

BOB MUMFORD

Chaos and the Kingdom**Session 1****Three Vital Lessons**1) Kingdom Dimension

● Mark 8:33

But turning around [His back to Peter] and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, Get behind Me, Satan! For you do not have a mind intent on promoting what God wills, but what pleases men [you are not on God's side, but that of men].

● Mark 8:34

And Jesus called [to Him] the throng with His disciples and said to them, If anyone intends to come after Me, let him deny himself [forget, ignore, disown, and lose sight of himself and his own interests] and take up his cross, and [joining Me as a disciple and siding with My party] follow with Me [continually, cleaving steadfastly to Me].

● Mark 8:35

For whoever wants to save his [higher, spiritual, eternal] life, will lose it [the lower, natural, temporal life which is lived only on earth]; and whoever gives up his life [which is lived only on earth] for My sake and the Gospel's will save it [his higher, spiritual life in the eternal kingdom of God].

2) Agape: Source & End Result

Agape may abound

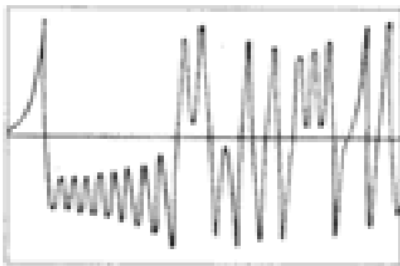
- a. In real knowledge
- b. In spiritual discernment
- c. You may approve things that are excellent
- d. You may be sincere and blameless
- e. You may be filled with fruit of righteousness
- f. To the glory and praise of God

3) Three Vital Issues

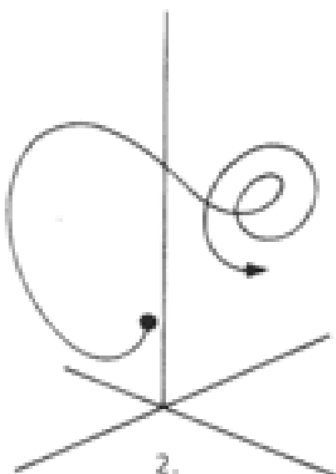
- **Run, Hide, Shift Blame:** The universal and ultimate human response.
 - Reality and presence of the Fall.
 - Simple, unifying factor of human race.
 - Definition of humility from Luther: Humility is self-knowledge that has been perfected.

- **Chaos: a synonym for the coming of the Kingdom**
 - God's sovereignty/ability to employ 'all things'
 - Confusion, both moral and ethical, sorted by the separation of light and darkness

