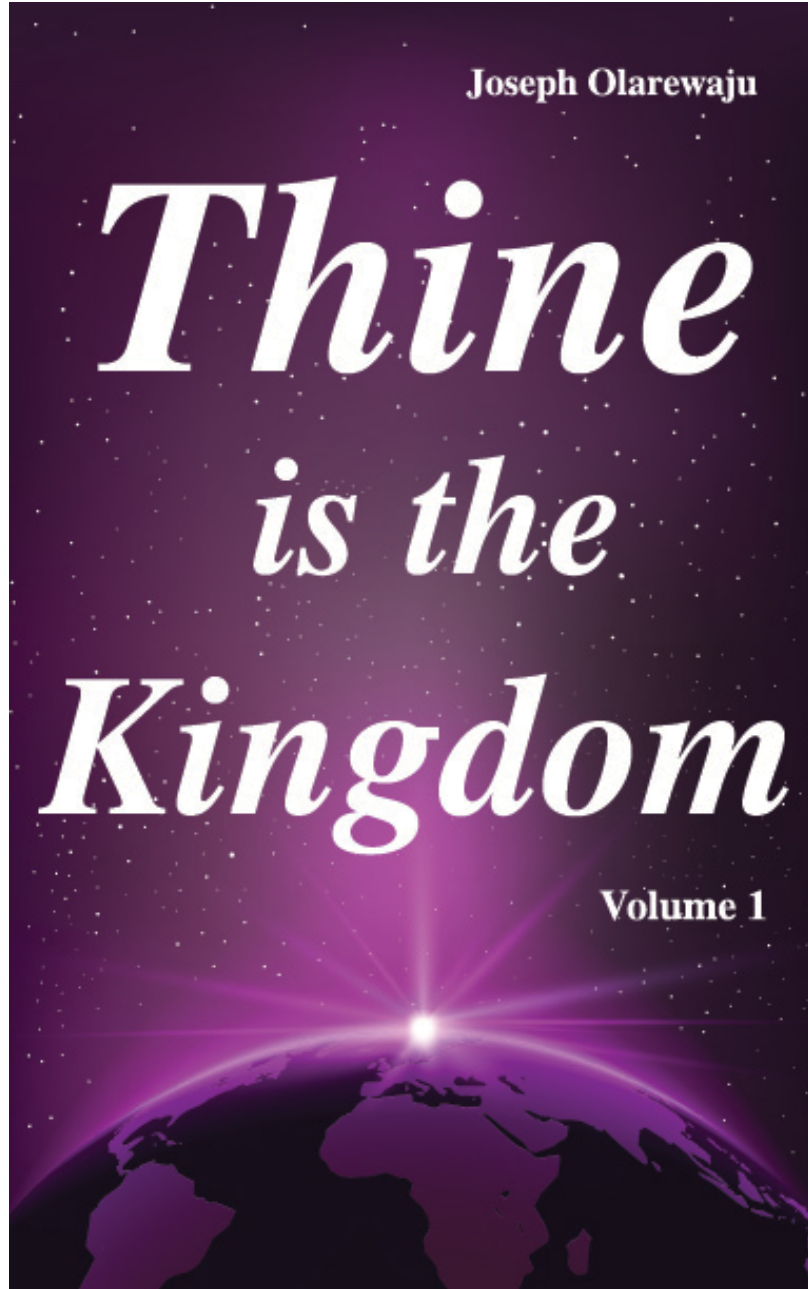


Joseph Olarewaju

*Thine  
is the  
Kingdom*

Volume 1



# ***Thine is the Kingdom***

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*Joseph Olarewaju*

*Dedicated to the "Stone"*

*"The Stone cut out of the Mountain without hands"*

*Special recognition to my brethren and partner, Brother Olubunmi  
Ogunsan and the fellowship at New Covenant Church of Maryland,  
and to the 2015 Ibadan Believer's Prayer Conference Organizers  
Grace and Blessings.*

Joseph S. Olarewaju

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# Chapter I

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## *Daniel Saw the Stone*

*“Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.*

*Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing-floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth” (Dan 2:34-35).*

**T**he battle rages on. Satan and his principalities are huffing and puffing desperately trying to hold on to the dominion of this world. But he knows he’s fighting a losing battle. He’s picked up a few fake victories here and there, but he can now smell imminent shame and defeat knocking at his door. He has again turned to his greatest weapons, which has somehow worked for him in the past; tweaking and modernizing them to capture the spiritually uninitiated. He is the ultimate liar, the original deceiver, who has learnt to infiltrate the earthly church “disguised as an angel of light”. He knows that attempting to fight the people of God in a confrontational manner is futile, recognizing he cannot match the power in the Name of Jesus. So he’s putting his effort into joining the church systems, with the main goal to influence her from the inside. But the Holy Spirit is opening our eyes, the people of God, to the devices of the devious one, lest he gains an advantage over us.

These battles are for the kingdom of this world, and we are destined to ultimately win the war. Okay, we might have fallen short in some minor battles here and there, but we shall win the war. The Newspaper headlines the morning after our victory, will read like this:

*“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death”* (Revelation 12:11).

“The kingdoms of this world have been under the rule of the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that rules the children of disobedient”; And the despotic rulers that govern this world are not willing to relinquish their dominion without a fight. However, they will be forced out and the saints of the Most High will take the kingdom, and rule under the King of kings and Lord of lords.

There at Babel, the realm of confusion, we have the genesis of the mystery of iniquity which continues its growing influence through succeeding generations, ever widening its scope and domain until it sits on top of the whole earth. Babel is the system of man which ultimately ended in confusion. It is man’s government, man’s strength, man’s wisdom and man’s collaborative effort to build a system to reach God’s heavens.

#### **Brick for Stone and Slime for Mortar**

*“And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.*

*And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they **had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.** And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and **let us make us a name**, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.*

*And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.*

*Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from*

*thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.*

*Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth” (Gen 11:1-9).*

This was long ago, when man was young and the whole earth was one language and dwelt together. The place was near the Ur of the Chaldees from where Abraham was later called (Gen 11:31). And also, much later the mighty kings: Nebuchadnezzar, Cyrus, Darius, reigned in splendor over the kingdom of Babylon. This was the same territory.

So the inhabitants of the earth at this time journeyed to the plain of Shinar, and, lest they become dispersed from one another, decided to build a city; a mighty city with towers reaching heaven. With great zeal, adobe bricks in hand, baked and burned, they set out to do the impossible task of building a tower which would reach right up to heaven itself. Blind little earthbound creatures with his feeble machinery and unstable brick and mortar, man is still trying to reach immortal realms today by his own effort. But those heavenly realm cannot be reached by human efforts, but only through faith in the Blood that *speakech better things than the blood of Abel*. It is only through the only way that God has provided for us that we can rise on the arm of the Spirit into the heavenly realms.

God Almighty looked down from His throne to see the construction work that man was doing and laughed. How appropriate is the song of the Psalmist:

*“Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.*

*He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision” (Psalm 2:1-4).*

It was in mercy that the Father came down from above to see the puny work man was doing and stopped their fruitless labor. He knew very well that the tower they struggled to build that day would be the beginning of many such fruitless attempts in ages to come. Indeed,

they would not attempt to build towers with adobe brick and mortar but with different means of self-righteousness would they in the years to come attempt to rise from the lowly earth into the high heaven. What God saw displeased Him so with one stroke He confused their language so that none could understand his neighbor. All the work was disrupted and the whole of humanity was scattered abroad. It was God that gave the place the name Babel, for it was there He confused their language and turned them into babblers.

There at Babel we saw the beginning of *Babylon the great* whose influence continues to grow through succeeding generation, ever widening in scope and influence until it now dominates the whole world. Her influence has reached indescribable crescendo in these last days. Religious as ever, she's still seeking to build a tower to reach heaven. And as at Babel in the beginning, she still ignores God's ways and follows her own system of trusting in the work of man's hands. She's always building an image, an idol, to take the place of God in worship. Like Israel of old, God says "*my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water*" (Jeremiah 2:13). She's still working hard to achieve ecumenical unity and reach heavenly heights by her own efforts apart from God. She's as proud as ever, seeks her own glory and the love of the world rather than the love of God. Babylon has her adulterous ways, her philosophy, her pride of life, and her lack of reference or fear of God.

The wonders of the Book of Daniel have intrigued Bible scholars for hundreds of years. Though the things written therein "*have been sealed until the time of the end*" the prophecies in its pages have been a source of inspiration to men and women of all ages. Now that the targeted "end-time" has come upon us, the veil that kept the revelation in the Book from our eyes is being removed. The Holy Spirit is pointing to the vast mysteries embedded in the prophecies of Daniel as they unfold right before our eyes. The time of the end is upon us.

In far away Babylon, Daniel was among the captives of Judah, carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar. There, Daniel became the voice of God in the first world empire—the Chaldean Empire often called Babylon. This was in the kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar.



The signs that mark the end-time, prophesied by Daniel, are evidently upon us. New and startling events are daily announced in the news and they quickly replace the old. Old news quickly becomes out of date and pushed off into history making room for the rapidly evolving drama. Things considered impossible and utterly unthinkable years ago, though foretold by the Lord and the Apostles, have now been accepted as norm, and even enacted into laws right before our eyes. The mystery of iniquity is definitely already at work. *“For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming”* (2 Thessalonians 2:7,8 KJV).

During the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar reigned over Babylon. In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim, Nebuchadnezzar came with his troops to Jerusalem and besieged it. *“And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god”* (Daniel 1:2).

Now we are back to the land of Shinar which we opened this chapter with. This was where the inhabitants of the earth gathered to build a tower and God confused their language, turned them into babblers, and called the name of the place Babel. This is Babylon in the land of Shinar.

The king of Babylon invaded Judah, according to the word of the Lord through the prophet Jeremiah, and carried the Jews captive to Babylon. Notable among the captives of Judah were certain children from the royal family, whom the king of Babylon requested to be brought into his palace. *“Children in whom was no blemish, but well favored, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.*

*And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king. Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah”* (Dan 1:4-6).

This was how Daniel found himself in Babylon and in the court of Nebuchadnezzar together with Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; otherwise known as: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Yes, they were captives children from Judah, but God had ordained that these elect children would be His ambassadors in the land of Babylon. Daniel became the anointed prophet and the voice of God in the land of captivity.

In the Book of Daniel, as declared from the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, we understand that Nebuchadnezzar ascended the throne of Babylon by God's divine appointment. God put him there to accomplish His purpose. While he did the will of God, he prospered in his kingdom. But then, Nebuchadnezzar became pig-headed, started thinking that he had done it by himself, exalted himself and demanded to be worshipped. So God took the kingdom from him. He kicked off the throne, became insane, lived in the wilderness with wild animals, and ate grass like a cow.

At the end of this humbling experience, Nebuchadnezzar repented and blessed the God of heaven as the only source of all kingdoms and powers and confessed that God was fully able to "humble those who walk in pride." He came to a revelation that *"the Most High ruleth in the of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will"*

If we look further in the Book of Daniel, we find that Belshazzar, Nebuchadnezzar's grandson, had the same problem with pride as his father did, and God judged him as well taking the kingdom away from him. God chose another heathen king, Cyrus, by divine appointment to take the kingdom of Babylon from Belshazzar. This was that heathen king that God charged to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem in days of Ezra (Ezra 36:22,23).

### **The Stone Cut Out of the Mountain**

In the second Chapter of the Book of Daniel, God through Nebuchadnezzar's dream, provided an overview of world events in millennia yet to come. One night, Nebuchadnezzar woke up frightened by a dream. It was a nightmare of immense proportion. Terrified by the dream, He gathered his wise men at once, and requested the interpretation of his dream. No, he commanded them to give him the interpretation of the dream he had. But his request

was more than that. He not only asked for the interpretation of the dream, which he had not narrated to them, but demanded that they should narrate to him his dream, and then interpret it. This was an absurd and unprecedented request from a king! “*Tell me what my dream was and its interpretation*” was the king’s demand. Not only did the royal wise men have to provide the accurate interpretation of the dream, they also had to divinely recount the dream itself. The penalty for failure was death. This greatly worried the wise men.

