

What People Are Saying About Jack R. Taylor and *Cosmic Initiative*...

When I read *Cosmic Initiative*, it made me realize how blessed I am to call Jack Taylor my friend. Here is a book you won't be able to put down, because it focuses on things that matter when it comes to the Christian faith. It is written by a person who loves Jesus Christ, is unashamed of the Holy Spirit, and whose sole aim in life is to glorify God. Every sentence mirrors this commitment. Every sentence will draw you closer to God.

—R. T. Kendall

Author of sixty books

Former Senior Minister, Westminster Chapel, London

Twenty-five years ago, I was struggling to pastorally lead the church toward cultural relevance and gospel impact. A man who is deeply loved and admired humbly advised me that the only way to be consistently relevant was to seek and find the Kingdom. He was right! Today, I lead an international mission organization challenged by multicultural environments in more than seventy countries. Jack Taylor's advice those many years ago served to prepare me for this assignment. May *Cosmic Initiative* produce in you the same insatiable hunger that all "Kingdom adventurers" share for comprehending and agreeing with God's eternal rule and reign.

—Bill Snell

President, Missionary Ventures, International

In a world that is whirling in political crisis and turmoil, there is nothing more restorative, calming, and faith-building than picking up this book, *Cosmic Initiative*, and rediscovering that the Kingdom of God is the ultimate victor over Satan, fallen man, and all international chaos. Thank God for the Kingdom and for Jack Taylor's revelation of it!

—Charles Carrin

Charles Carrin Ministries, Boynton Beach, FL

Too often, the books we read are like a trickle from a clear, cool spring; we drink from them and are a little refreshed, a little less thirsty, but are left knowing that only more can satisfy. In contrast, reading *Cosmic Initiative* is like standing under the deluge of Niagara Falls! There is so much revelation to take in at once. One must revisit the pages pouring from the eternal, gushing river flowing from the Father's throne. Who could be trusted to pen the heart of eternity's Initiator? Who could sit before the expanse unfettered by time and space to describe the boundless Kingdom? And what could possibly describe God's intent? Jack Taylor is that man. *Cosmic Initiative* is that book. Are these words too great, too much, even overreaching? Only if Jack Taylor is less than I know him to be. Only if *Cosmic Initiative* is less than what heaven demanded.

—Brian Higbee

Author, *Living the Kingdom Life*

Senior Leader, CityChurch, Connellsville, PA

Jack Taylor's first book, *The Key to Triumphant Living*, was the very first book I was given that gave understanding and revelation that there was much more to the Christian life and relationship with Jesus than what I was currently experiencing. Since that day, Jack Taylor's books, teachings, and writings have been a guide to me in a remarkable, transformative journey that is beyond anything I could have imagined.

It is with great joy that I recommend Jack Taylor's book, *Cosmic Initiative*, as the crowning achievement of his life of revealing the heart of God to His creation. This deep yet clear revelation of the centrality of the Kingdom of

God to all that He is about in this world will assist you in getting the big picture of the Father's heart and purposes for us, which are much grander and more powerful than we could ever imagine. I will be including this book as required reading in our school here at Global Awakening, and I recommend it highly to you!

—*Mike Hutchings, DMin, ThD*

Director, Global School of Supernatural Ministry and
Director, Global Healing and Prophetic Certification Programs
The Apostolic Network of Global Awakening

COSMIC INITIATIVE



JACK R. TAYLOR

COSMIC
INITIATIVE

RESTORING THE KINGDOM,
IGNITING THE AWAKENING



WHITAKER
HOUSE

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COSMIC INITIATIVE:

Restoring the Kingdom, Igniting the Awakening

JackRTaylor.com

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This volume is dedicated to...

Friede:

my wife and “one heaven of a woman!”