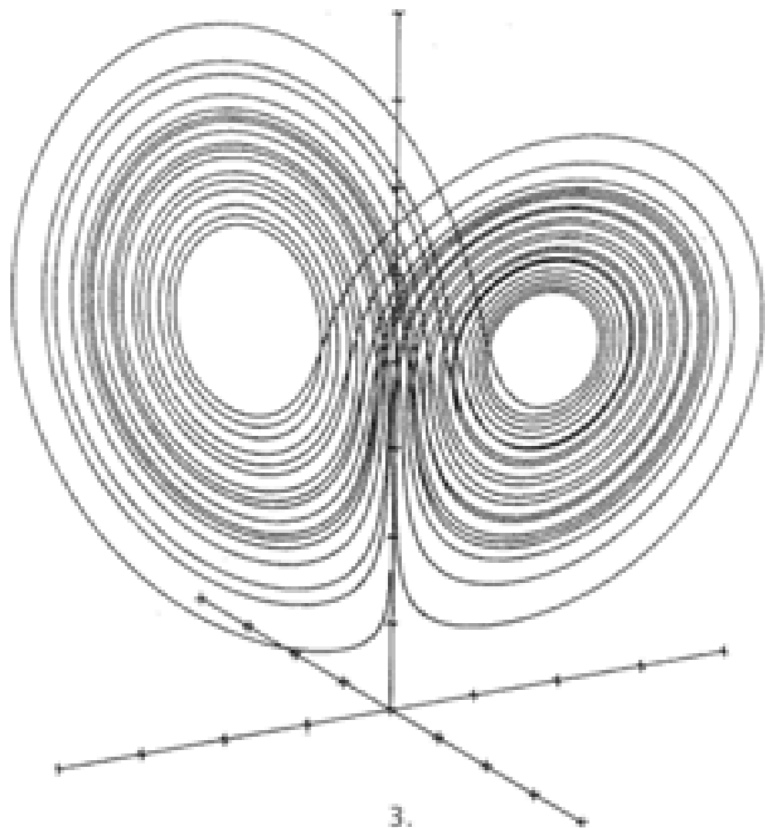
Strange Attractor



1.



2.



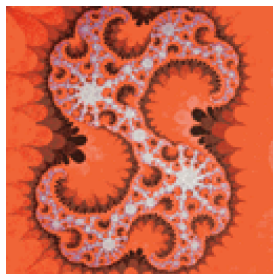
3.

Three-winged Bird: A Chaotic Strange Attractor

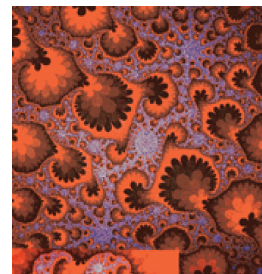


Julia Set Fractal

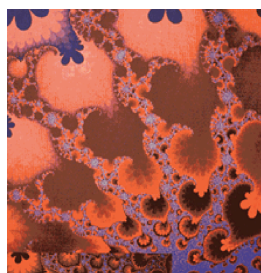
Initial Fractal



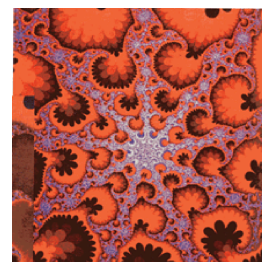
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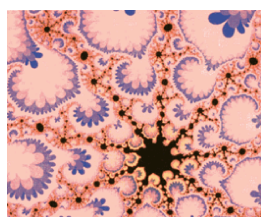
Magnification 1 million