*“They answered the second time and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation. The king answered, I know of a certainty that you would gain time, because you see the thing is gone from me.*

*But if you don’t make known to me the dream, there is but one law for you; for you have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, until the time be changed: therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can show me its interpretation.*

*The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man on the earth who can show the king’s matter, because no king, lord, or ruler, has asked such a thing of any magician, or enchanter, or Chaldean.*

*It is a rare thing that the king requires, and there is no other who can show it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh” (Dan 2:7-11).*

The wise men were right. The king’s request was unreasonable and absurd. How can he ask his wise men to interpret a dream he hasn’t narrated to them. How does he expect them to travel back in time, enter his mind while sleeping, participate in his dream, record the proceedings of the dream; and then narrate and interpret the whole thing to him in one fell-swoop. This was an impossible request.

“There’s no one that can do this, except the “gods” whose dwelling is in the spirit realm”, the wise-men replied in desperation. Indeed, this is the realm reserved for the matured sons of God whose dwelling is in the supernatural realm; The realm of divine revelation. These wise men were correct. What the king asked for, is for the “gods” to answer. Not the Chaldeans’ gods, for the magicians and sorcerers could not answer the king. This is the field of the sons of God. Did the scripture not say-“*Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the Most High*” (Ps 82:6).

What Daniel manifested in the courts of the kings of Babylon will be the bread and butter of the manifested sons of God. And those things were sealed until the time of the end, which time and hour has come upon us.

But the reply of the *wise* men didn't sound *wise* to the king, for "*the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon*" (Daniel 2:12). He was red hot with anger. The dream had terrified him so much that he totally lost it. He became rash and unreasonable. His decree to destroy all the wise men of Babylon was so hasty that not even all the wise-men of Babylon have heard of his dream and his request for interpretation. Daniel was not even there yet.

The first thing Daniel heard that morning, after the "good-morning" salutation from the king's messenger, was that he was being summoned to the king's court to be executed for failure to interpret the king's dream. Imagine the surprise on Daniel's face when Arioch came to him with the king's execution warrant!

*"He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel" (Daniel 2:15)*

It was then Arioch explained to Daniel what had transpired that morning and how the king had become hysterical and filled with fury, like a raging inferno ready to destroy. So Daniel determined to prove the power of God to the king of Babylon. Daniel asked the king for some time to discover the dream. He then went to his brethren Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, and made this known to them. Together they prayed all night to the God of Heaven about the matter.

*Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.*

*I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of*

*thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter" (Dan 2:19-23).*

You see, God has promised *"Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets"* (Amos 3:7). He will not leave His people in darkness about the future. God is in control. In the annals of human history, the rise and fall of empires *appear* to be dependent on the will and power of man. But it's not so. If by the revelation of the Spirit, the curtain is drawn aside, we'll clearly see that, behind and above the machination of human power, the hand of God is silently working out the counsels of His own will.

In the morning, Daniel told the Captain who had been ordered to kill all the wise men of Babylon not to touch any of them, but to take him to the king. Daniel told Arioch he would give the king the interpretation of his dream. It is true indeed! *"They that know their God shall be strong, and do exploits"* (Dan 11:32). And their exploits will save a multitude of lives. These mighty ones that know their God, loves and fear Him, loves not their lives unto the death, and thus become overcomers and deliverers for others.

So Daniel came before the king. King Nebuchadnezzar's question to Daniel was to the point: "Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen and the interpretation of it?" Daniel answered the king and said: *"The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king; But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days"* (Dan 2:27-28)

In Daniel's reply above, the Holy Ghost is telling us that this scary dream of Nebuchadnezzar is a revelation from the Almighty God concerning what shall be in these last days. The dream, one of the most dramatic revelations of all history, in which God outlined the rise and fall of global empires, moved beyond Daniel's days to ours, with its struggles for peace and supremacy among the great powers of the world. It continued to the setting up of earth's last great world empire that will be destroyed and superseded by the *"Kingdom which can never be destroyed"*. The dream accurately portrayed the events now transpiring before our very

eyes. God indeed, *“has made known to king Nebuchadnezzar what it is that shall be in the latter days...”*

God spoke many of such through Daniel in this Book, and God sealed those mysteries to be unveiled at the end-time; which is the day and hour in which we are, for He said to him, *“Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end (Daniel 12:9).*

Here’s the narration of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream that Daniel saw in the night vision:

*“Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.*

*This image’s head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.*

*Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.*

*Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing-floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth” (Dan 2:31-35).*

### **The Interpretation is Sure**

After Daniel had narrated the dream, the whole thing came back to Nebuchadnezzar. The dream featured a huge shinning statue of a man. Its head was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. Daniel’s interpretation, given to him by God, explains that the statue represents a series of kingdoms, starting with the Babylonian kingdom, each less glorious than the one before as indicated by the decreasing value of the metals, will rule the earth until something earth-shattering happens. Daniel identifies Nebuchadnezzar as the head of gold, stating that God had given Nebuchadnezzar much power (Daniel 2:37-38). The next kingdom to arise will be inferior to Babylon, as the next will be inferior still. Finally, there will come a fourth kingdom, strong as iron will come and crush and break all the others in pieces (Daniel 2:40). Finally

there will be the *“feet of mixed clay and iron”* which will be a divided kingdom and an unequally yoke mishmash mixture of iron and clay.

During the time of this final world kingdom, the *“stone, cut out of the mountain without hands”* will smash them all to pieces, and like the chaff of the summer threshing-floors, the wind will blow all the pieces away and they will be seen no more. This indicates that all earthly kingdoms will be brought to an end and *“God will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed”* (Daniel 2:44).

Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar, *“Thou art this head of gold”* (Daniel 2:38). The kingdom of Babylon headed by Nebuchadnezzar was represented by the head of gold in the dream. The chest and arms of silver represented the Medes and Persians(Cyrus) that conquered the kingdom of Babylon. The kingdom of Babylon was divided and given to the Medes and Persians according to the word of God through the mouth of Daniel the prophet (Dan 5:28). The Medo-Persian empire, a dual kingdom, represented by silver, was welded together by Cyrus of Persia. Medo-Persia was succeeded by Greece, and then followed by the Roman Empire. After the collapse of Rome, the empire was divided as signified by the feet and toes of iron and clay which extends to the present day. In God’s valuation, our present day worldly kingdoms are only iron-and-clay in comparison to the gold-class kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar. Here’s a sobering fact from God for the powers that be.

It was at that stage in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream that he saw a stone *“cut out of the mountain without hands”* rolled down from the mountain smashing into the feet of iron and clay and causing the great image to come crashing down. That stone rolled down from heaven 2000 years ago and smashed the Babylonian system of this world in its unequally yoked feet of iron married to clay. That kingdom is now crumbling and its rubles are ready to be totally swept away like the chaffs of the summer threshing-floor. And the “stone” has started to grow. It started as it were, like a grain of mustard seed, and it will soon fill the whole earth.

*“Whereas you saw the iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men; but they shall not cling to one another, even as iron does not mingle with clay.*

*In the days of those kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall its sovereignty be left to another people; but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever*

*Because you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God has made known to the king what shall happen hereafter: and the dream is certain, and its interpretation sure (Daniel 2:45)*

The image in the dream traced the rise and fall of four great kingdoms which dominated the world in succession, until Christ came and set up His eternal Kingdom. At the height of the fourth empire, a Child was born in Bethlehem, and a “*Son was given*”. Without human hands, the image of world power collapsed and is disintegrating before this ‘stone’, even before this Kingdom of our God and of His Christ.

His Kingdom fought and will fight no earthly battles, for Constantine’s battles have nothing to do with this Kingdom; “*For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;*” (2 Corinthians 10:4). His kingdom cannot be seen by mortal eyes, has no national boundaries on earth, and no visible royal center. By the power of the Spirit and the Word, this Kingdom of God and of His Christ overcame worldly kingdoms, cast down principalities, humbled dominions, obtained promises, wrought righteousness, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, and out of weakness was made strong. The stone has grown and is still growing, and looks like it will soon cover the whole earth and expand to the reaches of space.

The Book of Daniel is amazing in its accuracy. The interpretation, as Daniel said, has proven to be sure. Yes! Two thousand years ago, the King of kings came down from heaven above, overpowered and overcame the prince of the power of the air, and began His kingdom in the hearts of men. The domain of the Kingdom is growing and will soon fill the whole earth. And of the increase of His kingdom there shall be no end. *This prophecy is certain and the interpretation thereof is sure.*



# Chapter 2

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## *The Kingdom of God*

*“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.*

*The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight” (Mark 1:1-3).*

**I**t is illuminating and refreshing to observe how God’s revelation of the Kingdom in the New Testament took off exactly where the last words of the Old Testament left off. The very last words from heaven, before the 400years of silence that lasted after Malachi laid down his pen, were these: *“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse” (Mal. 4:5-6).*

The very next words in the opening of the New Testament reveal the fulfillment of this promise in a striking way. Angel Gabriel appeared on the scene bringing a message from the Throne to Zecharias:

*“And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.*

*And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.*

*But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.*

*And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord” (Luke 1:10-17).*

In angel Gabriel's message to Zacharias, we have a direct continuation of the last message spoken by God through Malachi. The purpose of Gabriel's message was to announce the coming of the prophet promised in the last words of Malachi, who should perform the Elijah-ministry of “turning the hearts to the Lord their God”, thus making ready a people “prepared for the Lord.” This one will also fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah in the fortieth Chapter of the Book of Isaiah:

*“The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

*Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:*

*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it” (Isa 40:3-5).*

John, a rugged man, who lived in the wilderness for majority of his life, without formal schooling but taught in the wilderness by the Holy Spirit, prepared the way before the Lord. He made the announcement that the time had come, and that nation should repent.

John was about six months older than Jesus and about thirty years old when his ministry began. He ministered for about a year and a half, spent about a year or so in prison before he was beheaded. And when John came out of the wilderness, he did not consult with the Scribes or the learned elders of Jerusalem. Rather, he went right to work in the spirit and power of Elijah, preaching repentance and calling all Jerusalem and Judea to prepare themselves for the coming of the

Lord.

Indeed, the preparation for the Gospel of the Kingdom began by the “Voice of him that crieth in the wilderness”. Mark’s Gospel says, “*The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins*” (Mark 1:1-4). This gospel began when John came announcing the arrival of the King and His Kingdom.

When the fullness of time was come, the strange wilderness man appeared on the scene, preaching with a loud voice in a remote desert part of Judea, near the river Jordan saying: “*Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!*”. This man was a Nazarite of the priestly tribe, and had been consecrated to God from his infancy. He was not clothed in soft raiment, but in a coarse tunic of camel’s hair; he had no craving for fine restaurant food, but was content with dried locusts and wild honey from the rock. He was literally the Voice of one crying the wilderness, “*Prepare ye the way of the Lord, Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!*” Like the prophets of old he had a message directly from God for the people of Israel. His message was the announcement that God was visiting His people; That the Kingdom of God was at hand, and that the King was already in their midst.

The effect of John’s ministry was instantaneous. Israel was moved as they had not been moved for centuries. His voice reached from the region of River Jordan to Jerusalem. Multitudes came out to listen to him and to confess their sins. Pharisees and Sadducees, priests and scribes, publicans and sinners, soldiers and tax-collectors, all went forth to listen.

*“Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.*

*But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:*

*And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto*

*Abraham. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.*

*I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire” (Matt 3:5-12).*

Thousands repented as a result of his fiery sermons, turned from their old ways, and began to look forward to the redemption of Israel. Some thought he was the Messiah. His fame soon reached the headquarters and priesthood in Jerusalem. So the Jewish authorities wanted to know if he was indeed the Messiah and therefore sent delegates to inquire who he was. He told them that he was not the Christ, but was sent to introduce Him. He told the delegates that he was sent by God to prepare their hearts for the great visitation they were about to receive, and to change their thinking for the new day that was about to break upon the earth.