My children and grandchildren:

Tim and his wife, Michelle; Blake and Brice

Tam and her husband, Bill Snell; Clay, Chris, and Tim

Kim and her husband, Mark Adams

My three great-grandsons:

Aiden, Austin, and Cashton

*And a growing host of hungry people with ravenous appetites for that
ultimate something worth dying for.*

Until we find that something worth dying for, we are not apt to
find anything worth living for. The truth this book addresses is
precisely the only reality worth dying for because it is the

summation of all reality:

THE COSMIC INITIATIVE

THE REASON I WRITE

When we preach, we carve in vapor;
When we write, we carve in stone.
What we preach will be forgotten;
What we write lives on and on.

These simple lines from an unknown author have escorted me
through hours of glorious and laborious writing.



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FOREWORD BY BILL JOHNSON

Cosmic Initiative has captured the heart and message of Jesus in a way that will capture your heart and transform your life. Here's why.

This past week, I had a conversation with someone who was lamenting her upbringing. There was no mention of ungodly parents or of abusive spiritual leaders in her church. From the sound of it, she was raised in a normal Christian environment where the message of salvation was preached week after week. Strangely, the very power and beauty of the message of salvation have caused many people to think that is all there is when, in fact, our salvation introduced us to a Savior who is also a King. And everything finds its purpose and fulfillment under His rule, which is called the Kingdom of God. Her sorrow was that only now, in the latter part of her life, had anyone told her about the Kingdom. You see, once the Kingdom is seen for what it is, it defines everything else.

The good news of the Kingdom of God was the message that Jesus preached, as did the apostle Paul and other New Testament writers. And most important for us, it was the message Jesus commissioned us to preach. By declaring the message of salvation in Jesus, we bring the opportunity for salvation to those who are listening. In God's economy, the declaration is what brings that reality into the room. So what happens when we preach the message of the Kingdom of God as a present reality? It ushers

in the realm of His rule, on earth as it is in heaven. Everything dramatically changes in the environment of His reign.

Tragically, the message of the Kingdom of God has been so marginalized that many who teach it are thought to be out of balance at best and cultic at worst. Books have been written and programs have been broadcast to undermine this message. These efforts are aimed at bringing the believer back into a “balance” that Jesus neither taught nor practiced. All of this activity seems to be driven by fear, fueled by an unwillingness to recognize that more could be available to us than what we presently know. Take note: fear-driven posturing contains neither power, love, nor a sound mind. (See 2 Timothy 1:7.) On the other hand, the evidence of the Holy Spirit’s presence and influence is liberty! The enemy of our souls does not want us to discover the fruit of this message.

In the same way that the Pharisees saw Jesus as a threat to their position of power and influence, many leaders today are threatened by a possible shift in theological position that might imply we’ve not been as successful in life and ministry as we could have been. The fight to protect the sanctity of our past has kept us from entering a more significant future. Additionally, a desire to be rescued from the darkness around us by the return of Christ has dulled our appetite to fulfill the assignment He gave us in the Great Commission. Make no mistake, Jesus’ return to earth will be glorious beyond anything we could possibly imagine! But our faith should be applied to the power of the gospel of the Kingdom. It’s time to believe the message Jesus gave us to preach, and to preach it boldly, for He is looking for us to bring Him the fruit of our labors—the transformation of entire cities and nations.

Jesus frequently taught using parables. He did so to illuminate one aspect or another of His Kingdom. From stories about mustard seeds to pearls to treasures in a field—all were used as illustrations to draw us into the journey of a lifetime, one that will continue throughout eternity. Interestingly, His parables also hid truth from those who were too preoccupied with their own kingdoms to care about the one that was supreme. By so doing, they evaded responsibility for the truth they were unwilling to follow. But for many others, Jesus’ stories and teachings awakened

something deep inside, making them willing to sacrifice everything to find the one great treasure of the Kingdom.

Jesus taught the Kingdom and illustrated the Kingdom. He performed miracles to reveal that His realm had come, having a measurable effect on the surrounding world, which had been marked by the works of the devil. And the things in our world that were inconsistent with His realm were automatically driven away. Every time this happened, it provided an opportunity for people to abandon what was inferior for what was superior—for what Jesus came to announce: “*the Kingdom of heaven is at hand*” (Matthew 4:17 NKJV)!