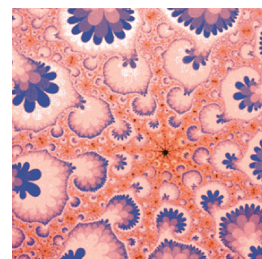
Magnification 1 billion

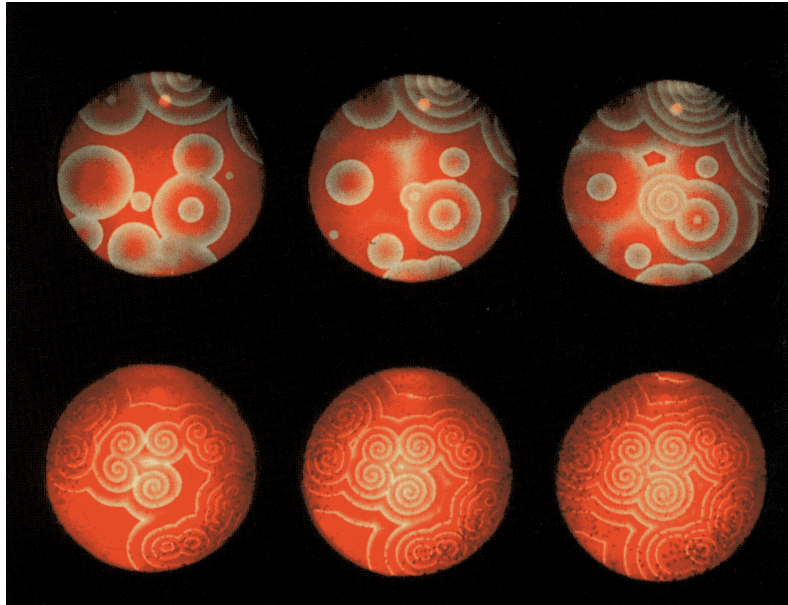


Magnification 40 billion



Magnification 1 trillion



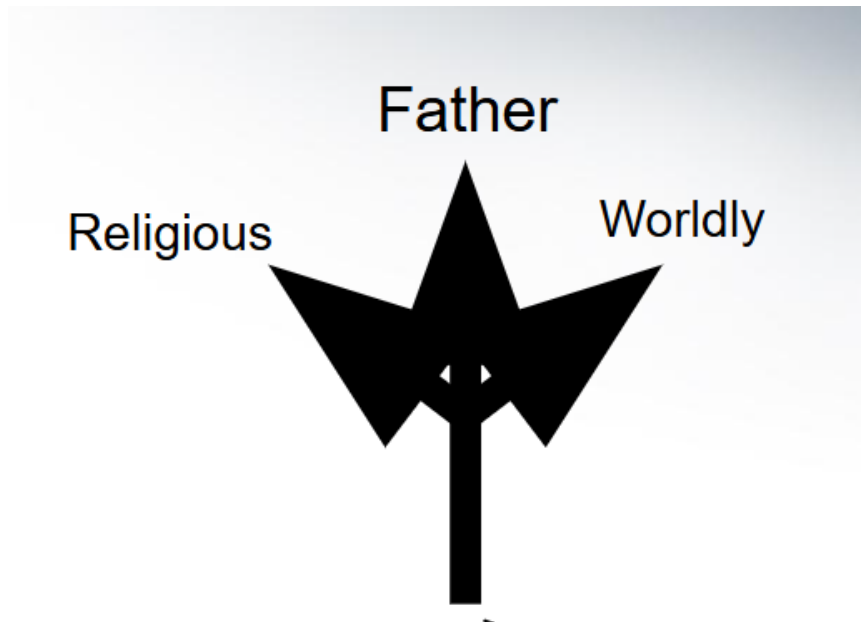
Spiral Patterns

- **Chaos: a synonym for the coming of the Kingdom**
 - Diagram of the Kingdom dimension from cosmos
 - The biblical thrust of 'all things' demands/expects continual re-invention which results in unending renewal.

4) Abiding

A faith response to chaos, coming from my preferential choice, coming from Agape and not Eros.

1. Defined: Abiding is my refusal to look for answers or a 'life-source' outside of the Person of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Kingdom hope is reliance upon grace in the face of death, human failure and antagonism (John 18:36)
2. Result: The predictable result of abiding is Father's glory being revealed. Our personal responses are focused on Father's purpose, as compared to personal success or survival.
3. Abiding is the only possible and biblical route that allows us to cease running, hiding and shifting blame. We do this both in the religious and the worldly sense:

Illustration of Skill of Abiding

- **Abiding Transcends Time**

Abiding transcends time as the 5th dimension. We are now 'drawing on the powers of the age to come.' The freedom, for which the entire creation waits, has been placed in these Styrofoam cups by an entirely Sovereign God, Who is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

5) Sixth Dimension

- We now introduce the 6th dimension by the use of these two well-known Scriptures:
 - Isa. 64:4: For from of old no one has heard nor perceived by the ear, nor has the eye seen a God besides You, Who works and shows Himself active on behalf of him who [earnestly] waits for Him.
 - 1 Cor. 2:9 But, on the contrary, as the Scripture says, What eye has not seen and ear has not heard and has not entered into the heart of man, [all that] God has prepared (made and keeps ready) for those who love Him [who hold Him in affectionate reverence, promptly obeying Him and gratefully recognizing the benefits He has bestowed]. [Isa. 64:4]

6) Man or Woman of Truth

- We have come to the point of becoming a man or woman of TRUTH. We must learn to abide so that in the chaos and when under pressure, we are able to stand:
 - Political system (Rome)
 - Religious system (Judaism)
 - Social demands and tradition
 - Economic system (Mammon)

7) Truth in Negative Appearance

- Truth is always negative in its first appearance. Chaos which leads to conflict. Conflict which seeks to reveal God's Person, His Truth.
 - a. Truth is the coming of the Kingdom
 - b. Kingdom is God's glory and His will being done on earth
 - c. Father's will is freedom as He promised.