*“And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not;*

*John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:*

*Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable” (Luk 3:15-17).*

John was the announcer of the arrival of the Kingdom and the prophet ordained to introduce the King. Israel had been waiting for centuries for the fulfillment of the promised Messiah, the King of Israel, whom they believe would deliver them from the tyranny of Rome and set up His throne in Jerusalem to reign over the whole world.

Angel Gabriel had announced the arrival of the King, but this was to Mary alone. Zacharias speaking by inspiration of the Holy Ghost, also spoke of the visitation of the “*Day Spring from on High*” when Elisabeth

his wife was pregnant with John. The first Chapter of Luke records the account of the announcement of Angel Gabriel:

*“And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.*

*He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end”* (Luke 1:30-33).

Angel Gabriel’s message is in line with the prophecy of Daniel that the stone, cut out of the mountain without hands, will crush the kingdoms of this world, become a kingdom that will grow and cover the whole earth. And that in the days of those kings *shall the Lord of heaven set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed.*

The plan of God concerning the Kingdom existed before man was brought forth was first revealed to us in the words, *“Let Us make man in Our image and after Our likeness and let them have dominion.”* Man in God’s image as the under-ruler with dominion over the universe, is God’s design for the Kingdom. That was the magnificent purpose burning in the heart of the Most High when on the sixth day, He made the proclamation that brought man into being. Then in symbolic picture He painted the picture of a universe ruled by man saying, *“Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth”*(Gen. 1:26). In this statement we see a vivid portrait of the purpose of God for man; that *when man comes fully into God’s image, he shall be, the ruler of things beneath; of the things upon the earth, and finally, the things of the heavens also.*

One can not fully appreciate so great a truth compressed in such seemingly insignificant statement, unless by the revelation of the Holy Ghost. But it was upon solemn reflection on this blessed placement of man that the prophet David exclaimed, saying: *“O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! enlarged when by the Spirit he said, “When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; what is man that Thou art*

*mindful of him? or the son of man that Thou visitest him? For Thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of Thy hands; Thou hast put all things under his feet: all sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; the fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. O Lord our Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth”(Psa. 8:1,3-9). In the words of this prophecy, God revealed His plan from long ago, concerning a kingdom in which the Son of man would reign over all creation.*

The message of the Kingdom rang as a theme through the prophecies of the prophets. The Major Prophets spoke volumes about the Kingdom. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, and others, prophesied again and again about the King who will reign in righteousness, and whose universal kingdom of peace, prosperity, and glory will be everlasting.

*“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely; and this is his name whereby he shall be called, the Lord our righteousness” (Jer 23:5-6).*

*“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever” (Daniel 2:44).*

*“Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment. And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord;*

*And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth:”*

*“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

*Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this” (Isa 32:1, 11:1-4, 9:6-7)*

Isaiah, like Daniel, is without doubt a prophet of the kingdom. His prophetic ear was keenly tuned to the glory of the kingdom age. His prophetic eye overlooked the scenes of his day, scanning through centuries, he saw the Savior who was *wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities, and chastised for our peace*. Then, leaping far beyond the cross, he saw the establishment of the Kingdom of God. In the forty-second Chapter of his Book, he saw a king who would not fail nor be discouraged till He had established righteousness in the earth (Isa. 42:4).

When the birth of Jesus was announced to Mary, as quoted above, God Almighty send the announcement that a King was arriving who would sit upon the throne of David and whose kingdom will be without end. This earth is yet to see the glorious reign of Christ that will cover the earth with God’s glory and righteousness, and an era of peace and prosperity. Yes, that kingdom is at hand.

What is a kingdom? The dictionary defines “kingdom” as “a government, country, state or territory ruled by a king or queen. The word “*kingdom*” is made up of the noun “*king*”, and the suffix “*dom*”. “*Dom*” is a noun-forming suffix denoting the condition or state of the suffixed word and also used to express rank, position, or state. Examples that come readily to mind include—freedom, martyrdom, Christendom, kingdom. A kingdom is the domain over which a king has authority.

The term, Kingdom of God, by fundamental definition would therefore mean the domain over which God exercises rule as King. However, the Kingdom of God is not like the kingdoms of this world. The Kingdom of God comes through His gracious action by which His reign is recognized and entered into by men and women who willingly submit themselves to His rule. The kingdoms of this world are enforced on men, while the kingdom of God is of Love.

The domain of the Kingdom of God at this time is limited to where God’s saving power has been willingly accepted. In these territories

His love and power have broken down every wall, **transformed all that is contrary to God's nature**, and brought men into willing submission to His authority. Where the nature of God and the mind of Christ have conquered the state of things, and gained ascendancy, is the domain of the Kingdom of God. The hearts of these precious ones have been changed, sin and darkness have been defeated, and righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost rule their lives. In these lives, the will of God is done, in the earth which they are, as it is done in the heaven of God. In these lives, the Kingdom of God has come.

In the Kingdom, God does not need to rule over man by law or by any exercise of sovereignty, but the nature and mind of God in man becomes a living reality, a guiding light. The love and nature of God becomes a constraining force. Man obeys the rule of God willingly from the heart and seeks to please Him in everything just like Jesus. Such would cause the Father to look down with satisfaction and says: *"This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased"*. To hear the Father say this about us, my dear friend, should be our life's goal. Our passion should be to please our King in all things and yield our members to the rule of His Kingdom in us.

The king determines the nature of the kingdom. If the king is righteous, so also is the kingdom. If the king is corrupt, the kingdom will be filled with evil. *"Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."* The nations of the earth have been plagued for thousands of years by strife, inequity, and every imaginable evil because there has been an unceasing reign of the carnal mind in every kingdom from the beginning of time. Throughout all the history of Israel, the testimony has always been *"like people, like priest."* So also, if the king of a nation was righteous, the people were righteous. If the king was evil, so also were the people. And history has testified to the fact that the kings and emperors that ruled over this world have all been ungodly and wicked. They have been influenced by and large by the god of this world whose dominion over this earth is about to end.

Man's corrupt system of government is soon to pass away yet he's never satisfied with God and His system. He is never satisfied with God's governmental or worship system, therefore man is always building images—images of organization, governmental systems,



ceremonies, rituals, and monuments as he did at the beginning in the plain of Shinar, and subsequently in the plain of Dura. It is ultimately for the glory of man. It is so he can erect a tower to reach heaven apart from the way God has mapped out. Man is not satisfied with the glory God has given him, but he secretly plans to steal heavenly glory for himself. Man, as in the plain of Shinar, wants to make a name for himself.

*“Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.*

*Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages, That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up:*

*And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace” (Dan 3:1,5-6).*

The measurement of the golden image, sixty by six cubits, showed the impressive dimensions of Nebuchadnezzar’s pride, for he modeled the image after the one in his dream. He however, made the whole image of gold, thus attributing the power and glory of all kingdoms to himself. Such is the pride of life in man. The dimensions of the image, Sixty by six cubits, are multiples of six (*number of a man*) and ten which is the number for earthly perfection.

*“Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six” (Revelation 13:18).*

The number “ten”, signifies earthly completeness in the realm of carnal or earthly things. It’s an aggregate of the numbers “four” and “six”. On the “fourth” day, God completed the creation of the material universe; and on the sixth day, God made man. The number ten, signifies the law and commandment, responsibility, and completeness of order in the earthly things. Divine perfection and completeness are represented by the numbers, “three” and “seven”. The number “six” is the number of man, therefore the image that Nebuchadnezzar erected in the plains of Duma speaks of the carnal man in his absoluteness.

This image of Nebuchadnezzar is the representation of this world's power and kingdoms. And the plan of God is to bring down these worldly kingdoms by the power of the Word of God. These were unfolded to Nebuchadnezzar in the prophetic interpretation of his dream, but he did not believe neither did he heed the warnings from the dream. Instead, he seemed to remember only that part of Daniel's interpretation which had to do with his own glory: "*You are this head of gold.*" Deceived by the falseness of his own heart and pride of life, he sought to realize the fulfillment of his dream and to build a monument for himself. He built the immense image of gold and set it up in the plain of Dura and commanded everyone in Babylon to bow down and worship it.

He had forgotten the message behind the prophecy from Daniel while interpreting the dream: "*the God of Heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory...*," and he did not fear God but usurped the glory of God, took that which was given him by God for the worship of himself. He commanded everyone in his kingdom to worship the image. In essence he was commanding all to worship him for the worship of the image meant the worship of the one who designed and built it. This is the basis of the Babylonian kingdoms of this world. Its desire is to take the place of God. It's a beast system that desires to take the place of God and His Christ in worship, in love, in submission. The government of man is contrary to that of God.

The Kingdom of God is the government of God. It is divine rule. It is not the rule of a political party. Those in the Kingdom of God are born of God, led by God, and controlled by God. In the Kingdom the natural man must not rule, or the Kingdom will go to the devil. The way of the Kingdom is not trying to get everyone to agree on a law that forbids unrighteousness and godlessness. Man can only deal with evil by restraint. But that is not the way in God's Kingdom. To reign in the Kingdom, Christ must be raised up within us. It begins with man being born again. Once man puts on Christ within, the concept of sinning becomes foreign. The *law of the Spirit of life* within man becomes the force that drives him. Christ within becomes the power of his being unto righteousness. This, is the power of the Kingdom of God.

The laws of Moses are not the Laws of the Kingdom of God. Thus, those who would, in the name of Christ, legislate morality are taking the Church back to the Old Covenant, which couldn't and can never bring righteousness to them that observe it. It only leads to condemnation. Advocates of morality under the Mosaic Law would therefore be ministers of condemnation, and would never say with the merciful Lord Jesus, "*neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more*"

*"For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved"* (Jn. 3:17). The Holy Spirit on the pages of God's Word proclaim this eternal truth that *"The law and the prophets were until John, but since that time the kingdom of God is preached and every man presseth into it"* (Lk. 16:16; Mat. 11:13).

Christians should be involved in the community and should exert their influence for righteousness in the society and in government. This is our civic responsibility. But that is not the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is not good laws, morality, or religiously oriented politics. *The Kingdom of God is "righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost"*.

The message is abundantly clear. God's purpose for us, His chosen ones, is to become a part of that *"Stone" cut out of the mountain without hands*. It is a Kingdom, not of this world, out of the heights of the heavens of God. God wants us to become what Christ is. In becoming what He is, we become a part of that mighty *"Stone"* which shall smite the kingdoms of man and become a great *"Mountain"* to fill the whole earth.

We all know what the natural man is, corrupt, power-hungry, and desperately wicked. It is for this reason that the government of *man by man for man* will surely perish from the earth. Man's government, characterized by selfishness, is a part of the great image at Shinar. But the stone, that *Stone* cut out of the heavenly mountain without hands, has already smashed the image at its feet of iron and clay, and the whole super-structure is even now, crumbling down. *And in the days of these kings shall the Lord of heaven establish a kingdom which shall never be destroyed*. Yes, the kingdom of man will be destroyed. *But the government of the nations, by God, and for God and His Christ, shall never perish from the earth*. This is certain and the interpretation of it, is sure.



# Chapter 3

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## *Thy Kingdom Come*

*“I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought Him near before Him. And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed” (Dan. 7:13,14).*

**T**he Bible speaks of a number of kingdoms. Notable among these is the first world empire, the Chaldean Empire, discussed in the previous chapter. Inspired by God, Daniel spoke to Nebuchadnezzar the king of the Chaldean empire often called Babylon saying—*“the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee,...”* (Dan 2:37-39).