Cosmic Initiative carries this message. It expresses the heartbeat of God. Warning: reading this book with a humble heart will make it impossible for you to stay as you are. This book is an answer to prayer. We must have this profound message spoken by those with uncommon credibility throughout the body of Christ. And there are few that can match the favor given to the author of this book, Jack Taylor. His decades of faithful service to the various streams of the body of Christ that contribute to the river of God have earned him the right to speak with unusual authority and favor, for he who has loved well is well-loved. My prayer is that due to the regard given to him, multitudes of believers will once again embrace the commission that Jesus gave us: “*And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The Kingdom of heaven is at hand’*” (Matthew 10:7 NKJV).

I can personally testify that Jack Taylor has been a great strength and encouragement to me in ways that no one could possibly know. He understands what Jesus revealed when He taught us to pray, “*Our Father...: For Yours is the Kingdom...*” (Matthew 6:9, 13 NKJV). It’s a Father’s Kingdom—it’s family. Once we’ve left the subject of family, we’ve left the subject of the Kingdom of God. Jack Taylor lives to be an example and an encouragement in a fatherly way to countless numbers of people like me. I am eternally indebted to him for this gift. And now the grace that he carries is released through this book to all who read it. Page after page gives the reader insight, inspiration, and an insatiable hunger for the unlimited “more” found only in God’s Kingdom. I don’t know what more we could ask for from a book than personal transformation.

Cosmic Initiative will no doubt be an instant classic, marking this century with divine purpose like no other. It will ignite the hearts of a generation to sell everything to buy the field. It is with great pleasure that I can say to you, “Read this book, prayerfully.” And let us become the transformational generation that Jesus is longing for.

—*Bill Johnson*
Senior Leader, Bethel Church, Redding, CA
Author, *When Heaven Invades Earth* and
The Power That Changes the World



FOREWORD BY LEIF HETLAND

Cosmic Initiative, written by my spiritual father and best friend, Jack Taylor, is a masterpiece of excellent scholarship destined to become a classic. We do not hear a lot about the Kingdom at parties—it is not the juicy topic of the day. We do not hear a lot about the Kingdom of God at the local restaurant—it is not the buzzword of commerce. We do not hear a lot about the Kingdom at election debates—it is not at the top of today’s news. We don’t even hear a lot about the Kingdom in our churches—it is not a hot topic of discussion.

Yet from the moment you begin to spend time with the author, whom I call “Papa Jack,” it takes only a few moments before his passion for the Kingdom of God introduces you to the fullness of your citizenship in this heavenly realm. Papa Jack is Kingdom-possessed and is spreading a Kingdom virus that is highly contagious and will surely lead to a Kingdom epidemic.

In the year 2000, I was invited to attend a father and son meeting outside of Melbourne, Florida. It was during a wilderness season for me, a dark night of the soul, a winter season (or whichever way you describe it), and one of Papa Jack’s sons, Dennis Jernigan, told me, “Leif, I have a song for you. It is a daddy’s song.”

As I listened to this song, for the next two hours I experienced what I call waves of liquid love. These waves continued to wash over me as I lay on the floor, totally undone by the Father's love for me. The voice of the Father said, "Leif, you are My beloved son. I love you, and I am well pleased with you." I call this experience my "Baptism of Love."

Within six months of this happening, I was spending time with Papa Jack, and I asked him to tell me about the Kingdom and what it would look like when heaven invaded earth. Papa Jack looked at me and said, "Son, I do not know. All I know is that the Kingdom will only be entrusted through family. The Kingdom is a family business, and our Father wants to extend His business into every nation, tongue, and tribe through sons and daughters."

For the next five years, I became a student of the Kingdom. In early 2005, I spent several days with Papa Jack and Mama Friede, listening to revelation on the Kingdom. I left their condo in Florida with a treasure chest full of Kingdom wealth. I found out sometime later that after I left, Papa Jack looked at Friede and said, "That boy is in for a lot of trouble. He thinks you can study the Kingdom, but what he doesn't know is that the Kingdom is studying him! He thought he came to get the Kingdom, but what he doesn't realize is that the Kingdom is about to get him!"

