearts of spirit-filled believers to seek a permanent spiritual connection with the Lord. Rather than being touched by the Spirit at church meetings, they are drawn by the Spirit to discover intimacy with the Lord and they find that this is what the teaching on the Bride is all about<sup>11</sup>. The Bridal paradigm<sup>12</sup> then becomes their highest state of achievement. Others go deeper here and explore oneness with the Lord which is his prime desire for us.<sup>13</sup>

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3 – The word church comes from the Greek work *ekklesia* which is translated as 'church' in English bibles. 'Church' comes from Old English *cir(i)ce*, *cyr(i)ce*, related to Dutch *kerk* and German *Kirche*, based on medieval Greek *kurikon*, from Greek *kuriakon* (*dōma*) 'Lord's (house)', from *kurios* 'master or lord'. (Google definition)

4 – The basic meaning of the Greek word *ekklesia*, usually translated in our Bibles as 'church', is 'gathering' or 'assembly'. It is an ordinary, rather than special religious word, and was used in this way by the New Testament authors (e.g. Acts 19:32; Romans 16:5; 1 Corinthians 14:19). The overwhelming majority of New Testament references to 'church' thus speak of a particular gathering or assembly of people, whether in Jerusalem or in Prisca and Aquila's house or in heaven around God's throne. There are indications that, as would seem natural, *ekklesia* came also to be used to describe these gatherings even when they weren't actually gathering—that is, to describe the group of people who met regularly in a particular place, whether or not they were physically meeting together at that time. ([matthiasmedia.com/briefing/2003/11/more-on-the-meaning-of-church](http://matthiasmedia.com/briefing/2003/11/more-on-the-meaning-of-church))

5 – John 3:3

6 – The Process: Romans 10:9

7 – This happened with Jesus (Matthew 3:16). Also to NT believers - Acts 8:15-17; 10:47 (See Acts 2).

8 – Coming from John the Baptist's statement recorded in Matthew 3:11 and Jesus' in Acts 1:5

9 – See [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentecostalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentecostalism)

10 – See [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charismatic\\_Movement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charismatic_Movement)

11 – See John 3:29; Revelation 19:7; 21:2; 21:9; 22:17. (See also Matthew 25:1-13)

12 – This term is used because the move to wanting to become the End-Time Bride of Christ requires a paradigm shift resulting from revelation.

13 – John 17:11, 22

## **(5) Kingdom**

Others who have experienced the spiritual highs of the Pentecostals and Charismatics systems realise that there has to be more than Sunday meetings and bible studies.<sup>14</sup> They realise that they are becoming just like Jesus of Nazareth in the way they think and operate.<sup>15</sup> But...Jesus didn't talk all the time about repenting and being saved, instead, he taught non-stop about the Kingdom of God.<sup>16</sup> Through revelation, which may come from scripture reading or from teaching, they realise that Jesus' purpose in coming as a man was not just to save us, but to bring us into his Father's Kingdom. This is a new paradigm for them – a new way of thinking and living. Now they are enthused to do more of what Jesus did in seeing Father's will done on Earth.

## **(6) Sonship**

A new revelation dawns on Kingdom citizens that they are sons of the Kingdom – sons of almighty God. They have known this from the start as they have read the statement that we are “sons of God”.<sup>17</sup> However, until this point it was only head knowledge. Once the knowledge of the Kingdom becomes a reality, they take hold of their rightful sonship. This level is Father's desire for his church. It is the place that Adam had before the Fall, and those who appropriate their sonship are drawn into all that Adam had in relationship with God.<sup>18</sup> The life of the believer in this state is one of privilege, favour, partnership, apprenticeship, as well as an expansion of their Kingdom assignments. Sons are trained so they can be skilled and trusted with the King's plans for planet Earth. Sons help prepare the Earth for the King's return.

## **(7) New Covenant**

The next level is one that many have not yet grasped hold of. The church system and theology has keep them bound in a state of fear so that they cannot fully graduate from the Old Covenant (OC) to the New Covenant (NC). They have not been freed from the Law, while some have made the 10 Commandments a centre-piece of their doctrine.

Actually, this stage should follow the Spirit-filling stage as part of a person's normal discipling, but it has not been so since the 1<sup>st</sup> Century.

The reason we don't understand how life and the Kingdom works is that we don't understand how we and God operate in covenant together. We may have studied covenants, but a solid grasp of the reality of it has eluded most Christians. We don't understand the progression of covenants because we have had a legalistic understanding of scripture. Because of this we don't understand how God acted under the OC and how acts differently under the NC.

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14 – See: Derek Brown (2012) "THERE'S GOT TO BE MORE: Rediscovering the Kingdom"

15 – Jesus preached the Gospel of the Kingdom, not the gospel of salvation (Mark 1:14-15; Matthew 4:23; 9:35; See also Matthew 24:14)

16 – Most of Jesus' parables were about the Kingdom and Kingdom principles. (e.g. Luke 13:18-21; Matthew 13:24, 44, 45, 47; 18:23; 20:1; 22:2; 25:14)

17 – Romans 8:14; 9:26; Galatians 3:26; 4:6

18 – Actually, directly with Son on Earth in Eden, not Father.

*“Because God always acts in accordance with the covenant He is in, we can know what He will do. And we can also know what He will not do! That is our new covenant relationship with God. If we know we have this type of relationship with Him, then we will know our hearts, and we will know His heart.”*<sup>19</sup>

The fault for the church is the teaching we’ve received. Instead of reading the scriptures and accepting them at face value, we’ve been taught that we need a clergy system to interpret them for us. This has resulted in the perpetuation of error down through the millennia as theological colleges, bible colleges and seminaries are all designed to keep doctrine constant – even if that means maintaining error.

*“[A] lack of understanding of the previous covenants can veil who God is. If we do not understand the old covenant, it becomes a veil that inhibits us from see His heart and knowing what He is like. Instead, we look at the old Mosaic covenant and live in fear of that covenant even though we are not under that covenant. The important fact people miss is that the old covenant was always a temporary covenant, and God promised from the very beginning to replace it with the circumcision of the heart, which is the new covenant<sup>20</sup>. Thus, the new covenant realm helps us understand how the King feels about us. So many Christians are trying to advance the Kingdom, but they don’t even know the heart of the King toward them.”*<sup>21</sup>

The problem for the majority of believers is that they have one foot in the OC and one in the NC. They wonder why they haven’t discovered the liberty and freedom of the Gospel.

*“One of the common mistakes is how people start to believe everything in the Bible is applicable to everyone. That is not true, because some of what is in the Bible is under the old covenant, under which no one currently lives. We can read and learn from these passages, but they are not applicable to us in the way they were to their original audience. As Paul said, “These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come”.<sup>22</sup> So we can learn from their examples, but we do not apply the Law or the old covenant situation to our lives. Some people have tried to say the Bible is a flat book and everything applies in the same way; it is all the will of God. This is very far from the truth of the new covenant presented in the New Testament. This is the reason why in the new covenant realm people do not mix the old and new covenants in their presentation.”*<sup>23</sup>

A revelation of total life in the NC will eliminate fear, legalism, end-time paranoia, etc.

## **(HOME) New Jerusalem**

We have been unaware that we are to become the New Jerusalem as part of our Kingdom growth and development. Sure we knew that the New Jerusalem comes down from heaven onto the site of the King’s throne in Jerusalem at the beginning of the Millennial Reign, but this is a different scenario. The information for this stage was released by the Lord through Rick Joyner in his prophetic experience documented in “The Path”.<sup>24</sup> Rick will be further instructed by our King and he will release more about it in future books.

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19 – Disrupting Culture (21 July 2015) “The Mystery of the Five Realms” ([disruptingculture.com/2015/07/21/the-mystery-of-the-five-realms](http://disruptingculture.com/2015/07/21/the-mystery-of-the-five-realms))

20 – Deuteronomy 29:12-30:6

21 – Disrupting Culture (21 July 2015) “The Mystery of the Five Realms” ([disruptingculture.com/2015/07/21/the-mystery-of-the-five-realms](http://disruptingculture.com/2015/07/21/the-mystery-of-the-five-realms))

22 – 1 Corinthians 10:11

23 – Disrupting Culture (21 July 2015) “The Mystery of the Five Realms” ([disruptingculture.com/2015/07/21/the-mystery-of-the-five-realms](http://disruptingculture.com/2015/07/21/the-mystery-of-the-five-realms))

24 – See: Rick Joyner (2013) “The Path” (Fire on the Mountain - Book 1) MorningStar Ministries, Inc.

Ron McGatlin has also begun to talk in terms of ‘New Jerusalem life’.

*“In the New Jerusalem lifestyle of the kingdom of God coming forth from heaven into the hearts of God’s maturing people, complete trust and faith are being restored to His people...The move of God on earth that is bringing forth the New Jerusalem life in the kingdom of God will never end. This move of God is coming forth now in the hearts and lives of God’s kingdom people in spots across the world. It is a supernatural inner move of the Spirit of God transforming our once Babylonian style life into New Jerusalem life of LOVE that produces complete TRUST in God and between the purified holy people of God.”<sup>25</sup>*

More on this at a later date when the full revelation has been revealed.

## Summary

The levels are highlighted by these characteristics:

Level 0 – Ignoring God. Running away from God. Living ignorantly. Selfish idolatry lifestyle.

Level 1 – Making you feel good. Placating your conscience. ‘Hedging your bets’ against the wrath of God.

Level 2 – Experiencing the reality of the spirit realm. Life-changing experience. Faith in salvation.

Level 3 – Experiencing the power and authority of the Kingdom of God. The miraculous. Development of real faith.

Level 4 – Having a personal relationship with Almighty God. Experiencing his passionate love. Having him meet your mental, emotional, spiritual, physical and other needs.

Level 5 – Working with God to see his will done on Earth. “Bringing Heaven to Earth”.

Level 6 – Entering into everything Adam lost in the Fall. Partnering with Father in his work. Operating in your full rights on Earth and in Heaven.

Level 7 – Being released to the freedom of sonship. Coming completely out of religion and legalism.

Level 8 – Unity with the saints. Complete oneness as the finale of the process of maturity.

Others?: Kingship – Ruling and reigning NOW, not just in the Millennial Reign.

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25 – Ron McGatlin (6-6-2015) "Spirit Connections" ([www.hiskingdomprophecy.com/spirit-connections](http://www.hiskingdomprophecy.com/spirit-connections))

## Conclusion

To hasten the spiritual growth & development of believers, proper discipling and teaching is needed. This will be an uphill battle as “Rick Joyner has commented that 90 percent of the Body in the West is stuck between the untrained and unprepared follower and the disciple stages.”<sup>26</sup>

**REFERENCE:** Inspiration and some content based on “The Mystery of the Five Realms” by Disrupting Culture.

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26 – Morris Ruddick (16-9-2015) “Covenant with Death” (strategicintercession.org/2015/09/covenant-with-death)