*“The God of heaven has given thee a kingdom and power....”*, this is the word God spoke to Nebuchadnezzar through Daniel. It is God that gives power to those that are appointed as kings or rulers. No one can ascend to a throne or become the President of any nation without God’s consent. It may not be His perfect will, but in the meantime, it must go through Him for it to happen. He allowed Saul, the man of the flesh, to reign over His people even though it wasn’t His choice for them. Saul was the people’s choice. He was man’s choice. Saul’s rule

represented the government of man by man for man, chosen by the fleshly nature for the desire of carnal man. God allowed it for the season, until His man, *the man after His own heart*, came and reigned over Israel. His will was eventually done. The same is happening in our lives today. We still do choose Saul to reign over us in our daily lives and God does not destroy us because of it. He only keeps warning us of the outcome of following carnal desires. He keeps telling us to submit to His kingdom, to the man after His own heart, and to let this man, "*David, reign over us*".

The kingdom of God is made up of two principal components: the Government or the Kingdom and the Family. Most of the time when you hear preachers talk about the kingdom of God, they are often referring to one of the two components. Let's consider the family first.

Every kingdom has a royal family. The royal family is part of the kingdom in a way; but different from the commoners because they are part of the ruling monarchy. When God called Israel out of Egypt, He said to them: "*Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation*"(Ex 19:5-6).

He called them out of the world to become a priestly nation, and also to be a ruling nation over the whole world. This meaning that God has chosen the Body of Christ, which is the true "Royal Priesthood" to become kings and priests of God in His kingdom. The Body of Christ, that is the Church of the Living God, is only a part of the Kingdom of God and not the whole of it; just like the royal family of any kingdom is only a very small part of that kingdom.

*"for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth"* (Rev 9b,10).

God has called us, both Jews and Gentiles, out of every nation, kindred, and tongue, and has made us kings and priests unto God our Father and we shall reign with Him. If the Body of Christ will reign in the Kingdom of God, then the kingdom must be tremendously larger than the royal family.

The Kingdom of God therefore starts with the royal family, the family of God—a family which any man may be born into by accepting Christ as Lord and Savior. This is the ruling class of the Kingdom and these shall have jurisdiction over the whole earth, and eventually over the whole universe. The Royal Priesthood therefore is made up of priests, headed by the High Priest after the order of Melchisedeck, of kings headed by the King of kings, and made up of lords headed by the Lord of lords.

There are at least four principal components of a kingdom. The first of course, is the king; second would be the people—the citizens, or subjects over whom the king rules; third is the territory or land over which the king has jurisdiction; and the fourth would be the constitution or the Law of the land. Therefore, the Kingdom of God is the domain over which God exercises rule as King. God's purpose up to the present hour is that His people, His holy nation, His peculiar treasure, should be the domain over which He would rule as King, and then His rule will extend to the whole world, and ultimately over every creature and over all things both visible and invisible. The Lord's dominion today is in the lives of His elect who have submitted their lives to Him and accepted Him as their savior, lord, and king. His kingdom has been established in their hearts.

*“Thy Kingdom come.”* Three simple English words which open up a realm too vast and too glorious for any human mind to comprehend. It's so vast that when we attempt to consider its dimensions, we are like a little boy standing with a bucket before the Pacific Ocean, wondering how to fit all its waters inside. It's unfathomable. There is no way we can contain it. No way, we can comprehend or articulate all that's therein. This prayer is often misinterpreted. We have prayed as if God's Kingdom refers exclusively to the end of the world. But when Jesus taught us this prayer, He said: *“Thy Kingdom come.”* He was not speaking of the end of the world; He was praying the desire of His heart and the mind of God to come to pass. He was teaching us to pray that God may reign upon the earth, here and now. He was teaching us to pray that men here on earth may acknowledge God as King, and that His will may be done here on earth as it is in heaven.

### **His Kingdom Ruleth Over All**

However, someone might say: “*But God is the Almighty, He is omnipotent and ruleth over all*”; Why do we need to pray for His will to be done; Why doesn’t He just make it happen by His omnipotence. After all, the whole earth is His and the fullness thereof”. Yes, that is true indeed. What we need to consider in addition to these facts is the difference between God’s sovereignty and the Kingdom of God. These are two different things. Sovereignty is God over-ruling and enforcing His will over activities of men when they are aware or un-aware of it. The Kingdom of God operates on willingness of the citizens. Lets look at the sovereignty of God a little closely.

The Almighty is always and everywhere the sovereign God. He is the creator and owner of all things. “*For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*”(Col 1:16-17).If you and I will thoroughly meditate on the meaning of this verse, it will change our outlook on life totally. This verse says all things—which includes everything; including all principalities, all ruling powers, and governments and dominions in heaven above and on earth below. They are all His subjects. They were created by Him, and for Him. They are under His control. So, no principality can make a decree over the earth without His consent. God possesses absolute sovereignty over all creation. He is ruler over heaven and earth. He is the Creator, Owner, and Possessor of all things in heaven, on earth, underneath the earth, including the reaches of space from one end of eternity to the other. He is the supreme Governor of the universe and is King over all principalities and powers.“*For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods*” (Ps. 95:3). “*The Lord sitteth King for ever*” (Ps. 29:10). “*Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is Thine; Thine is the Kingdom, O Lord, and Thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honour come of Thee, and Thou reignest over all; and in Thine hand is power and might; and in Thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all*” (I Chron. 29:11-12).

In spite of men or demons, His purpose is always fulfilled. He is the eternal King and the only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords! His purpose is fulfilled in the council of heaven. He has the last word in every dispute and the winning move in every game. The



Almighty God raises up kings and casts them down at will. He drowns the mighty Pharaoh in the depths of the sea, and puts His hand on a little shepherd boy tending the sheep making him the greatest king the world has ever known. He raised up Nebuchadnezzar, gave him a kingdom, power, strength, and glory to rule over Babylon (Dan 2:37), and when he became pigheaded, He took it all from him. As a result of his rebellion against the Most High, Nebuchadnezzar lost the throne, became insane, lived in the wilderness and ate grass like a cow, dwelling with the beast of the field until he saw *“that the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whosoever he will:”* (Dan 4:25)

If we get this revelation in our heart, it will totally change our attitude. It will eradicate most of the worrying that gives men hypertension. We will never need to worry about what some crazy nation might do with nuclear weapon; or about the coming economic collapse; or the ‘next big one’ from the San Andreas’ fault. There’ll be no need for sleepless nights over these things. God our Father is in control. And still more good news—He’s in control of your life and mine.

*“The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all”* (Psa 103:19). Our God is supreme and it is He who behind the scene, guiding the affairs of the universe, piloting it to its desired end. *The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of waters He turneth it whithersoever He wills”* (Prov. 21:1). Though things may not look that way out here today, but He is in control. He’s got the whole world in His hands. He is in control of kings, presidents, governors, princes and rulers of nations. His mighty hands are in all things and the kingdoms of this world are becoming the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ.

I know! we’ve been told that the devil, the prince of the power of the air, the god of this world has somehow gotten the whole thing, and that this world belongs to him!. No! that is not true. Not at all!. Nothing belongs to him. When a thief steals a treasured property from the palace of a king and makes away with it, though the treasure is in his possession, yet he does not own it. It is in his possession until he is apprehended. The onlookers who see him where he’s hiding would say the treasure belong to him because they don’t know any better. But the princes and the members of the king’s family where

the treasure was stolen know the truth. Nothing on earth belongs to the devious one. He stole everything he's holding in his hands. The Scripture emphatically declares: *"The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein"* (Psa 24:1). The earth and its fullness include everything. God our Father owns it all. And He hasn't given any part of it to the devil.

Our God is the eternal King and *"the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honor and power everlasting. Amen"* (1 Timothy 6:15-16). The God we serve controls everything. The earth and the fullness thereof, yes, He's got the whole world in His hands.

Now let's return to the discussion on the Kingdom of God. If God were to operate in His sovereignty over His Kingdom there would be no need to pray—*"Thy Kingdom come."* Jesus would never have said that it is necessary to be "born again" in order to "enter" into the Kingdom of God. The Lord Jesus would not have needed to die. Because God would just have imposed His Kingdom on all His creation and all will be complete and perfect instantly.

Not so. The Kingdom goes beyond His sovereignty and demonstrates the love of God for man. It is only the Kingdom that can ultimately satisfy the heart of the Father God. The Kingdom is what He is after through the employment of His sovereignty. With sovereignty He guides the course of nature, the trajectory of all things to the expected end.

Sovereignty is the act of God overruling the will of men. But in the Kingdom of God, man willingly submits to God. In the Kingdom God is calling and wooing man until God and man become one. The Kingdom is when the will of man has become aligned with God's.

God has a plan, a wonderful Kingdom program for this earth and every person in it. You might be surprised to discover how many people go through life, even go to church and speak in tongues, but never truly realize that God has a plan and purpose for them. God has a plan and He works all things after the counsel of His own will. We need to understand what God's priorities are and then flow with them so we are not as one beating the air.

The real purpose for which God sent Jesus into the world was to establish His Kingdom on the earth. The ultimate goal is so that *the kingdoms of this world shall experientially become the kingdoms of our God and His Christ*. That is the plan of the ages. That is why the Lord Jesus spent most of His time, both before and after His crucifixion and resurrection, preaching and teaching the gospel of the Kingdom. The pattern prayer that He taught us to pray, which vast multitudes recite by rote, says, “*Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done.*” Where? Here “*on earth as it is in heaven*”.

Without doubt, there’s a longing for the arrival of the kingdom of God on earth in the heart of the Son. This longing is in the heart of every man saved or unsaved. Deep within every human, there’s this yearning for the time when peace, justice, equity, and righteousness will reign. And when the Kingdom principles will be the living constitution of every nation. God has placed this yearning for righteous government in every heart, therefore the entire creation is looking for the full manifestation of the Kingdom of God on earth.

*Thy kingdom come!*, is in the heart cry of all creation. Is it any wonder then, that man should long for that glad hour to come; for the beasts likewise, together with the trees, the winds, and the waters, without understanding, all groan in travail for the day the kingdom of God will fully manifest.

*“And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.*

*And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth”* .(Luk 11:1,2).

In the pattern prayer that the Lord Jesus taught His Disciples the first request made in this prayer was: “Thy kingdom come”, followed by “Thy will be done”. The coming of the kingdom of God to the earth was without doubt uppermost in the mind of God and of our Lord Jesus Christ. The entire life of Jesus Christ on the earth was a parable of the coming kingdom. Every man He healed, every leper He cleansed, every sin He forgave, every blind eye He opened, every deaf

ear He unstopped every word of wisdom He spoke, every act of kindness He performed was a display of the glory that should be revealed when He, the King of kings and Lord of lords, reigns in the glory of His Father on the throne of David. He came to preach the gospel of the kingdom and that was what he did. His entire life on earth from birth to resurrection was a testimony to the glory and wonder of the kingdom age to come when He will reign as King and prosper, and of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end.

### **Thy Kingdom Come!**

Let us meditate deeply upon these words: *“Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven”* (Mat 6:9,10). “Thy Kingdom come.” Whose Kingdom is it? It is “our Father’s” Kingdom. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...” *“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.”* “Who hath delivered us from the rule of darkness, and hath transferred us into **the Kingdom of the Son of His love.**” The Father’s Kingdom is a Kingdom of love. God wants to be King not because of a desire to rule, but because He is Father. He wants men to be obedient to Him, not because He’s the creator with omnipotent power but because He is Father who wants men to obey Him under the sweet constraint of love.