In May 2006, after another five months of hell, I surrendered to King Jesus and His unshakable Kingdom. Every single thing in my life became part of the King's personal property. For the past ten years, I have been on a daily journey with Papa Jack as a Kingdom citizen immersed in a Kingdom culture called family. Through family, we are learning to live from heaven toward earth.

"Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10 NIV) is our prayer. *"Seek first the Kingdom"* (Matthew 6:33) is our priority. *"Preaching the gospel of the Kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people"* (Matthew 4:23 NKJV) is our passion. *"This gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations"* (Matthew 24:14 NIV) is our purpose.

Jesus never stopped talking about the Kingdom; neither has Papa Jack. This book is a blueprint that empowers you to live as a Kingdom citizen.

As ambassadors of the Kingdom, we have a profound guide in *Cosmic Initiative* to live a naturally supernatural lifestyle in the Kingdom—a vision for which Jesus lived and died that will transform individuals, families, churches, cities, nations, and cultures.

For anyone who desires the key to experiencing heaven on earth, this book is a must-read. Its pages are full of Kingdom treasure, and I encourage you to seek it out. But chew it slowly, for it is a meaty substance.

—*Leif Hetland*

Founder and president, Global Mission Awareness
Speaker and author, *Seeing Through Heaven's Eyes*



A WORD FROM MY SON, TIM P. TAYLOR

I have had the double privilege of knowing Jack Taylor as my father both physically and spiritually—something I do not take for granted. My dad amazes me with his ability to continue to learn even after most people his age have long retired. He has written over a dozen books, and this will be his tenth book penned solely by himself. Hopefully, this will not be his last work, but will prove to be his most important book yet. *Cosmic Initiative* stands to eclipse all the rest, including his first book, *The Key to Triumphant Living*, which has over one million copies in print. This work is his most ambitious undertaking to date as it seeks to explain the unexplainable, describe the indescribable, and measure the immeasurable.

If you are unfamiliar with the Kingdom of God, you haven't met Jack! For the past twenty years, the Kingdom has been his obsession in a most healthy and inspiring way. He was the leader of the band for many people in discovering the Holy Spirit, and the foundation for even more to embrace a lifestyle of worship. This book will place him at the head of the throng that has been revived to pursue the Kingdom first!

The Kingdom of God is the central theme of the universe, and it calls us to discover it, to declare it as present today, and to demonstrate it with

power on earth as it is in heaven. In my honest and unbiased assessment, Jack Taylor is one of the best authors I have ever read, and until you have read his take on any subject of spiritual significance, you have not considered all there is to know.

We have missed the alignment that only the Kingdom of God brings. Jack Taylor has discovered and now declares the divine power of the Kingdom that brings order to the chaos of this earth. It is the Kingdom that, once discovered, is our privilege to declare and our obligation to demonstrate in power to transform lives, homes, churches, communities, nations, and the world.

God is present, and His Kingdom is advancing. Will you be a part of the end-time harvest that will make the kingdoms of this world the Kingdom of our God and King? I pray that as you read this work, you will find heaven invading earth, just as we pray, “*Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven*” (Matthew 6:10 κϿν)! Read this book at your own risk; doing so may be hazardous to your status quo!

—*Tim P. Taylor*

Son, co-laborer, and publisher
Dimensions Ministries and Burkhart Books



PART 1

CULTIVATING A COSMIC
(KINGDOM) VIEW



1



OUR COSMIC CONNECTION

About twenty years ago, I discovered what I have come to view as the truth of all truths. By this, I mean the one certainty among the multitude of truths in the universe that encompasses all the others. It is the overarching truth that refreshes, refines, and enhances the other truths as it sheds light on genuine reality.