8) Loss of Fear (1 John 4:17-19)

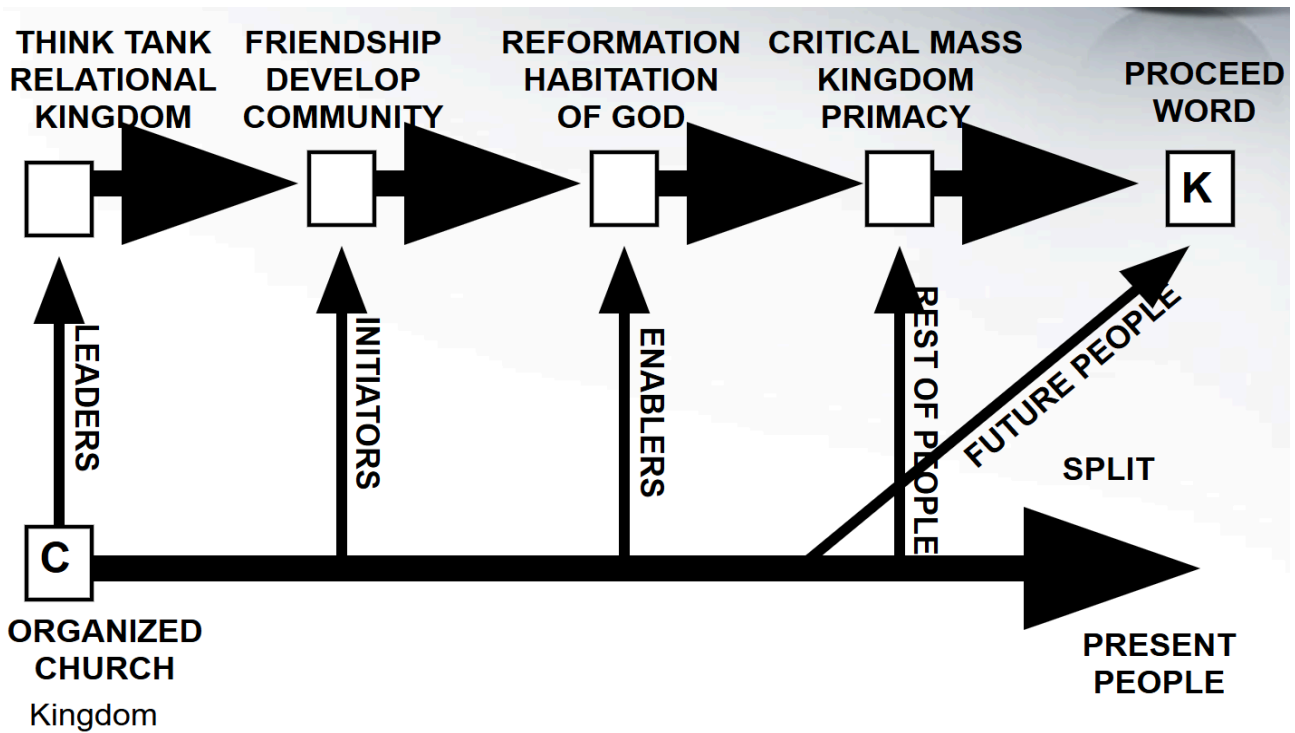
Abiding is the only route to the loss of fear. Only those who understand the necessity of '*Agape perfected*' grasp the cessation of *fear*.

- a. *Fear* is the source of all false and injurious actions and reactions.
- b. *Fear* that there will not be enough = Greed
- c. *Fear* that we will be discovered = Lies
- d. *Fear* of coming judgment - religious good works

Session 2

The Two Track Theory

1) Two Tracks



2) Clarifying the Issues

- 9. Abiding
- 8. Hope
- 7. Bread of God
- 6. Freedom
- 5. Agape Incarnate
- 4. Sower
- 3. Treasure/Pearl
- 2. New Birth
- 1. Dead

1. DEAD

- A. Nicodemus, 'dead' / in need of the new birth
- B. Bound to five dimensions: height, depth, length, breadth, time
- C. First track potential: to return to that which is dead

- D. Nicodemus saw healing, exorcism, raising of the dead, signs and wonders as *political*.
- E. What must Nicodemus 'do' in order to participate in this new government?
- F. He wants to 'taste of the powers of the age to come.' This is the 6th dimension.
- G. We are instructed not to neglect or refuse Him who speaks from heaven.
- H. What would 'returning to Judaism' do for Nicodemus who was a teacher in Israel?
- I. In the parable of the Treasure/Pearl, effort is evoked by that which we discover or perceive. It is not demanded.
- J. On the two-level theory, Judaism is the 'present people' and the Kingdom is the 'future people'.
- K. The division is inevitable, inexorable, consequential; it demands we abide.
- L. The division is to be healed sometime in the future as stated by Paul (Rom. 9-11)
 - 1- Judaism and Moses are not the treasure or the pearl (Matt. 21:43).
 - 2- Dry ground of the institutional and traditional (Isa. 53:1-3)
 - 3- Treasure/Pearl is the New Jerusalem with it's Kingdom dimensions.
- M. Every institution has the propensity to move **down**, out of the realm of the supernatural where there is an absence of the predictable and control. Chaos, as the coming of the Kingdom, moves us **up** toward the supernatural.
- N. The Kingdom dimension is the only possible route to Reformation (Rom. 8:19-21).
- O. Everything else is the 'Bread of Man' not the 'Bread of God' (John 6:33).
- P. We can only give the Bread of God when we develop the skill of abiding in the midst of chaos (John 18:36).

2. NEW BIRTH

- A. Unless we have experienced the New Birth, we cannot (*adunatos*) **see** the dimension of God's Kingdom, let alone **enter** that dimension. It is impossible to enter that which we cannot see or perceive.
- B. Just because we can see the 6th dimension does not automatically imply that we have entered that dimension.

1 Pet. 1:20-23

It is true that He was chosen and foreordained (destined and foreknown for it) before the foundation of the world, but He was brought out to public view (made manifest) in these last days (at the end of the times) for the sake of you.

Through Him you believe in (adhere to, rely on) God, Who raised Him up from the dead and gave Him honor and glory, so that your faith and hope are [centered and rest] in God. Since by your obedience to the Truth through the [Holy] Spirit you have purified your hearts for the sincere affection of the brethren, [see that you] love one another fervently from a pure heart.

You have been regenerated (born again), not from a mortal origin (seed, sperm), but from one that is immortal by the ever living and lasting Word of God.

- This is the spiritual entrance to the 6th dimension.
- Note in verse 20 that this begins before the foundation of the world.

3. TREASURE AND THE PEARL

- This Kingdom has the supernatural, the door to the 14+ dimensions of God's Own Eternity. Seek this Kingdom first, above all else.
- The effort is expended only as a result of what we have discovered, never demanded. It is hidden, spiritual, and does not come with observation.

4. THE SOWER OF THE SEED

- A. The implications of that parable now seem to come into focus.
- B. The Kingdom is political, destined to upset, confuse, and reinvent the establishment.
- C. The seed is stolen, opposed, trampled, compromised, and fruitful.
- D. All of which is a commentary on the skill of abiding.

5. AGAPE INCARNATE

At the Incarnation, man is drawn up into God's Eternity.

Col. 1:15

**Agape does not fail, nor disappear; this is the substance of God, Himself.
He is Uncreated, Eternal, Infinite, and therefore, Unshakable.**

Bob Mumford