God has been King by His position as Creator and by His omnipotence; but now He will become King by His love as the Father. It is for this Kingdom that we are instructed by the Lord to pray, *“Our Father Who is in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come..”*

The prayer, “Thy Kingdom come,” points to the Kingdom as something still to be realized. How can that which is already fully realized be requested to come? And yet, in other places in scriptures it is spoken of as a present reality. The truth is, both premises are true. The Kingdom is both present and future. There are many indications from what the Lord Jesus said that the Kingdom of God was not only future but present. The Kingdom is not only coming but has already come. According to Mark, Jesus came into Galilee proclaiming good news from God and saying,

*Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, Mar 1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel”(Mar 1:14 KJV)*

*”He said, ”The time has come, and the kingdom of God is near. Change the way you think and act, and believe the Good News” (Mar 1:15 GW).*

*”Fulfilled hath been the time, and the reign of God hath come nigh, reform ye, and believe in the good news” (Mar 1:15 YLT).*

Some Greek scholars believe that this passage in Mark should have been translated from Greek as, “*The Kingdom of God has come.*” This compares with some other statements from our Lord Jesus in the twelve chapter of Matthew. For example, in Matthew 12:28, the Lord said : *”But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you” “If I by the Spirit of God cast out demons, then is the Kingdom of God come upon you,” or “has overtaken you” (Goodspeed), or the Kingdom of God “has reached you already” (Moffatt).*

How glibly we, in the church, pray this prayer. It is repeated by rote by hundreds of millions weekly, without any real expectation of it happening. People pray this prayer without the foggiest idea of what the words mean.

The Lord Jesus taught His disciples to pray, *“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” (Mat. 6:10).* So then, the Kingdom of God, which originates from heaven, must first begin in the hearts of men. It is set up in the believer’s heart. It then begins exercising dominion over the soul, conquering and to conquer, until all things are put under the feet of Christ.

*Our Father, we pray for the time when every unbeliever in the universe will turn to Jesus Christ as Savior.*

*We pray for the day when the uttermost parts of the earth will come under the dominion of Christ.*

*We pray for the day when all kingdoms will bow before Him and all nations serve Him.*

*We pray for the day when “the mountain of the house of the Lord, His government of kings and priests after the order of Melchizedek, shall be*

*established on the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it” (Micah 4:1).*

*“Lord, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in this earth which I am.  
Set up Thy throne, O God, in me and reign supreme in my heart.  
Rule my flesh. Rule my spirit. Rule my mind.  
Conquer the enemies within me, and the corruption of the old man.  
Rule here within me and grant me the mind that was in Christ Jesus  
So I may become a son in whom You’re well pleased, O’ God my Father.  
Let His attitude be my attitude, His power my power, His grace my grace,  
Thy Kingdom come O’ Lord; Thy will be done in me”*

# Chapter 4

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## *Repent, the Kingdom of God is At Hand*

*“Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel” (Mar 1:14,15).*

**W**hen the Lord Jesus Christ began His ministry, His first words were, *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”* Here we have the actual appearance in person of the heavenly King announcing the arrival of the Kingdom. However, He had not come then to reign as king on a physical throne, but to give His life a ransom for many and to reign over the kingdoms of their hearts. The Jews had long hoped that, when the Messiah came according to the prophecies of scripture, He would come to destroy all their enemies and restore the kingdom of Israel. But, because He came as a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief and came not to be ministered unto, but to minister and to give His life a ransom for many, they could not see how He could possibly be the promised Messiah. So they rejected Him. Thus the scripture laments, *“He came unto His own, and His own received Him not; but as many as received Him to them gave He power to become the sons of God.”*

*“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”* That was the message Jesus preached when He came on the scene. Religion teaches that the Kingdom of God is at a future time to come, and will be located at

someplace. But the Lord Jesus said the Kingdom is happening right now. The King has come. The arrival of the King signified the beginning of His Kingdom. It is true that the fullness of the Kingdom is still future, because the “stone cut out of the mountain without hands” grew from a relatively small stone into a mountain that filled the whole earth. And the prophet said: “of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end. It shall yet break in pieces and consume all other kingdoms and shall rule over all and stand forever”. The Kingdom has come, and it is still to come.

But right now, the Kingdom of God is within you. Today, men and women can both see the Kingdom, and enter the Kingdom through new birth. Hundred of millions have already done so in the past two millennia.

“Repent! for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Mat. 4:17). To repent means to make a complete turn around towards God. The rule and government of the Spirit over our lives cannot begin without a returning to God; for the Kingdom of God is not a rule of force but of love. It’s a Kingdom that requires a willing submission of its subjects. This is why repentance placed a prominent role in the teaching of our Lord Jesus.

Most of the time when “repentance” is preached, believers who have accepted Jesus as Savior often close their ears having no desire to hear what is being spoken, thinking the message isn’t for them. They think that the message of repentance is for the unsaved. However, when we look into the Scriptures, we see that the word of God says something different.

Christ taught that every man on earth is in need of a Savior. He taught how we could be saved. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (Jn. 3:16). “If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved” (Rom. 10:9). “For by grace are ye saved through faith” (Eph. 2:8). The gospel of salvation includes repentance, but repentance is not the way to salvation; Faith is.

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However, the gospel of the Kingdom begins with “repentance”. The Lord Jesus said “*Repent! for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.*” Repentance is the beginning of the gospel of the Kingdom.

Why should we repent? We should repent because there is a heavenly Kingdom that requires and demands it. The Kingdom has come and repentance is the first priority in order to partake in it. We may be satisfied, as most Christians are, to have obtained grace and eternal life; but anyone among us who desires to inherit the Kingdom with the Lord requires to do more. The message of the Kingdom comes to us saying, “*We must repent!*”

Webster’s dictionary defines the word “repent” as “to feel sorrow, remorse, or regret for one’s past sin, omission, action or conduct; to experience such contrition as to amend one’s way of life; to remember with compunction or self-reproach; to feel remorse on account of.” This is the English meaning of the word. The Bible was not written in English and many words when translated from their Greek or Hebrew do not necessarily maintain their original meaning. Therefore, the English meanings of words are not always the true meaning of the word before translation from the original Greek or Hebrew language. And even in English, if correct translation was done, English words often evolve and change their meanings over time. Translators are often men of great scholarship but not necessarily with spiritual understanding. And despite their best intention, their translations may be affected by the beliefs and doctrines acquired from their religious backgrounds.

The dictionary meaning of the word repentance is related to the word remorse, pain, and penalty. Its inclusion of the preface “re” signifies ‘again’. It is exactly a second penalty. It is a repeat of pain and penance. It conveys a feeling, not of emancipation, but of condemnation. The scope of it is not grace, but justice. The outworking of it is not joy, but sorrow. Therefore, repentance is not what brings salvation but grace through faith, otherwise it would mean man is paying for his salvation through the pain or sorrow of repentance. Salvation is a gift from God, but inheriting the Kingdom requires repentance, a turnaround towards God.

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Thus repentance means “*to change the mind*”. It means to totally change one's mind, take on the mind of Christ and begin making decisions controlled by the will of God. Repentance involves a radical change or exchange of mind, whereas regeneration involves a radical change of nature. The command of our Lord, “*Repent! For the kingdom of heaven is at hand*” could be translated, as “*Take a new mind, put on the mind of Christ, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.*” If you try to understand the things of the Kingdom of God without having the mind of Christ you will be thoroughly confused. Every man from birth inherited perverted thoughts, ideas, opinions, and conceptions about God, about himself, and about the nature of all things.

Repentance is the power by which a man puts aside his own will to embrace the will of God. It therefore involves a radical change of mind. It is a more deliberate process than we may realize, for it does not mean occasionally acting on what we believe to be divine guidance in preference to our human instinct, but that we must wait upon God to receive His mind every time. This is the life of the children of the Kingdom.

Kingdom repentance is to repudiate something you have believed in, clung and submitted to in the past, in order to believe in, cling and submit to principles of the Kingdom. The issue is allegiance. *Kingdom* repentance is the call to change our minds about the rule and government of our lives. It is the call for us to change kingdom and pledge our allegiance to the Kingdom of God and of His Christ.

The Kingdom of God is spiritual, and doesn't work in the carnal mind. So whether a man is sinning, being religious, governed by intellect or by high moral standard, he must repent, because the Kingdom only works in the spiritual mind. When a kingdom is in power and a new kingdom comes to take over dominion, there is warfare. The message of the Lord is that we should repent and submit to His new Kingdom. A new rule and government has come into our lives which will cast out the old, establish the new, and renew us with the mind of Christ. God is calling you and me today to repent of the rule of the flesh, the rule of the carnal mind, the rule of the world, the rule of religion, the rule of Babylonian

systems of this present evil world, and to turn and submit to the rule of Christ, the King of kings, whose throne is within us.

### *Return from Babylon*

*"Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away" (Isa 51:11).*

Where are they returning from? Definitely not from Egypt, for they were the redeemed and brought "out of Egypt" through the blood of the lamb. Miraculously crossed the Red Sea, walking through on dry ground. But because of disobedience they were carried into captivity, carried into Babylon, into the land of Shinar.

They were carried away to Babylon because they did not listen to the true prophets of God. They followed lying prophets and teachers. They bowed before idols. They worshipped gods of silver and gold, piling their tents full of Babylonian garments. And so into captivity they went, mingled and unequally yoked with the world system, competing with the world in her rat-race track and field events, employing worldly tricks and methodologies, and singing the Lord's songs in a strange land. Instead of repenting, they have adopted conformity as a lifestyle, and purposed to build *a house in the land of Shinar*.

To Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, Daniel said, "*You are this head of gold.*" But Nebuchadnezzar did not take heed to the warning given him in the dream. In contrary, he took the power and glory conferred on him by God and used it to exalt himself. He built his own golden image and commanded all Babylon to worship it. Yes, he had power. God had given him a vast kingdom, and wealth, and power and glory of the whole of Babylon. But instead of him glorifying God and worship Him, Nebuchadnezzar used it all for his own end. He usurped the glory of God, deifying himself and demanding men to worship him.

Dear Child of God, you and I will be subjected, one way or another to the same test. The ultimate test for everyone who would follow on to know the Lord is this: *What will you do with the blessings, anointing, and power you have received from the Lord? Will you use it for your own ends,*

*to advance your own kingdom? Will you use it to erect an image of yourself so men can see it and “worship” you? Or will you like faithful Abraham of old, offer it as a sacrifice on the altar of obedience to God? Every one of us, would-be son of God, will sooner or later face this test. How you and I deal with it will determine what we become in the Kingdom of God.*

The self-exalting spirit that uses the gifts and power of God to acquire worship and notoriety, stealing the glory which belongs only to God, is not of God. It is the spirit of that golden image of Babylon, erected in the plain of Shinar. By this spirit of Babylon, today, millions are deceived and seduced to flock to the standards of covetous men. Yes, we do, today, have our modern-day Nebuchadnezzars, the self-appointed kings of Babylon, from whom you seldom see the humility of God’s Christ, or the worship of our Savior Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord and King. On the contrary, we see showmanship and arrogance of one who purports to be “*God’s man of the hour, and God’s man of faith and power*”.

***Every child of God must repent! Repent of what?*** Not just repent of certain fleshly wrongs, or just repent of certain sins, but repent of insubordination and resistance in submitting to the government of the Kingdom of God. We must repent *of conformity to the word, and repent of partial submission to the rule of God and put on the mind of Christ*. Sad truth is that most “saved” folks know nothing of the mind of God. Yes, they may be as morally sound as the ‘church lady’ in the choir, and do not curse, smoke, or drink, but they continue to walk carnally, after the desires of self, after the rudiments of the world, after the blindness of religion and not after mind of Christ.

The Lord’s Kingdom proclamation was, “Repent! Change your mind! Put on the mind of Christ! Adopt a new philosophy!” But why? Why do you need a change of mind and attitude? Because “*the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.*” This Kingdom repentance must not be a onetime event. It must be on-going, as we are changed from glory to glory until we are fully renewed and the mind of Christ is totally formed in us.

# Chapter 5

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## *Cometh Not with Observation*

*“And when He was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, He answered them and said, **The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:** neither shall they say, Lo here! or, Lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you” (Luke 17:20-21).*

**T**he message of the Kingdom preached by the Lord cannot be grasped by either the Jews or even the present day eschatology preachers, until there is spiritual perception of what His Kingdom really is and how it comes. The doctrine of the rabbis was that the Kingdom of God would come with great signs and outward display of political power. That the enemies of Israel would be miraculously overwhelmed, and they will be established in a position of power and world supremacy. Our modern day dispensational teaching is practically identical with this first century rabbinic doctrine.