Putting the Pieces Together

This primary truth is like the image on the front of a jigsaw puzzle box that shows what the completed picture will look like. Before we begin to put together a jigsaw puzzle, we have only scattered piles of small, uncelebrated pieces that have some meaning but are incomplete in their separateness. As we work on the puzzle, our eyes frequently glance from the individual puzzle pieces (and the parts we have been able to piece together so far), to the completed picture on the box. Determining to make sense of apparently unrelated parts, and persevering in the task, we slowly begin to see the formation of something recognizable. Our growing ability to see how the parts fit together touches our soul with a sense of satisfaction and success. By the end, we have taken many separate pieces and rearranged them, putting them into their proper position, thereby

creating an image that replicates the original. All the pieces, in context, now make sense.

Working a jigsaw puzzle requires first beholding the big picture; then, progress and completion come by finding the pieces that make up the whole and fitting them into place. Likewise, what I discovered some years ago about the truth among truths—the overarching framework of the universe—is that it gives us a clearer picture of spiritual reality so that all the pieces of our life and faith can “fit” together as they were meant to, and in ways we never would have envisioned.

What is this all-encompassing truth? It is none other than the reality and centrality of God’s eternal Kingdom. When we develop a Kingdom mind-set, we comprehend God’s ultimate purposes for humanity and how He is accelerating those plans today. Knowing what we are really aiming for helps us to assemble our individual ideas and knowledge about God into a coherent whole, uncovering hidden spiritual purpose, giving accumulated biblical knowledge new meaning, and unlocking liberating truths.

Connecting with the Kingdom

From childhood, I have suspected that there was some kind of connection between life on earth and the greater universe. I was a little towheaded farm boy who lived so far out in the country that we hunted *toward* town. Growing up in the open spaces where the sky stretched high over the horizon, it was impossible for me not to notice its remarkable displays of beauty. There were no human structures or bright city lights to block my view of the night sky and its myriads of stars. I was so enamored with the star-filled heavens that I often found myself imagining being up there among them or traveling through them to the distant reaches of the universe. I faintly remember feeling that there was something or Someone greater out there to which, or to whom, I was related.

It wasn’t long after I began stargazing that my “looking” turned inward, and I found my connection with that Someone greater when I received Christ at age ten and became related to the One upon whom the government of the cosmos has been placed. (See Isaiah 9:6.) But it would

take many years before I recognized my true place in His cosmos—His Kingdom.

As a new believer, I soon felt a call to preach, and I yielded to this call at the age of fourteen, the same year I preached my first sermon (I have now been preaching for more than sixty-eight years!). This was the first step into a life I could not have imagined in my wildest dreams. To this day, I remember something of the mixture of terror and thrill that filled my soul at the thought that “little old me” was saved, forgiven, and, of all things, called to preach the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ.

I had a voracious appetite for truth—all forms of truth, but none was as keen, appealing, and attractive to me as biblical truth. Still, I had no one to disciple or mentor me. I didn’t even know how to spell the word *disciple*, much less what it referred to. I had a wonderful father, but he was not a spiritual man. And I knew nothing about spiritual fathers, so I didn’t even look for one to fill this role in my life.

Not only did I preach my first sermon at fourteen, but I also began to study for the ministry at that young age. Subsequently, I graduated from high school at fifteen and from college at nineteen. I married at twenty and immediately began my theological training. And I have been studying the things of God and His church ever since.

During much of that time, the structure of my theology was similar to those individual puzzle pieces I described above. I learned about atonement, regeneration, propitiation, justification, sanctification, and glorification. I explored eschatology (the study of last things), Christology (the study of Jesus, the Christ), theology (the study of God), pneumatology (the study of the Holy Spirit), soteriology (the study of salvation), and bibliology (the study of the Bible)—*ad infinitum!*

In the middle of all this, I was wonderfully filled with the Spirit and began to slowly understand the ways of God more specifically and personally. I learned about the “deeper life,” the “higher life,” the “Spirit life,” and the “exchanged life.” I treasured these truths, enjoying the rich spiritual benefits I received from them.

Looking back, I can do nothing but praise the Lord for my theological training and for being filled with the Spirit, but I still grieve to this day

over the fact that I had no one to father me in the faith or teach me what was most important. I am therefore grateful that, one day, my heavenly Father opened to me the revelation of His Kingdom. With this experience, something shifted in my mind and in the depths of my soul, so that I began to see things in a new way. The reality of God's Kingdom and all that it involved began to ignite in me. It was all I could think about.

However, I had no place to put this exploding revelation among the multiple topics of my studies or even my experiences in the Spirit. Then I saw it! It wasn't supposed to "fit" among all the other parts of my theology because all those parts were just that: "parts" of the whole realm of God's character, nature, and reign, and my relationship with Him. I started to see the Kingdom of God as the center of my faith and theology, but even more than that, I saw it as "everything" that mattered and inclusive of everything I had ever known and everything I would ever learn about God and His sovereign rule. Little in the total landscape of my beliefs changed, but everything in my life began to take on a new order as ideas, convictions, and questions escalated toward what I now understand as the wholeness of a Kingdom perspective. What became the focus of my thinking cast its blessed shadow from center to circumference and brought new meaning to each individual part of the picture.

*With the revelation of God's Kingdom,
something shifted in my mind and
in the depths of my soul.*

For example, when I first heard the good news that "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life," I was impressed by this message but clueless as to its full meaning. It had only slightly occurred to me that when I was saved, the life of God in Jesus Christ came to live inside me, and that I was suddenly a "house" where God the Father, God the Son, and God the

Holy Spirit lived. I certainly hadn't heard that the gospel was connected to a Kingdom that is larger than the universe, and that salvation ushered me into a "cosmic" realm and eternal connection with the Creator that would not only enable me to have fellowship with Him, but also fulfill my purpose of advancing His Kingdom on earth. I didn't have an understanding of God's eternal, omnipotent, and omnipresent realm—a view that now gave me a new way of living as it aligned the various elements of my life according to His will.

My story, and the stories of many others (such as the woman Bill Johnson mentioned in his foreword to this book), show that it is possible to love God and be a Christian for many years but miss the true center of one's faith. We may understand an essential part, such as our much-needed salvation in Christ, but miss the key to personal and cultural transformation. Or we may understand many aspects of the Christian life, such as discipleship and the necessity of being filled with the Spirit, but still overlook its underlying reality and foundation. We may hear and proclaim the gospel of redemption in Jesus but not necessarily comprehend and communicate the complete *gospel of the Kingdom* that Jesus announced and demonstrated on earth. (See, for example, Matthew 14:14.)

I do not claim to be a prophet or even the descendant of a prophet (I can't find a single one in my family tree), but I venture to prophesy this: the greatest truths we will learn in future years will prove to lie just beneath the surface of what we thought we knew next to everything about, all because we have been reintroduced to the Kingdom of God through the Holy Spirit!

I have never lost my childhood fascination with the universe; it has only grown throughout the years. As I revisit scenes in my memory of that little country tyke lying on his back, his body resting in the cool grass of a summer night—sensing that he could somehow fit himself into that awesome, starry scene up in the sky—I remember feeling that making that connection would be a dream come true. I now know that what I suspected about reality at that time was well founded. I am more convinced than ever that what I envisioned at a young age about my inherent relation to the universe was correct—yet it goes far beyond my boldest, highest youthful expectations, and its spiritual reality is deeper than I ever imagined.

What Is the Kingdom of God?

I have learned much in the last twenty years of Kingdom study and experience. But do you know what? I still feel like a rookie when it comes to the Kingdom! I've discovered that an expanded understanding of the Kingdom must involve a continual readiness on our part to change our minds about many things, as well as to accept Kingdom revelation that leads us above our previous conceptions. Could this be the reason John the Baptist said, "*Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand!*" (Matthew 3:2 NKJV)? Or why Jesus Himself said, and I paraphrase: "Change your mind, because a new day has dawned, the Kingdom of heaven is here!?" (See Matthew 4:16–17.)

Developing a Kingdom mind-set begins with learning the nature of the Kingdom. The word *kingdom* itself begs definition, especially in a democratic society where the term is seldom used and even less understood. Any kingdom on earth includes three things: a king or queen, kingdom citizens, and the principles that characterize the relationship between the two. Or, to put it succinctly: a sovereign ruler; those who are ruled; and "rules." The Kingdom of God has those same elements, but on the highest plane, and His Kingdom exemplifies His divine nature and character. There are many kingdoms, but the Kingdom of God is one of a kind, and it is the only one that deserves the title "*the Kingdom.*" For this reason, all references to God's Kingdom in this book are capitalized.

An Eternal Kingdom with Two Expressions

God is eternal, without beginning and without end; therefore His Kingdom is eternal. A proper definition of the Kingdom must actually be twofold—the present Kingdom and the ultimate Kingdom; or, as one author put it, the "now" and the "not yet." To begin, here is the definition of the ultimate, eternal Kingdom:

God's rule (reign) over everything and everybody, everywhere, in eternity, past, present, and future.

As it says in the Psalms,

The LORD has established His throne in heaven, and His Kingdom rules over all.
(Psalm 103:19)

As we will see in coming chapters, the Kingdom of God is inclusive of all reality, seen and unseen, telescopic and microscopic. Thus, we may say with accuracy that God’s Kingdom is nothing if not cosmic; it covers all that exists, everywhere—past, present, and future; visible and invisible.

Additionally, the Kingdom of God is cosmic because it originates beyond the confines of our world. In my dictionary, *cosmos* is defined as a “complete and orderly system.”¹ Cosmologists have defined the universe, or cosmos, as “all that is.” While I agree with their definition, I really don’t think they are saying “all” in reference to *everything*, which includes not only the totality of physical realities like matter, heat, energy, gravity, and biological life, but also the totality of unseen spiritual realities that cannot be measured by the physical senses or empirical methods. Thus, “all that is” is much more than what can be experientially observed or detected.

Next is the definition of the present Kingdom:

The emerging order of God through Christ in the affairs of humankind on earth.

Even though I have presented two definitions, it’s essential to understand that there are not two separate kingdoms but one heavenly Kingdom with differing expressions in eternity and time. In its ultimate expression, the Kingdom of God is eternal; there has never been a time when it did not exist, and there will never be a time when it ceases to exist. In its present expression, the Kingdom is the manifestation on earth (often hidden from human senses, but revealed to those who are spiritually attuned) of what has always existed in eternity past: namely, the rule of God as Creator and Sustainer of the universe—what the late Myles Munroe called “God’s Big Idea.”

The Kingdom’s manifestation on earth began in the heart of God, as did the entire physical universe—life, light, matter, time, order, and everything else. Creation was the scene of the visible, tangible beginning of

1. Michael Agnes, ed., *Webster’s New World Dictionary and Thesaurus* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1996).

everything that exists in our world. God launched His sovereign rule over everything He created to live on the newly fashioned earth. Most significantly, He established the visible realm in order to found a family of human beings who would reflect His own person, purpose, and power. This family would immediately inherit and eventually inhabit the created world and, under the rule of their Creator, establish His government throughout the realm.

Early in the biblical record, God made these intentions for humankind clear and concise:

God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth." So God created man in His own image; He created him in the image of God; He created them male and female. (Genesis 1:26–27)

Based on the above, let me now present this expanded definition of the Kingdom:

The Kingdom of God is the eternal rule of God over everything and everybody, everywhere, for all time and eternity. It is above time yet envelops time; it transcends time and endures time. A million billion ages ago, God's Kingdom existed; a million billion years from now, it will still exist. Being eternally permanent, it wins the right to be called "everything," because everything else is either encompassed by it—or will ultimately cease to be.

Do you completely understand the words you have just read? I confess I don't! But I believe them with all my heart. I stand by my conviction that the Kingdom of God is supreme reality—and the greatest theme in the universe. Ultimate reality does not depend upon, and is not defined by, visibility or tangibility but upon permanence. In my view, the revelation of the Kingdom has almost completely disappeared from the eyes and ears of today's church. However, it has been present the whole time, ruling in the lives of those who have been willing to spiritually see it and hear it. Some of God's people have seen and heard it all along, and many more are beginning to see, hear, and speak about what they are now seeing and hearing!

I call God's purpose and plans for His Kingdom on earth His *cosmic initiative*. When I first sought to define the Kingdom many years ago, this description struck a nerve deep in my spirit. Because the ultimate Kingdom exists from eternity to eternity, the Kingdom has been present, though largely invisible, in every age of human history on planet Earth and in the cosmos. Thus, the ultimate Kingdom guarantees the existence of the present Kingdom. This poses no conflict to either expression. In fact, both complement each other, guarantee each other, and reflect each other.

*The Kingdom of God is supreme reality and
the greatest theme in the universe.*

Again, the Kingdom of God on earth exists because the eternal Kingdom has always existed. We do not lose one in pursuing the other. To pursue both expressions is to pursue the whole Kingdom. To focus on one expression to the neglect of the other is to do disservice to both.

God's Kingdom in the Affairs of Humanity

Because God is all in all and Christ is all in all, the Kingdom is all in all. I am becoming increasingly aware of why we call the gospel of the Kingdom "good news"! It's bigger and better than we ever thought or can fathom. And whatever God is up to, we are in on it. We are related as next of kin to the One who created everything and has made us to share in His eternal plans. (See Ephesians 3:20.)

Human history's greatest truth, therefore, is the reality of the Kingdom of God on earth. We were designed by God, our Creator-King, to be children in His royal family, and to rule with Him in His Kingdom. This book is your invitation to an amazing journey of discovering the Kingdom of God

and all it offers. To enter into the life of God’s eternal realm, where its sights, sounds, and sensations will shatter the borders of your consciousness and probe the length, depth, and breadth of your imagination. This is not the pursuit of a single spiritual “experience,” no matter how helpful and healing those can be. This is a commitment to a process of Kingdom transformation that will never cease but continue and expand throughout eternity.

A Vast Kingdom Landscape

In the physical realm, I am continually captured by the various masterpieces God paints in His sunrises—all similar, but none exactly the same. On my iPhone and computer, I have hundreds of photographs of sunrises that defy sameness and ignite my anticipation of seeing a new “original” every morning. Similarly, I am joyfully overwhelmed at the new landscape of the Kingdom I see that challenges my imagination every day. I know I am part of God’s great cosmos, His Kingdom—and so are you and everyone else who has a relationship with our Creator-Father through His Son, Jesus Christ.

In the decades since I first discovered the all-encompassing truth of the Kingdom, I have been filled with sheer joy and increasing excitement and expectation. This is the reason I can say to you now, as Jesus did when He first proclaimed the message, “*The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand*” (Mark 1:15 NKJV)! Even now, the landscape of the Kingdom is becoming increasingly clearer to me; the high privilege of relating to the Father-Creator is growing more captivating; and my part in God’s order seems even more riveting. I hope that you will feel the same as you progress through this book. Welcome to what I pray will be some “highs” as you discover Kingdom insights. But much more than that, I pray that when you come down from those highs, you will walk and talk Kingdom for the remainder of your life!

A Kingdom Prayer

I conclude this first chapter with the following prayer, which has been posted on my bookshelf at eye level above my computer throughout the

writing of *Cosmic Initiative*. Before you picked up this book to read it, you were prayed for many times that you would receive the revelation of the Kingdom. I believe my prayers have already been answered. God says, “*Even before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear*” (Isaiah 65:24).

Lord, bless the life of the one whose hands open the cover of this book and turn its pages with a powerful anointing to relentlessly pursue not only the King, but His Kingdom and its truths written here, and the vast, boundless and borderless realm of truth that will be unfolding into the ages of eternity! In Jesus’ name, amen.