

## "Thy Kingdom Come"

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INSIGHT and understanding of the nature, laws, principles and privileges of this heavenly realm were somewhat limited during ancient dispensations. These men were, therefore, the more noteworthy for their attainments. John the Baptist made the first hitherto unheard announcement, "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" Never before such an announcement! Jesus took up the message. He "went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the Gospel of the kingdom." Matt. 4:23.

There was a decided movement toward the kingdom at that time for Jesus said, "From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of Heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." Matt. 11:12. Jesus Himself preached the kingdom, practiced its power, breathed its atmosphere, lived in its manifestation, exhibited its works and glory. He even showed on the Mount of Transfiguration His future appearance therein. On the day of Pentecost He opened the door to His followers to enter and abide in that realm by giving them the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Manifestation and operation of the spiritual phase of the kingdom of Heaven was thus brought forth among men for many years in the young Ecclesia. Vast works and a great revolution in world conditions were brought forth. Terrific persecution and opposition was manifest, but failed to stop it. But worldly ways introduced broke the power, till the kingdom disappeared some 1500 years ago, or more.

THE REFORMATION and its revivals came in recent centuries. They resulted in great blessings to the world and many were saved. But the original kingdom power and glory has never been fully restored and established, though individuals and occasions have risen high. The Lord has originated through His individual servants, in the last 100 years, a number of movements toward restoration. The appearing of a clear, substantial, settled permanent kingdom Gospel message and ministry awaits full manifestation. However, we shall not be long in waiting. A cloud is arising. There is a move of the Lord on foot. Again sounds forth

THE PROCLAMATION—"The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." It is about to appear. Its demonstration is beginning. Accompanying this last day reappearing of the Kingdom of Heaven there will appear also the

STONE KINGDOM—the outward governmental phase of the Kingdom, the Kingdom possessed by the saints of the Most High. "It shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms."—The kingdoms of the Gentiles which Daniel saw in the dream image of Nebuchadnezzar. Then it shall be proclaimed, "The kingdoms of this world are become the Kingdom of our Lord and His Christ." Daniel 2:31-45; 7:18; Revelation 11:15.

When Adam and Eve sinned they made a descent into the soulish realm. The connecting nerve passage or whatever means by which the soul and spirit had communication became dead, so that they lost knowledge of the spirit world and its activities, sights, sounds, odors, flavors and feelings. They were dead to them all.

INTANGIBLE AND UNREAL as seems the spirit realm to the spiritually dead, yet to those who live there it is more real and abiding than the earth realm. Indeed the earth before the fall had its place in the heavenly realm, and will eventually be restored to that state. The difference between the two lies partly in relationships as well as in quality distinctions. The lower realm is out of touch with God. The upper enjoys His associations. There is however a difference between earth substances and substances in Heaven.

The Jerusalem of Heaven is transparent pure gold like clear glass. The gates are pearl. Walls garnished with all manner of precious stones. Trees that yield fruit every month. A sea of glass and a crystal river. Harps, trumpets and musical instruments. Not all figurative. Some of the statements in Revelation have no semblance of being figures. Some who have been permitted to visit the city, tell us they saw a city with these real things and others.

We may understand, then, that this spirit world with city, mansions and things and parts, to which we are invited, and are considering, is very real and substantial. Abraham "looked for a city which hath foundations." It is also our privilege, while yet we are earth dwellers, to become partakers of the sights, powers and privileges of the realm of heaven. William Bramwell relates that at times he was in Heaven, and joined in the songs around the throne. Ephesians 2:6; Hebrews 12:22.

THE WAY—Jesus declared, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." Let us see how Christ is the Way. He said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it." Luke 9:23,24.

"Though He was Divine by nature, He did not set store upon equality with God, but emptied Himself by taking the nature of a servant; born in human guise, and appearing in human form, He humbly stooped in His obedience even to die, and to die upon the cross." Phil. 2:6-9.

There were several steps in the humiliation of the Divine Son of God.

1. He emptied, stripped, or divested Himself of that glory which He had with the Father before the world was. John 17:5.

2. He assumed or took upon Him the form of a servant, a bond slave. "A body hast thou prepared me." Hebrews 10:5.

3. He became a sin offering, a mercy seat, a propitiation. "He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin." 2 Corinthians 5:21.

4. "Thou shalt make His soul an offering for sin." In Gethsemane through the eternal Spirit He offered Himself, His soul. The whole load of sin, sickness, disease, sorrow and suffering of the whole human race "was laid upon Him." Anguish over the guilt of sin as if He had committed it all. It wrung blood from His veins, sorrow from His heart, loud, bitter cries from His mouth. He was at the point of death, but resuscitated by an angel. Luke 22:44; Hebrews 5:5.

5. He died on the cross—gave His body an offering for sin. 1 Peter 1:24; Hebrews 10:5,10.

6. He suffered mock trials, accused as a blasphemer, and impostor, condemnation, scorn, shame, mockery; thorn crown, counted a sinner, set at naught. He went to the extreme humiliation. Luke 23:11.



**IDENTIFICATION WITH CHRIST**—little understood and less experienced, is a truth of wide and powerful meaning. Christ identified Himself as we have seen, with sinners. In that way He becomes the way out of sin. Our old man was crucified with Him. As He identified Himself with us by becoming one of us and bearing the sin of us all, He proposes to identify us with Him by making us partakers of the Divine nature. He asks us to share His humiliation and sacrifice. So He says, "If any man will come after me," that is, go the way I go, be the way I am, "Be my disciple." Be an overcomer and in the Bride: "Let him deny himself." That is, give up his way, and submit to do that which is not his will, choice or pleasure; be ready to "Lose his life for my sake;" "Forsake all that he hath." "Present your bodies a living sacrifice."

If you are persecuted, "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad." "Glory in tribulation." "Count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations." "But what things were gain to me, these things I counted but loss for Christ." "For whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ." Matt. 5:11; Jas. 1:2; Rom. 5:3; Phil. 3:7.

1 Peter 5:5, goes far, as it says, "Yea, all of you be subject one to another." Make a supreme sacrifice of your whole life and will, till the repentance John the Baptist proclaimed is wrought out in you. It reached farther than acts of sin. He pointed to those bad variations of character, calling them hills, valleys, mountains, crooked and rough ways, which should be lowered, raised, straightened, and smoothed—brought to grade. Luke 3:5.

**PROCESS**—Jesus pointed out the way of the daily cross. By taking which, one gives himself over to a process of crucifixion, by which he is detached, broken loose from and separated from earth attachments. This is wrought through the power of the Holy Spirit applying the cross. This refines, purifies, and re-creates one who remains in the process, till he can say, "I am crucified with Christ." He no longer shirks or shrinks the cross, but glories in it. Gladly accepts chastening even to scourging; for he realizes it is the narrow way that leads to fulness of life in the Spirit. "If we suffer we shall also reign with Him." 2 Timothy 2:12.

Cross bearing through the Spirit brings one face to face with his personal character traits, which need to

be corrected, or re-created. If one be independent in disposition, God may put you in a dependent position. If impatient, put you into trying circumstances. If bad tempered, put you with provoking people. If gossiping or talkative, make you apologize. If covetous, put you in circumstances tending to cure that trait, and make you liberal. These are just a few samples from which the Spirit may apply to your wrong tendencies. Happy the one who discerns the hand of God in his daily crosses. Learn by the Spirit's illumination how to face and go down before your cross, not seeing the individual concerned. Deny your way and silently humbly take the cross way. How few see God in these things. They only see persons, things and circumstances. They miss the Lord and suffer to no profit. "Despise not chastenings."

**DIVINE CONTROL** was a farther step in self-denial or abnegation of Jesus. If we choose to go all the way with Him, we shall have to imitate or take this step. As Son of man, or as a man in human likeness, He possessed the power of action, choice of location, society and occupation. These all He totally denied Himself of, for He said, "I do nothing of myself." "The words that I speak unto you, I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me He doeth the works." Jno. 5:19; 8; 14:10:24.

Jesus became a living sacrifice in these four particulars. His soul was made an offering for sin in the garden. His body He offered on the cross. His spirit and soul were humbled to the depths and offered in submitting to arrest, trials, false accusations, and mockings. Also in His ministry, for He spoke nothing, chose nothing, thought nothing, felt nothing of Himself. But the Father through the Spirit anointing, possessed and controlled will, heart, mind, body, every power, faculty and part of His entire being. All was moved by the Spirit.

This is the Lord's description of "The more excellent way," the Sons of God state, "Christ in you," life in the heavenlies. It is the open door to full overcoming and sitting down with Christ in His throne—highest privileges offered to man. This is "Thy will be done in earth as it is done in Heaven," producing, "THY KINGDOM COME."

## Truth Will Prevail

This morning November 9th, when I opened the New Testament I read these wonderful words of Jesus: "The Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives but to save them."

Later in the morning I read these words from Emerson: "We are escorted on every hand through life by purpose which lies in wait for us."

While I was in prayer very early in the morning, reading the words of Jesus, something was spoken to the effect that Hitler would be brought to his feet, and Mussolini to his knees."

This bringing down of the aggressive destroyers has to be for their

own good, as well as the good of all the rest. The only way to stop reaping more hell than you sow is to stop sowing for the destroyer and go to sowing and reaping with the Saviour. There is no way of escape except to repent, right about face and go to meeting all evil with good.

I read in the current number of the **Christian Century** the following quotation from the **Church Times**: "The reason why, even to win the war or to win it quickly, this country (England) cannot adopt the methods of the jungle is simply that it does not wish the world to be a jungle when the war is finished.

The allied nations are dedicated to the cause of Christian civilization... There are some steps they cannot

take without abandoning the standards for which they are fighting."

If we could whip the devil by becoming worse than the devil, it would be all the worse for the world and terrible tragedy for us. Love is the great power and in the end will be found to be the only power. Of course, if we are not willing to become radically Christian and do it quickly, it would seem that there is far greater need for an international sheriff and policeman than for all our existing set-ups, to use compulsion by orderly judicial processes.

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Procrastination is the only thief of time that works 24 hours a day.