When Jesus came two-thousand years ago, the Jews were expecting a powerful military deliverer who would deliver them from Rome. They therefore rejected the humble Savior even though they heard the Gospel of the Kingdom which He preached with power, with signs and with wonder. They saw Him as He went about doing good, healing coming forth. *“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all*

*that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him” (Acts 10:38). They rejected His message. “He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name” (John 1:11-12). They were not interested in a Savior who would save them from sin. These men wanted a king of nations like their fore-fathers asked for Saul, but God sent a King of hearts. These men wanted a king of nations but God sent a King to reign over their hearts. They wanted one with earthly political power, God sent His Christ to lead them into Pentecostal power. They wanted a political leader, God sent them Christ the Anointed One, a Teacher, a Healer and a Miracle Worker.*

They missed the visitation of the Messiah because they were looking for him to meet their worldly image of an emperor and a political power. Today, the Fundamentalist, the Pentecostals, the Charismatics and the others, have their clearly defined picture of what the second coming of the Kings of kings will be like. They too are expecting a carnal government in which they will be in power ruling with the physical Christ, who will be sitted as King or emperor in "earthly" Jerusalem (*some theologians, based on certain teaching of 'Israel and Judah' even claim His throne will be in London*). So they seek for signs in newspapers, radio and television news, internet, happenings in the Middle East, movement of heavenly bodies, the season of Barley harvest in Israel, the return of the lost tribes of Israel, etc... to detect the signs of the coming Kingdom. What does it matter to these smart guys, that the Lord Himself said His Kingdom does not come with external signs? Our theologians and modern day big-time preachers know better. And it must be true since it was broadcasted to 'billions' over the big world-wide television broadcasting stations, or read from nowhere less than the "wonderful world wide web". The Scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' days were very well read and conversant with Scriptures with regards to the signs of the Messiah. They memorized the entire Law and the Prophets from youth. Compared to these Scribes, most of our big time modern day preachers, can be considered as lazy pleasure-seekers, and relatively ignorant of scriptures besides any of these hard-working Pharisees. Well, things still work out fine for our preachers since the average church-goer doesn't spend time in the word and prayer and so the preacher, though shallow and uninspiring because of a lack of diligence in the

word and prayer, will still look like Daniel when speaking to the congregation; because they never crack their Bible open on their own, neither do they know how to bend the knee before the Spirit of Grace in private time of prayer and communion.

The Scribes and Pharisees missed it because they are still seeking salvation from their external practices of the law, even though the Lord had come and told all that it's what's inside the cup that matter not the clean exterior. In the same manner, they missed the Messiah when He came because they were looking for Him to be an external savior rather than the savior of their spirits and souls. They were looking through the wrong eye glasses.

May God help us, in our day, so we don't miss Him like these ones did. Yes, our King is coming; and He shall reign over this earth. He shall rule and reign literally over the spiritual, physical, and psychological earth. He shall reign over all things on earth, in heaven, and underneath the earth. And He shall reign forever and ever. But the signs of His kingdom are not to be found in the carnal, external, and worldly arena. The signs are in the spiritual arena. No one looking with physical eyes will be able to point to the signs of this Kingdom and say--Lo here! or Lo there!; for the Kingdom of God is in the realm of the spirit.

We can be so taken up with looking and tallying natural signs of wars and rumors of wars, of violence and of earthquakes and disasters, that we totally miss all the real thing that's happening in the realm of the Spirit. We are so engaged in worldly sign gathering and analysis that we fail to hear His voice within. We read the morning newspaper, we watch the evening news, and we suppose that we are watching for His coming. We hear of the storms, drought, increasing crimes, wars, the rise of terrorism, and fall of governments; and fear and doubt seize hold of our souls until we become more conscious of the darkness of "this present evil world," than we are of the light and triumph of the Christ within.

Because we concentrate too much, watching the things that are happening in the world, we become less engaged with the progress of the realm of our Father and King. Any time we are troubled by the things coming to pass upon the earth, it is obvious that we are watching the realm of darkness rather than looking for the Kingdom

of God. We then become one of them, worldly and carnally minded mere men instead of walking like the saints of God whose destiny is in the supernatural heavens. We become like those who “*dwell upon the earth*” instead of those “*raised up and made to sit together in heavenly places.*” We become one of the earthlings, the earth-bound chickens, instead of soaring in the heavens of God, like the eagles.

The Kingdom the Jews expected at the time the Lord came was one with such global sovereignty that would overthrow Rome, sweep the Gentiles away, purge the earth of evil, and exalt Israel in their own land over all the nations of the earth. Then the treasures of the nations would be at their disposal, “*the Gentiles would come to their light, and kings to the brightness of their rising*”, even as they understood Isaiah the prophet said it would be.

*“And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side.*

*Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee. The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall shew forth the praises of the Lord.*

*Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the Lord thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee. And the sons of strangers shall build up thy walls, and their kings shall minister unto thee: for in my wrath I smote thee, but in my favour have I had mercy on thee.*

*Therefore thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night; that men may bring unto thee the forces of the Gentiles, and that their kings may be brought. For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted” (Isaiah 60: 3-6, 9-12).*

The national imagination was fired with the thought of this Messianic kingdom and the mind of the people, full of patriotism, yearned for it. To them, the signs of the times pointed to the arrival of their



Messiah King who would rule and subdue the Gentiles, and make the strangers and foreigners, to feed their flocks, and the sons of the alien to be their plowmen and vinedressers. And this king will reign in prosperity and with great glory.

But Jesus came preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, working miracles and healing the sick. As His fame spread He gained thousands of followers and they began to consider Him a good candidate for the kingdom though His doctrine was contrary to their. Who could better deal with the Romans than a man who could walk on water, heal the sick, and raise the dead? Though they did not like many of His teachings, His apparent disrespect for their traditions, and disruption to their merchandising in the temple of God; but they could stomach all that if He would become the deliverer of Israel. So they made attempts to make Him king but He would not and attended many Feasts ceremonies incognito.

Jesus proclaimed that the Kingdom of God had arrived, but there was no visible change in the political order of the day. He wasn't organizing any political rallies, stirring up the crowds with political speeches; neither was He recruiting bands of fighters. He was not passing out swords, neither was He urging anyone to practice civil disobedience. He was not organizing any resistance movement. Most of what the Scribes and Pharisees saw and heard was His disruption of their status quo and lack of respect for the traditions of the elders. So they wondered — Is Jesus really the One?

Even John the Baptist, who introduced Him to the Israel and baptized Him in the River Jordan had the same understanding. He was expecting Jesus of Nazareth to be the political Savior. He most probably did not listen to his own declaration at Bethabara near Jordan. He surely was not listening to what the Holy Ghost said through him, or maybe he totally forgot:

*“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*

*This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it*

*abode upon him.*

*And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God” (John 1:29-34).*

Because John the Baptist himself had the same expectation from Jesus as the Jews, when these expectations were not met, he began to doubt. And so while in prison, John sent two of his messengers to inquire of Jesus, “Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?”. Like many of his fellow Jews, he had expected God to send someone to oppose the powerful authorities, both Jewish and Roman. When Jesus came on the scene he trusted that He was the one who would confront the established order and bring it down. Yet these things troubled John, for Jesus didn’t seem to be meeting these expectations.

As Jesus entered Jerusalem riding upon a donkey, the vast crowds that had gathered felt a surge of patriotism. In their excitement they waved palm branches and sang:

*“Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord: Blessed be the King of our father David, that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest!”*

They were eager to raise up Jesus as their King to sit on David’s throne. They were praising Him and also inviting Him to come and become their king and deliverer. “*Hosanna*”, according to Strong’s dictionary is an “exclamation of adoration” in Hebrew and is an exclamation of adoration and also includes the meaning “*come save us now*”. But Jesus went straight into the temple in Jerusalem and began to do His work of cleansing the house of God.

*“And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this? And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee.*

*And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves,*

*And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves” (Matt 21:10-13).*

*Afterwards, Jesus climbed up the mount of Olives and looking down upon Jerusalem, He wept. He could see the folly of seeking a deliverance and peace on the outside instead of in the heart. Gazing sorrowfully over Jerusalem He said,*

*“If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.*

*For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation. And he went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold therein, and them that bought;*

*Saying unto them, It is written, My house is the house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of thieves” (Luke 19:42-46).*

The king had come but the inhabitants were too preoccupied to recognize Him. The King of Heaven came to establish His Kingdom in their midst; but they had a wrong mind, misplaced expectation, and were not poor in spirit, hence the Kingdom of Heaven was not for them. They wanted Christ to march in and rule from without, over their nation and their external enemies, but they had no desire for Him to march into their inner life to deliver them from the kings of corruption and idolatry that ruled upon the thrones of their hearts.

The truth is, that the vast majority of Christians today think exactly like the Jews of Jesus’ day. They want deliverance from this present evil world but are looking for it from an external physical source. They are expecting salvation from the natural systems of the world and searching for physical signs in the world to indicate the coming of the Kingdom. Today, most people are aware of the world’s need for salvation. In these troubled days, there is an almost universal longing for a better world. But the tragedy is that, like the Jews in Jesus’ day, most are seeking for the signs of the Kingdom from the wrong source.

*“And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:*

*Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God*

*is within you*" (Luk 17:20-21).

And so the Pharisees who have been itching to get an answer from Him about the Messianic kingdom and whether or not He was the One they've been waiting for, have had enough. They were out of patience waiting for an answer. So they sent Him a strong delegate and **demand**ed that He tell them when the Kingdom of God would come. Notice that they were not asking Him, it was not a petition. The word "**demand**" in English is a strong word; not a request. It's not a petition, it's not an inquiry. It was a demand with authority that must be answered *urgently*. They were not asking Him what the Kingdom of God is or how to enter into it, they were sure they already knew that very well, they just wanted to know when it will come. They had a notion of it as a *temporal kingdom* which should advance the Jewish nation above the nations of the earth. They were impatient to hear the tidings of its approach. They understood, perhaps, that Christ had taught his disciples to pray for its arrival, and they had long preached that it was *at hand*.

They asked *when* it would come. Dates are of supreme importance to carnal minds. Jesus did not answer the Pharisee's question. His silence is deafening. He instead corrected their error. He told the Pharisees how the **Kingdom does not come**. He didn't tell them when. *He said they should not be asking about its sequence in time or its visible manifestation. They should not be looking for it externally.* He told that the Kingdom of God does not with ocular evidence. The word rendered "observation" in the passage means: "*not come with outward show*" that can be seen with the eye. In other words, it will be nothing of such a startling or sensational character, or an outward cataclysmic or apocalyptic events that would cause the spectator to say, "Look here! Look yonder!, for "*behold*", *the Lord said, "the Kingdom of God is within you"*

The Lord was also in essence telling them that "*it may come, and you're not be aware of it.*" Because it does not have an *external show* as other kingdoms have. It does not come with outward signs that one can physically point to and say—See it is over there in London, or in Jerusalem, or in Ethiopia; "No! says Christ, "It will have a silent entrance, without pomp, without noise;"*it cometh not with observation*"

He didn't say a word about when. He told them where it already was. "*Behold, the kingdom of God is within you.*" He told them it doesn't come by observation, not with outward show. You can't see it coming. But He didn't tell them when.

Why didn't He tell them when? Because the Kingdom is not something external—it exists in the realm of the spirit. In spirit there is no time. In spirit realm there is no physical location.

The Kingdom will not be set up in this or that particular place; nor will the court of the King be *here* or *there*; it will not come with any pomp and pageantry, but will silently take over the reigns in the hearts of men that receives the King and allow Him to reign over them. The kingdom would start with a *spiritual* influence: *The kingdom of God is within you.*" It is not of this world, Joh\_18:36. Its glory does not strike men's fancies, but affects their spirits, and its power is over their souls and consciences.

The reign of the King is a peaceful reign. Yes, the Lord is a man of war and He **comes to make war**. But the warfare He makes is an internal battle, not an external conflict of bombs and bullets. The reign of the King is a reign of righteousness, but that righteousness is not established by external rules, regulations, laws, or any military enforcement. "*The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds*" (2 Corinthians 10:4).

The Kingdom of God is not established by force. It cannot be established by law. It will never be established by political action. It is impossible for it to be established by the will, efforts, or programs of men or of governments. And as the Jews of old failed to recognize the coming of the Lord and His Kingdom in their day, even so a sleeping church today may fail to recognize the signs that herald the manifestation of the King and fullness of the Kingdom of God.

The Jewish nation, the Scribes and Pharisees were not ignorant of Scriptures concerning His coming. They had studied the prophets closely and even memorized the contents of the Law and the Prophets, and were anxiously expecting His arrival. But they drifted so far from the Spirit that when He came, they could not

recognize Him. Because they were fixated on what they considered as the signs of the Messiah and what He would do for them, they missed His first coming altogether.

*May that not happen to us. May we continue to listen to the Holy Spirit and have our eyes and ears open and attentive to the revelation of the Holy Ghost concerning the signs of the Son Of man in this hour, so we don't miss His glorious appearing.*

# Chapter 6

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## *The Kingdom is Within You*

*“And when He was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, He answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: neither shall they say, Lo here! or, Lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you” (Luke 17:20-21).*

**F**orty days had passed since He rose from the dead, and the disciples weren't quite sure what was next. They had gathered around Him in fellowship and listened to Him teach things concerning the Kingdom of God, but they were not quite sure what to expect. So they made up their minds to ask. They'd also been thinking about this burning question since before His crucifixion. He had undergone the most horrific ordeal of the cross and the grave and He had overcome death and the grave and is alive!

What else could be next? Now they had to ask Him. So they asked, “Lord, is this the time?” They'd been itching to ask this for a while. To them, this matter concerning His earthly kingdom as the Messiah was a question whose time had come. They, therefore, presented this question before Him.

*“When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?” (Act 1:6,7).*

For centuries the Jews had cherished the hope that the moment the Messiah, the Anointed One, appeared, He would immediately seize

authority, cast down the current ruling empire, and begin His reign over the nations of the earth. They expected that He would immediately smite down the Caesars, topple their thrones, and restore the kingdom to Israel. His natural brethren and relatives also had this understanding and wished He would do mighty works openly in their big cities, for the world to see, so they could make Him King. His disciples had same expectation as well. So around forty days after His resurrection, they finally summoned enough courage and ask the question. But He answered,

*“It is not for you to know the times and seasons which the Father hath put in His own power, but ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you” (Act 1:6-7).*

The Jewish people, unto whom He came, did not understand that this King who had come from glory was not going to set up an earthly kingdom yet. He first had to carefully choose and prepare a people, a blessed company of God’s sons, who are to rule and reign with Him. He first had to set up His throne and reign in their hearts, bringing them to His exact image and likeness. After they had all become partakers of His mind, they would then be ready to take the kingdom, and reign with Him. And it would not be a limited and restricted kingdom, but one over the whole earth and *fullness thereof*.

This then was the beginning of Christ’s reign—silent, uncelebrated, unpretentious, and unnoticed as He reigns in the hearts of those elects who have accepted Him as their King. This preparation will make them fit to reign with Him in the ages to come. For He must reign in them first, transform them into His own image before they can share His throne. *“Reign in me, Lord Jesus, reign in me!”*

There is no doubt about the fact that the gospel of the Kingdom was uppermost in the mind of our Lord Jesus while He walked the shore of Galilee. The Scripture tells us that while He was with His disciples, He spent the time teaching them concerning the Kingdom of God. The gospel of Matthew tells us that the Lord *“Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the Kingdom, and healing all manner of disease and all manner of sickness.” (Matt 9:35)*. He preached and taught things concerning the Kingdom of God. He healed the sick to show Kingdom dominion and taught the principles of the Kingdom in parables. He told His



disciples, *“I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent”* (Lk. 4:43). He declared that the Father sent Him to preach the gospel of the Kingdom, commissioned His disciples, and sent the seventy, to preach the Kingdom with demonstration. But the disciples, like the Jews, still did not understand His mission. They did not understand that His first coming was to establish the Kingdom of God in the hearts of men. They were expecting Him to sit on a physical throne in Jerusalem.

They asked Him about a natural kingdom, He replied them concerning God’s supernatural Kingdom to be established in their heart. They were concerned with the restoration of worldly political power, He told them they would soon be endued with Pentecostal power from above. The power of the Holy Spirit which they were to receive, in ten days, would give them Kingdom power and dominion from within. Earlier on, before His crucifixion He had promised and reassured them, that He wasn’t going to leave them without help. He promised to send them another Comforter who will be with them always. *“And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever: even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him; but ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you (as Jesus), and shall be in you (as the Holy Spirit)”* (Jn. 14:16-17).

Where did Christ say the Comforter would dwell? He said: *“He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you”*. From then on, *their courage, their guidance, and their power* were not to come to them from without, but supernaturally from within.

The kingdom of God began within you the day you invited Jesus into your heart. The day you repented of your sins and Jesus became your Lord and Savior, He brought into your heart the redemption purchased through the blood of His cross. The beginning of the kingdom of God within us is when the work of salvation was wrought in us. *“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God”* (John 3:5). We gain our entrance into the Kingdom of God through the new birth.

Though the work of salvation is wholly of God, we cannot excuse ourselves from our own responsibilities. We have a part to play. We have to repent, turn away from our former way of life and believe the gospel. We have to submit to the Lord and accept Him as our Savior and Lord. The instance we accept Him as Lord and Savior, God enters in and sets up His residence, His tabernacle, and His throne in us. We then become the residence of the King, and His Kingdom is within us.

However, because there was an incumbent government in us before His arrival, the territory available for His Kingdom in us is limited and there's also a conflict. This conflict is between the flesh and the Spirit of Christ who is the King of the new Kingdom within us. The child of God has a part to play in this. Our responsibility in this regards is to submit our members to Christ the King, let Him rule, and let His domain in us expand continuously, until everything is under His control.

At a certain time during the reign of Saul the king, there were two anointed kings over Israel. There was Saul, the incumbent, the man of the flesh who held Israel under his dominion, chosen by the people against God's advice to the contrary. He was the man of the people, for they "asked for" him to reign over them. Then, there was David, the boy not considered to be kingdom-material even by his own father. Forgotten and left with the sheep in the field while Samuel came to anoint a king in the house of Jesse. He was the man *after God's own heart* and God's choice for the kingdom of Israel.

So David was anointed king over Israel while Saul was still reigning. Saul represents the flesh while David represents the spirit. The flesh wanting to remain in power, waged war unceasingly against the Spirit of the King within. Just as the forces of lust and evil in the world proclaim, "*We will not have this man to rule over us*", even so the flesh desperately strives to revive the corrupt nature of Adam within us in order to push Christ from His throne and reign instead. *It is not our striving against the flesh that will put us over, but our submitting to Christ, is what will bring the victory.* We cannot overcome these enemies ourselves, Christ alone can put them under His feet. Our responsibility is to yield ourselves to God that he may reign in us. It's this civil war that hinders the progress of the work of God within us.

But as we pledge allegiance to the King of kings, and submit to Him, the house of Saul will grow weaker and weaker.

*“Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: but David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker (2 Samuel 3:1).* As we submit to the Anointed of God, the reign and the domain of the Kingdom within us will expand until Christ is totally formed in us. The domain of the flesh will continue to decrease, but of the increase of the Kingdom of Christ, there shall be no end. For after His Kingdom has totally taken over our individual beings within, it will then through us take over our neighborhoods, then our nations, then the earth, followed by the galaxies, and unto reaches of infinity.

To what extent the reign of Christ and the glory of His kingdom increase and prosper within us depends upon the cooperation and submission He finds in our hearts. Our personal relationship with the Lord our King means absolutely everything, both now as He reigns within us, and in the ages to come when we reign with Him.

Our relationship with God and submission to Him is everything. If we draw near to Him, He will draw near to us. If we are close to Him, He will be close to us. He’s waiting to draw close to us, but we must remove the hindrance and inhibition that prevents this intimacy. The reason why John, the apostle of love, was the disciple Jesus loved most was because John truly loved the Lord Jesus more than anything in heaven or on earth. John was always close to Him listening to every word that Jesus spoke. He listened, heard, and “saw” or perceived what Jesus spoke. He was always sitting close to him and listening to His heartbeats and capturing every word that came out of His mouth. And, indeed captured the spirit of the word that came out of the mouth of the Lord.

Let us be mindful of this fact that the more we draw near and listen to His voice, the more readily He will speak to our hearts. The more our inner eyes seek the beauty of His presence, the more He will reveal His face to us. The more patiently we await His leading, the more diligently He will lead us. The greater delight we display in carrying out His will, the more He will rejoice in opening our eyes to the hidden things which He has prepared for those that love Him. *“I love*

*them that love me, saith the Lord; “and they that seek me early shall find me”*

*“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him” (John 14:21).*

Can you see the secret in the verse above? *“He that loves me shall be loved by my Father”*, said the Lord. And I will love him, He continued. So if you love the Lord Jesus Christ, both the Father and the Lord will love you and will show and demonstrate their love towards you. This love is what will make us cooperate in total submission so that His Kingdom can continue to take on an enlargement in us until it totally consumes all opposition in our members.

All those who love Him, cherish His commandment, His will, and His eternal purpose become the special object of His love. Why was Daniel a man dearly loved of God? Why did he have such an amazing insight into the secret things of God and received so many prophetic revelations? Could these be related to what Jesus said above? Listen to how an angel addressed Daniel in the tenth Chapter of his Book:

*“And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling.*

*Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words” (Dan 10:11-12).*

The angel that was sent to deliver this message to Daniel was confronted and delayed by the prince of this world and it took Michael the archangel coming down to rebuke the prince of darkness before the angel was released to deliver the message from the throne to Daniel. The angel, seeing all that transpired in the heavenlies on the behalf of Daniel, promptly addressed him as: *“Daniel, a man greatly beloved.”* Why? Why was Daniel greatly beloved of God? Could it also be because Daniel loved God, and was always drawing close to Him? Could it be that Daniel would put God first even if it meant death? Could it be because Daniel would not defile himself at whatever cost, but will stay true to his God? Could these be the reason why God revealed so much to him? There’s only one answer to these questions.

And it will work in the same manner for you and me if we love God. Our fervent love for God will not go unrequited and unreturned. In fact, it will be returned in that abundance which only God Himself can pour forth.

Listen again to what the Lord said in the passage of Scripture above as rendered by the Literal Translation version: *“and the one that loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I shall love him and will reveal Myself to him” (John 14:21b)*. To love Christ is the secret to revelation and spiritual understanding. To all those who love Him, He reveals Himself that they may love Him yet the more. And because they love Him they sit on His lap like John, and beholding His face they are being changed into the image of Him who has manifested Himself to them.

Judas the brother of James on hearing this was moved to ask a thoughtful question:

*“Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?”*

*Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him” (John 14:22,23).*

A man of God once spoke a pertinent illustrative word of wisdom that explains the state of two different believers; one with spiritual understanding and the other without. He said: “two men looked through prison bars; one saw mud, and the other saw stars”. Though we are not in prison, except for this veil of the flesh, thus it is with us. The child of God who has no burning love for God, though he be an active Christian of many years sees nothing but weakness, defeat, and bondage to corruption. On the other hand, the other one who loves God fervently, sees in everything the excellent power of God working in him a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. And by the power of faith, because God is faithful, he receives the reward of faith.

Love is the secret key that opens the storehouse of revelation and spiritual understanding. It is the key to the abiding presence of God. And it is love, fervent love, that will cause a child of God to forsake all and follow Him. It's this kind of love that will make the child of God totally submit to the King, obey His word without reservation, and

desire the increase of His government in the earth that he or she is.

Beloved, do you love the Lord? Do you really love Him? Is your Christian service because you love Him or because of what you'll get in this world? Are you serving Him because of prosperity? Or because of notoriety or fame in the ministry? Is it so everyone may know you as God's man or woman of faith and power? Is your labor to advance His kingdom or is it to build yours and polish your resume? Is it to impress the people of God so as to give you money to advance your kingdom?

Do you love the Lord fervently? Do you love Him with love unfeigned. The only acceptable ministry in this hour is one carried out "*By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned*" (2 Corinthians 6:6). The sad truth in this hour is that the Kingdom of God is not being advanced by many of what we call ministry in our day. Most of it is worldly ministry. We carry on like the world using the world's mode of operation to perform the Lord's work; and use the world's yardstick to measure our success. And, of course, by that yardstick, we are very successful. We therefore congratulate ourselves for a job well done in building what we call "the kingdom of God". But God is saying something totally different about us. As He looks down, he sees the same old generation, gathered in plain of Shinar(Gen 11:3) with *brick for stone and slime for mortar*, toiling miserably, building a tower to reach heaven. He sees a generation of carnally minded people, building their own kingdoms, and thinking themselves to be "rich, increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and *"knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked"* (Revelation 3:17).

The Kingdom of God is advanced by the working of the Holy Ghost starting from the hearts of the saints, "*by pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned*".

*For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.* (Romans 14:17)

### The King is Within You

Christians travel around chasing external spectacular events, seeking signs to strengthen their faith not realizing that God-kind of faith does

not come by those external miracles or testimonies. They may get some head-knowledge or sense-knowledge faith, the type that draw unbelievers to receive healings and miracles, but they can never get spirit faith or revelation faith that the Scriptures refers to when it says: *“The just shall live by faith”*. Real faith is born of the spirit when the seed of the word of God sown in the heart. It is from within. And so many hard working Christians run to and fro looking for external manifestations of faith in their lives refusing to *seek the only place where it can be found*—“behold, *the kingdom of God is within you.*”

Others needing a word from the Lord, but where do they go? They go to and fro, over the city and across the nation, looking for a prophet or minister with some powerful gift to give them a word from the Lord. But the Lord whom they desire a word from, dwells inside them. What a pity! The One they need a word from dwells in their heart, but they travel miles upon miles, all over the place to make appointment with someone else to tell them what the King who resides within them, wants to tell them. They are busy seeking and searching for outward signs of the Kingdom, even though the King of the Kingdom already told them that His Kingdom does not come with observation, *does not come with physical or visible signs*, so that no one can say, See it’s over there! or Lo! its right here; But that the Kingdom of God is within them.

No need to travel anywhere, the God of miracles and power is closer to you than the very air you breathe. He is nigh you, even in your mouth and in your heart. He is there where you are today. The God of the Kingdom is within you.

The Lord Jesus is telling us in the Church today that we, like the Pharisees, are seeking the Kingdom in the wrong places. We are seeking Kingdom faith, Kingdom dominion, and Kingdom power and glory from *without*. Seeking it from the hand of some man, while all along the Kingdom is not outside — *it is within*.

Jesus said, *“If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink. He that believeth in me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water” (Jn. 7:37)*. And He was correct when He instructed the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well, *‘But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be*

*in him a well of water springing up (from within) into everlasting life” (Jn. 4:14).*

Out of his belly, from within him, shall flow rivers of living water. And again, the Lord said the water that He gives shall become a well of water springing up from within us into everlasting life. And so, before the Lord Jesus left the earth, He reassured His disciples that it was better for them that He should go away. But that He would send another Comforter to take His place. However this Comforter will not operate from outside of them like He did, but will live within them and be their Guide, Counselor, Advocate, Defender, Teacher, Revealer of the Father, their source of Strength and supernatural Power. He told them that it was better for them to have the King and the Kingdom within them.

*‘And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever: even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him; but ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you (as Jesus), and shall be in you (as the Holy Spirit)’ (Jn. 14:16-17).*



# Chapter 7

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## *Of the Increase of His Kingdom, there shall be no End*

*“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.*

*Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure” (Dan 2:44-45).*

*“Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this”(Isaiah 9:7).*

**T**he Lord Jesus taught the mysteries of the Kingdom with parables. *“The kingdom of God,”* He said, is *“as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.”* He is telling us here that the kingdom of God is not something that would

immediately burst forth upon the earth with a sudden blaze of glory; but a living thing that would start small, seemingly unnoticed and then spring up and grow into a mighty plant or tree.

He meant to teach us in this parable that the kingdom of God will not spread over the entire earth in an instant. That it will involve a steady growth, moving from glory to glory until it covers the whole earth as the water covers the sea. The Scriptures then says that when the Kingdom covers the whole earth, no man will say, “*Know the Lord, for all will know Him from the least to the greatest.*” Isaiah certainly prophesied concerning this growth in the ninth chapter of his book saying: “*Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom to order and establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.*” (Isa. 9:7).

“Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end.” The Kingdom of God is a progressive and growing thing. “*No end*” means it transcends the ages, reaches beyond time as we know it; and speaks of eternal increase. That is one of the wonders of the Kingdom. Two thousand years ago, the Lord Jesus brought the Kingdom to the earth, into the world of men; For the Kingdom already existed in God, and will always exist. It will continue to grow and expand from realm to realm throughout eternity. The universe itself reflects this divine principle of unending expansion.

There is nothing static in God or in His Kingdom. There’s a constant and eternal growth. This blessed reality of the Kingdom is defined in the Lord’s Prayer where He taught us to pray, “*Thy kingdom come.*” One of the greatest revelations of the Kingdom that we can receive is that of its eternal increase. All that pertains to God and His Kingdom are always abounding and increasing. “*Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord*” (2 Peter 1:2). “*And God is able to make all grace **abound** toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work*” (2 Cor 9:8). “*We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith **groweth exceedingly**, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth*” (2 Thessalonians 1:3).

The Lord and all the blessings and benefits of His Kingdom are increasing daily. Grace, mercy, goodness, wisdom, righteousness and power are increasing in the earth with each succeeding age. *“Grace and peace be multiplied unto you,”* the inspired apostle Peter wrote. To multiply is to increase! God’s covenant with Abraham was, *“Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee”* (Heb. 6:14). Abraham has been multiplied into millions of people as the stars of the heavens for number. God is increasing Himself in His sons, just as Abraham has increased through his offspring.

**Prayer:** *My dear friends, may the Lord our God multiply His grace upon your life as you heed the admonition God is giving us concerning His Kingdom. May the tender mercies of our God multiply over your life as His blessings abound towards you. May He add to you, wisdom upon wisdom, revelation upon revelation, and move you from glory to glory for the advancement of His Kingdom. You will not be static, but will make continuous progress, and advance in love, in faith, and in power. May you daily increase in all the benefits of His Kingdom, until the day of Jesus Christ. Lord, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done. Amen*

In Daniel’s interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, the image which represented the Babylonian systems of this world with its head of gold was seen crashing down when the stone, cut out of the mountain of God, rolled down and smote its feet causing the structure to collapse and crumble into powdery dust. He then saw the stone, which originally was a regular size stone, miraculously grew larger and larger, becoming a rock, and eventually filling the whole earth (Dan. 2:34,35).

Nebuchadnezzar beheld in his dream the same wonderful truth under another figure, as the aged prophet Daniel interpreted the his dream with these words, *“Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the*

*image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth*" (Dan. 2:34-35). The revelation in this instructive experience of Nebuchadnezzar is that the Kingdom of God comes into the earth, smites the kingdoms of man until they no longer exist, and the Kingdom of God increases until its glory and dominion fill the whole earth. This was a vision of the coming kingdom of God, which will, in the fullness of time, fill the whole earth with radiant glory. This Kingdom is nearer than we think. It is at hand. In fact, the Kingdom of God is already here. It is within you and within me also.

In His Kingdom parables, the Lord Jesus revealed the mystery of the *progression of the Kingdom of God* from stage to stage and realm to realm. He said, "*The kingdom of heaven is like unto a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof*" (Mat. 13:31-32). The Kingdom comes as a **seed** into the midst of men, seemingly the smallest, most insignificant, weakest and most defenseless thing there is.

In the parables of the Lord, the Lord portrayed the journey of the seed as it is shown in the field. He showed that the seed can be devoured by the fowls, it can be choked by the thorns, it can be scorched by the sun, and sometimes it's indistinguishable from the weeds and the tares. That is the secret of the Kingdom! But just as life lies hidden within a seed, and springs forth in life and power and unfolds in beauty and substance to become a mighty tree, so the Kingdom of God has entered this world in the person of Jesus Christ and now the world is full of the redemptive power of God. The Kingdom enters an individual as a seed seemingly small, but then it grows in influence and domain as the individual submits and takes on the mind of Christ. The increase of this kingdom within, continues until Christ is formed in us.

The increase of God's Kingdom extends to all realms everywhere, but the reality and power of the increase of God's government is first experienced in our individual lives. Once the fullness of Christ is formed totally within the members of the body of Christ, out of their bellies will flow rivers of living water to benefit the

inhabitants of the earth. The Kingdom will continue to grow until the earth is covered with the knowledge of the glory of God as the water covers the seas.

This good seed, this extraordinary seed, is our blessed Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Word of God. It is a very good seed, for it is the germ of spiritual life. It is the incorruptible seed. When this seed was planted in the earth it began to grow vigorously and brought forth first the glory of the early church. Then, from move to move, from visitation to visitation, from revival to revival, this seed has grown and multiplied and reproduced in the earth and now it is time for the mature crop that will bring blessing to all the families of the earth. The mature sons of God are the increase of the Kingdom of God within the Lord's elect. Within that first, extraordinary seed was a preview of the Kingdom when Christ with His entire body of sons will appear in the glory. Just as the Lord Jesus was the first-fruit seed for this age, bringing forth a harvest of many sons, so shall the sons of God become first-fruit for those coming after them.

With each revelation of Christ to us His people, the dominion of His Kingdom increases in us; the Light of His glory increases in us, and we know Him in greater fullness than we did previously. When Christ appears to His elects who are looking for His appearing, as He is doing at this hour, He comes into their life with an increased manifest presence. How wonderful to know the fellowship of our Lord Christ in increasing truth, life, light and glory. Blessed be His name for evermore.

All the glory of this earthly thrones will fade into darkness and insignificance when He appears upon the throne of His glory. All the mighty monarchs of the ages past appear feeble, yea, imperfect, irresolute and impure. There will be no need for bloody battles for supremacy, for in the light of His majesty, all earthly kingdoms and governments fade away into insignificance, and melt as snow and ice before the radiant power of the sun.

*"I beheld till the thrones were cast down (that is, the thrones and governments of the world), and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head like the pure wool: His throne was like the fiery flame, and His wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream*

*issued and came forth from before Him: thousand thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.” Dan. 7:9-10.*

*“And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;*

*And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;*

*Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him **that sitteth upon the throne**, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever” (Rev 5:9-13).*

*And the whole universe will echo and re-echo with the proclamation the eternal anthem heard in heaven when the seventh angel took the stage, for “the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, **The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever**” (Revelation 11:15).*

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*Other Books by the Author*

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1. In the Cloud
2. Make Me a Sanctuary
3. Reigning As Kings
4. A Goodly Heritage
5. To Do Thy Will O' God
6. With the Veil Removed
7. Lift Him Up
8. Set Me On Fire
9. We Walk By Faith
10. Nearer To Thee
11. But We See JESUS
12. Draw Me Nearer
13. End-Time Army
14. Toward the High Calling
15. To Bring You In
16. Palace Of Praise
17. Bread of Heaven
18. Let This Mind Be In You
19. The Minister of the Sanctuary
20. My One Desire
21. There is a River
22. First the Blade
23. Ye Shall Return
24. On Eagle's Wings
25. The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation