



THE
KING
AND HIS
KINGDOM

*Jesus preached the Gospel
of the Kingdom of God*

PETER WHYTE

INTRODUCTION BY PASTOR DESMOND COLE





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This edition contains all the original message, but has been improved and expanded beyond the 1979 publication.

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A Personal Word

From Pastor Desmond Cole

For nearly 3 decades I have had a heart for the nation of Nigeria. My wife Evelyn and I dedicated 20 years traveling and ministering to Pastors and their wives throughout that great nation. My ministry was impacted when I found this book.

The King and His Kingdom

By Peter Whyte

This book is from God. Peter Whyte has allowed God to reveal himself to many people by being obedient to write what God has asked him to. This is one of the best books I have read next to the bible.

I first found the King and His Kingdom in the early 90's. I brought copies home and passed them around the State of Ohio and Nigeria. It caused a firestorm among the local religious systems. This book is a blessing to Christians who have finally figured out that something is wrong with the divided denominational systems. I still have my original book from the 1989 printing. The appendix "A Dream of Two Harlots" is a true revelation for those stuck in their pews.

This book is excellent, very clear, and plain about just who Jesus is and what the gospel of the Kingdom truly is! The King of those who belong to him. You live in HIS Kingdom, therefore, you are under no one else and you are not to subject yourself to any religion or sect. This is the doctrine of the Nicolaitans which the Lord hates! At the same time, we are to be humble before others, not arrogant, yet bold in our real testimony of the Living God, who is Jesus Christ, our King!

I contacted Peter Whyte and was given permission to print these books at my cost as long as they were given away at no charge. Now

as part of the legacy of my wife Evelyn and myself, I am passing this gift to Jim Corbett and the La Red Movement that is affecting all of Africa. My desire is that all may come under the King and Lordship of God through Jesus Christ. They have obtained the support needed to pass on this special edition to you. You cannot buy a gift...this is priceless.

Desmond Cole

(Desmond Cole, an ordained minister through the Church of Christ, resides in Cold Springs, Kentucky. He and his wife Evelyn have faithfully served and lived out their call for Africa and Nigeria. Desmond is known as a man unafraid to speak freely and boldly proclaiming Christ and his Kingdom.)

SPECIAL EDITION NOT TO BE SOLD



FORWARD

The King and His Kingdom

It was a privilege when asked to share a few words about the resolute Desmond Cole and the Lady of Grace, Evelyn Cole. For my wife Susan and I, we have never met a couple that fit together so beautifully as Desmond and Evelyn. During our first mission experience with them in 2002, it was evident that they were created to share love and care to pastors and their families throughout Nigeria and Western Africa. This is a ministry which has continued through to current times. Although Evelyn has passed, Desmond continues to express love and care to pastors throughout North America and abroad. This book, *The King and His Kingdom*, by Peter Whyte has sharpened Desmond's focus. He brought the kingdom's message to Susan and me, and we are eternally grateful. If you want answers from a kingdom perspective, read these words with an open mind. Susan and I thank Desmond and Evelyn Cole for their loving care and perseverance to preach the good news of the gospel to all they have encountered over these many years. May we all strive to follow in their footsteps.

James and Susan Corbett
Glory To God, International Ministries

EDITORS NOTE

This book may shake you up!

Pastor Desmond Cole has made it imperative that this book be reproduced in the style that Peter Whyte wrote it. Direct and to the point! He was a businessman living in Zimbabwe at the time of major national changes. Peter saw that the church was not the salt and light it was designed to be. He wrote this book from the perspective of the marketplace and is very directive in style and content. This is by design with the hope of exposing any "spirit of religion" that may be lurking deep within us. When you feel the sensation to take offense please study the Scriptures and let them speak directly to you. As an editorial team we have experienced many of the same emotions. Truth will always be

Truth, and the net takeaway is worth the perseverance, in our opinion.

Bernie Torrence
International Director, LaRed Foundation

Introduction

To most people of strong evangelical persuasion, the term “the Gospel” immediately brings to mind a statement made by Paul:

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...(1Cor. 15:3,4)

To many, “the Gospel” means the good news that in Jesus Christ is the way of salvation, open to all who will receive Him as their personal Savior and Lord.

While this is true, it is incomplete truth. It is an inadequate concept of the Gospel when compared to that proclaimed and taught in the New Testament.

The Gospel of the Bible is always the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. Without the message of the Kingdom, we are left with insufficient truth to overcome the enemy. Our spiritual development is forever limited and our flanks exposed to the divisive works of Satan.

Over the centuries the emphasis of the King and Kingdom message was distorted and blurred. The Gospel became a message of salvation that offered eternal life in Heaven and escape from hell. The Kingdom of God came to be equated with Heaven, or at best the Millennium upon the earth.

The message was divided so that “the Gospel” was for today, but “the Kingdom” was for the future.

This is not the message proclaimed by Jesus and the first apostles, who preached “The Gospel of the Kingdom of God.”

This book is an attempt to impart some general understanding of the Kingdom message as revealed in the Scriptures. It is intended

to enlarge the reader's concepts of the Gospel and to force him to re-examine the Scriptures to "see whether these things are so."

More importantly, it is to bring him into confrontation with Jesus Christ the King and His sovereign purpose for His Body.

The Gospel of the Kingdom of God has many different facets, and cannot be reduced to complete explanations or definitions. Only the Holy Spirit can reveal certain aspects, because they cannot be comprehended by the natural man.

The Kingdom of God is from above.

It is spiritual.

Only those who are born again CAN SEE it in this life.

Not every believer does, though all will see it in the future life.

Only those who are born again CAN ENTER the Kingdom in this life.

ENTERING IN is a continuing process in this life.

Not every believer has an "abundant entrance."

This book is only for those who earnestly desire to FOLLOW and OBEY the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is for those who desire to be overcomers and to reign in life.

It cannot be complete and it cannot be conclusive.

The reader must afterwards go on in the realm of the Holy Spirit. Only He can take us further.

**Peter Whyte,
25 Victoria Drive
HARARE
ZIMBABWE**



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CHAPTER 1

THE BIBLICAL MEANING OF “KINGDOM OF GOD”

When the Bible refers to the Kingdom of God, it normally refers to the Reign of God and not to the realm over which He reigns.

However, in our modern idiom the first meaning of the word “kingdom” is the realm over which a king exercises his rule. A second meaning is the citizens who live in the king’s territories.

If we approach the Scriptures only with this understanding of the word “kingdom”, we will not always understand what the Bible is saying.

We must add the third, archaic concept, which is reigning, ruling and exercising authority.

In the New Testament the predominant meaning of “the kingdom” is God’s reign or rule. The other meanings are seldom used.

The Gospel of the Kingdom of God is best understood when rendered as “THE GOOD NEWS OF THE REIGN OF GOD.”

2 ~ The King and His Kingdom

The Kingdom of God is His rule, His authority, His government: to receive the Kingdom of God is to accept God's government over our lives.

Jesus said we must "receive the kingdom of God like little children" (Mark 10:15). In other words, we must receive the government of God over our lives in childlike trust, because He desires the best for us and His rule over us is our ultimate good.

In the Lord's Prayer we petition God to reign over us, so that His will may be obeyed by men on earth just as He is obeyed in Heaven.

Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven (Matt. 6:10) When He is obeyed by men and His will is done in this present life, then the Kingdom of God has come.

When the Bible was written the hearers of the Gospel had the archaic understanding of "kingdom", and so had no problem in comprehending the spoken or written message. When they heard that the Kingdom of God was at hand, they knew it meant that God's authority was restored to the earth. To enter the Kingdom of Heaven meant to enter the realm where God's reign is experienced immediately in life.

We have been told by many preachers that entering the Kingdom of Heaven means going to Heaven when we die. While this is true, it leaves us with very little understanding of the purposes of God and His intentions for His Church. Failure to preach and understand the Kingdom of God is the reason that few Christians live the life of overcomer's.

When the Kingdom of God becomes a present reality and not only a future hope, men are able to enjoy the blessings of

God's rule. We can enter the more abundant and victorious life promised in Scripture but enjoyed by a minority of Christians today.

...the kingdom of God is...righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Rom. 14:17)

This is not to say that there is no future realm when Christ returns, but it opens to us the marvelous possibility that He will return to a world where His reign is already well established, not to the fractured and feeble Church we have divided through losing the biblical concept of the Kingdom of God.

When the Kingdom of God is proclaimed to the Church and by the Church, we will have returned to the original biblical truth. Even more importantly, we will be obeying the instruction of our King, Jesus, to proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, hastening the day of His return.

The Kingdom of God is the only thing that Jesus ever called the Gospel. If, therefore, we are not proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom, we are not obeying the King, who instructs His disciples to preach the GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

The government of God is the best news that anyone can ever hear, because it is God's only solution to all of man's problems. When we accept this King Jesus as Ruler of every aspect of our lives, we experience Kingdom living, which is a righteous, peaceful, joyful life in the Holy Spirit.



CHAPTER 2

THE VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE REALMS

Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ- this Jesus whom you crucified (Acts 2:36).

God has made Jesus the King of all creation.

This Man Jesus is alive today in a resurrected body that never saw decay.

He is King of both the visible and the invisible.

He is the King of Heaven.

He is the King of the whole earth.

...ALL authority has been given to ME in Heaven and on EARTH (Matt. 28:18).

ALL AUTHORITY is vested in a MAN - JESUS.

He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

There is no visible or invisible area outside His domain.

Nevertheless, we do not yet see ALL THINGS subjected to the King. In this age we still see men and evil spirits failing to obey Him, failing to accept the Kingdom of Heaven - the government of God.

Rebellion against the King and His Kingdom continues in both the visible and the invisible realms.

The visible earth, the stars and the galaxies are easy to understand as part of Christ's domain.

The invisible spiritual realm is more difficult to conceive. Nevertheless, the invisible influences and controls the visible. We therefore need revelation of the unseen, that we might fully comprehend the Kingdom of God.

The spirit world, which includes Heaven, hell, angels, demons and spirits, can best be understood as another dimension.

Heaven is generally thought to be somewhere up in the sky, but this becomes problematical when two Christians gaze upwards on opposite sides of the globe. Which way is up?

The answer is of small relevance, if any, because we are dealing with the invisible. It is sufficient to realize that Heaven is the invisible dimension.

The important thing is to become aware that there is a spirit world that exists alongside us, within us, and all about us.

From the invisible realm Jesus Christ, the Word of God, made the world, the stars, and all that appears in the visible realm.

By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible (Heb. 11:3).

6 ~ *The King and His Kingdom*

The Bible reveals to us that there are at least three different Heavens, and that Jesus and His throne are in the third Heaven.

Long ago there was a rebellion in the Heaven where God dwells and Satan was cast out of that part of the spiritual realm to the earth. Since he is a spirit being, he is not limited by material restrictions. A spirit can visit the center of the earth's molten core or the center of the sun, or walk through the wall of your house.

Nevertheless, the earth and its environs are the center of the invisible rebel territory of the spirit world.

There is tremendous spiritual activity all around us in this other dimension.

Satan is called the prince of this world because his unseen spiritual power pervades the visible world and is evident in the world order.

Mankind is oppressed of the devil, bound in the world order that has its origins in the kingdom of darkness.

The natural man cannot overcome these powerful and evil influences from the spirit world. He can cooperate with them or he can oppose them, but he has no authority over them. On the contrary, they rule over him and bring war, disease, poverty, injustice and every evil spoiling the life of men.

The spiritual forces of wickedness will only submit to higher authority. Nonspiritual weapons and all man's abilities are useless against spirits.

Only a man with God's Spirit in him, one trained in spiritual things, has the authority and ability to command and subdue spiritual enemies.

A man who has received the Reign of God and is filled with the Spirit of God is no longer a natural man. He is a spirit man, but he must learn to walk in the Spirit, which is to walk in submission to the King.

Through the gifts of the Holy Spirit he is able to discern between good and evil spirits. He also has spiritual authority and is able to exercise that authority (the Reign of God) over enemy spirits.

However, until he has been fully trained (discipled) in the Reign of God (the Kingdom of God), he will not be like his Teacher and Master, King Jesus.

A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. It is enough for the disciple that he become as his teacher, and the slave as his master. (Matt. 10:24, 25).

The objective of every disciple of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God is not just to gain Bible knowledge. It is to be like Christ and to do what He did, to have the authority and ability of His earthly walk.

...every scribe [Bible student] who has become a disciple of the kingdom of Heaven is like a head of a household, who brings forth out of his treasure things new and old (Matt. 13:52).

For the kingdom of God does not consist in words, but in power [or ability; Greek, *dunamis*. (1 Cor. 4:20).

Jesus reigns over both the visible and the invisible realms. His people upon the earth are intended to have His delegated authority and the power and ability to exercise it NOW in both the visible and invisible realms.

When Jesus walked the earth, He demonstrated the Kingdom of God.

8 ~ *The King and His Kingdom*

Jesus stated that His ability to expel demons by the Spirit of God was evidence that the Kingdom of God had come upon the earth. (Matt. 12:28).

The Kingdom of Heaven thus entered the visible realm in the Person of Christ the King, who broke Satan's power and the bondage of his reign over men.

Satan's reign issues from the invisible realm, although it is manifested in the world. His influence is visible in the present world order, in the wars, pride, greed, lust, sickness, poverty and cruelty that abound among men.

In this world a life of "hell on earth," rather than one of "Heaven on earth," became man's most common state.

It therefore required a higher spiritual power to defeat and overcome the enemy of God and man.

The Kingdom of God, the sovereign Rule of God manifested in Christ, has to come from the invisible to defeat this unseen influence reigning over men in the visible realm.



CHAPTER 3

THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

The message that Jesus proclaimed and which the New Testament calls the Word of God is the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

Sometimes the writers of the New Testament called it the Kingdom of Heaven, but the expressions are entirely synonymous.

Jesus made the Kingdom of God His message.

He called it the Gospel.

It is the only thing that Jesus ever called the Gospel.

Jesus declared that He had been sent by God for the purpose of proclaiming the Kingdom of God.

I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose (Luke 4:43).

Jesus made the Rule of God - the Kingdom of God - the center of the heartbeat of His preaching and teaching.

If we do not get this straight, we will never have an adequate concept of the Gospel.

Any concept of the Gospel that does not include the Kingdom of God is inadequate, and not the Gospel that Jesus Christ commanded to be proclaimed.

Three years before the miracle of the cross at Calvary, the Gospel was proclaimed and taught, first by John the Baptist, and later by Jesus Christ.

Both men announced that the Kingdom of God was the Good News.

Viewed from this side of the cross, it seems strange that there could have been any Good News before the cross.

Like Paul, we preach Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

But unlike Paul, we reduce the Gospel message and omit the Kingdom from our Gospel.

Paul did not do that. In his farewell to the elders of the city of Ephesus, he said:

I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, in order that I may finish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God. And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about PREACHING THE KINGDOM, will see my face no more. Therefore I testify to you this day, that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I did not shrink from declaring to you the WHOLE PURPOSE OF GOD (Acts 20:24-27).

It does not require much exegesis to see that Paul equates the Gospel of God's grace with proclaiming the Kingdom, and

by so doing he had declared the whole purpose of God.

The purpose of God is of the utmost importance to every living soul upon the earth.

What, then, is God's purpose?

And why was the Kingdom of God called the Good News before the cross?

In the answer to these questions is the most staggering concept ever offered to man.

**Jesus proposed to replace the existing world order --
satan's reign -- with God's order -- the Reign of God.**

This is the message embodied in His announcement of the Kingdom of Nazareth:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are downtrodden, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord (Luke 4:18-19).

It is also the Good News that the poor, captive, blind, downtrodden members of man's splintered churches need to receive.

Where is an answer to the sickness, the poverty, the misery of the world?

Where is the answer to the sectarian spirit, the satanic power that created and maintains denominational walls?

A thundering voice from Heaven echoes down the ages.

REPENT -- FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AT HAND!

When a man repents, he gives up all his arguments with God and changes his mind and the direction of his life. Repentance is not one time, but an ongoing attitude toward God, which will enable us to become entirely dependent on Him.

Jesus said that He never did anything or said anything except that which He saw His Father doing or heard His Father saying.

In other words, Jesus' whole life was submitted to the government of God through the Holy Spirit inside Him.

Romans 8 tells us that we are the sons of God if we are led by the Spirit of God.

When we repent of all our philosophies of life, and especially our traditions and our dogmas, we can start submitting our minds to the reign of the Holy Spirit over our own spirits.

The Kingdom of God is within you.

His government is revealed in the voice of your conscience. It is never coercing or dominating, but gently prompting, leading and guiding you, if you will surrender the pride of your own intellect and soulish desires.

No man can receive God's rule over his life unless he wills to repent.

The government of one's life by King Jesus enables him to live in righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit NOW.

By rejecting the existing world order and accepting God's order, we reject Satan's reign and receive the Reign of God over our lives.

When your life is no longer controlled by your carnal soul

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but by your own spirit which is born again and joined to the Holy Spirit, then you live the life of an overcomer. You are led by the Spirit as a true child of God, and the Kingdom of God becomes a reality in your life.

The Kingdom of God is the Good News, because God's government is His only answer to every need in the life of man.



CHAPTER 4

THE INADEQUATE CONCEPT

After the resurrection Jesus stayed forty days with His apostles, teaching them about the Kingdom of God (Acts 1:3).

His disciples had heard Him proclaim The Good News of the Kingdom of God and had seen Him demonstrate the Way of Kingdom Life for three years.

They had known Him as the Messiah, the promised King, from the beginning, yet their understanding of the Kingdom was still limited.

They could not comprehend the enormity of the Kingdom of God, its completeness, its perfection. They did not yet understand that the Kingdom of God is God's complete and ultimate answer to man's whole need.

In their ignorance they tried to reduce the Kingdom to Jewish nationalism.

Lord, is it at this time you are restoring the kingdom to Israel? (Acts 1:6).

They were tired of living under Roman rule and longed for the government of Israel to be restored to the Jews. Their question therefore was, “Are You restoring the government to Israel?”

They had not consciously rejected the Kingdom of God, but they had not fully understood it; and so they reduced it to the smallness of their nation.

Within the Church men have continued to reduce and obscure the Kingdom of God for nearly 2000 years.

We have reduced the Kingdom of God to the tiny confines of our sectarian theology. We have reduced it to the pathetic human smallness of the Roman Catholic Church, or Protestantism, or denominationalism. Some have reduced it to The smallness of nationalism or racialism, like the Jews or the British Israelites.

In reality, this is a rejection of the Kingdom of God.

Even worse, it is DIVIDING the Kingdom so that it cannot stand.

Worst of all, it is REBELLION against the King.

The 20th century world regards the Church as irrelevant.

The divided “little kingdom” that we call “churches” are not overcoming the world, because they can be “shaken”, and they promote division in the Kingdom of God.

The gospel we have preached is NOT WHAT JESUS COMMANDED TO BE PREACHED.

The Gospel, the Good News that He proclaimed was THE KINGDOM OF GOD; but we have instead developed various concepts of the Gospel, and then transferred them to our

converts. We have preached about Christ and salvation and church membership, but in the end we have preached the King without His Kingdom, and in so doing have disobeyed the Lord.

Christianity lost the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, and so a reduced and inadequate concept of the Gospel was preached around the world.

The Catholics took their religion to every nation.

The Anglicans exported theirs.

The Presbyterians, the Methodists, the Baptists, the Brethren, the Pentecostals, and a hundred other “churches” all proclaimed their ideas of the Gospel, but without the Kingdom message.

Even worse, the Jehovah’s Witnesses proclaim a kingdom without the King.

Small wonder that the world looks at the “Babel” of so-called Christian churches and turns away in disgust.

The people of the world are longing desperately for peace and joy. They are oppressed by Satan and his world system, and the collective churches of men’s making come with a reduced message that contains no total answer. In their blind rebellion against their King’s command they offer the world conflicting arguments. A thousand “churches” offer a thousand types of Christian religion to a confused world, which responds to none. Any concept of the Gospel which does not include the whole message of the Kingdom of God is inadequate, ineffectual and engenders a sectarian spirit. Satan loves and fosters the inadequate concept because it poses no serious threat to his worldly kingdoms.

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He understands what the Church has forgotten - the prophetic words of Christ. “ANY kingdom divided against itself cannot stand.”



CHAPTER 5

THE RELEVANT CONCEPT

One day the disciples asked Jesus what the sign of His coming and the end of the age would be (Matt. 24:3).

His reply was that there would be false Christs, wars, famine, earthquakes, tribulation, false prophets and increased lawlessness, BUT NONE OF THESE THINGS ARE THE SIGN.

According to Jesus, the sign is THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM being preached in the whole world:

THIS gospel of THE KINGDOM shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come (Matt. 24:14).

Jesus said “THIS Gospel.”

He referred to the Gospel message He and His apostles were proclaiming AT THAT POINT IN TIME - BEFORE CALVARY.

He identifies it explicitly as “THIS GOSPEL OF THE

KINGDOM.”

This is not to detract from the wonder of the cross and all that He accomplished at Calvary, for these things were to be added, to become part of the Kingdom message.

There is only ONE GOSPEL, but failure to understand the Gospel of the Kingdom proclaimed before the cross has led to our preaching only part of the Kingdom message.

It has led to the preaching of the salvation message without the proclamation of the Kingdom.

A partial Gospel produces a partial result.

After 1900 years of preaching and building little church kingdoms, the world system has not been replaced by God's order and the end has come.

The Good News of the Rule of God has yet to be preached in the whole world for a witness to all nations.

H.G. Wells probably understood the Kingdom message better than most of us. He described it as:

The most radical proposal ever presented to the mind of men, the proposal to replace the present world order with God's order, the Kingdom of God.

The systems of the world have their origin in the world, and the worldly man knows everything about life except HOW TO LIVE IT.

The unseen spiritual influences of Satan is behind EVERYTHING that has its origin in the world.

“Everything” includes politics, education, humanism, philosophy and religion: all that goes together to produce our society.

Jesus started an “alternative society.”

The Kingdom of God is for NOW, for today, as well as for tomorrow.

The churches of men lost God’s proposal to replace the world order with God’s order, the Kingdom of God.

In so doing they became irrelevant, because the origin of their reduced and often perverted message is not Heaven but the world.

It did not come from the Holy Spirit, but from the soulishness of men’s intellects, the natural mind.

If the Kingdom of God is missing from the Gospel we proclaim, then we have missed the point and become the blind leading the blind. We are no longer in harmony with the purpose of God, which is to make ALL the kingdoms of this world become the Kingdom of Christ.

The prime purpose of proclaiming the Gospel is not to win converts to “our group”, but to enable men to enjoy the priceless benefit of living under God’s government instead of Satan’s. There is no third choice. We live under Christ or Satan, whether we believe it or not and whether we understand it or not.

It is inadequate to tell men to BELIEVE IN CHRIST.

We must tell them to BELIEVE CHRIST and OBEY HIM.

Jesus said that we are to MAKE DISCIPLES AND TEACH THEM TO DO ALL THE THINGS THAT HE TAUGHT THE FIRST TWELVE (Matt. 28:19,20).

If Jesus Christ is your Lord, why do you not believe what He said, and why do you not do what He said?

King Jesus is going to reign IN His Body of people and THROUGH His Body of people, over ALL THINGS, both in Heaven and on earth.

When we reduced the Kingdom of God to Heaven and the future, or His appearing and the Millennium, we are proclaiming the fact that we have lost the keys of the Kingdom. We are left with the reduced concept that the Kingdom is only something you inherit in the future, merely an ideal that has little or no relevance for the life we live TODAY.

When we come back to the Gospel that Jesus Christ proclaimed, we once again offer a relevant concept and a relevant answer to the crying needs of humanity.

Jesus presented an alternative to living under the reign of the prince of the world.

Living under Satan's world system means living with pride, lust, greed, cruelty, war, poverty, sickness and all that makes life on earth a hell on earth.

Living under the Reign of God means living with people who are humble, gentle, content, merciful and peaceful, yet FEARLESS, CAPABLE AND FULL OF AUTHORITY FROM GOD. It brings Heaven on earth.

Since Jesus made the Kingdom of God the center of His message, we must rediscover its meaning so that we can make it the center of our lives and preaching.

The fundamental problem of humanity is that God has designed us to live in the Kingdom of God. When we don't function according to His design, we function badly. We don't know how to LIVE.

The cry of every human heart is for peace and joy. We have

a built-in desire for a Heavenly life, which is expressed in man's search for Utopia.

The world - and the Church - is still waiting to hear the only message with the total relevance to men's needs: the Good News of the Kingdom of God, which will bring Heaven UPON THE EARTH.

How often we hear the evangelical message mocked as "Pie in the sky, in the sweet bye and bye."

If we only offer eternal life in Heaven, we proclaim half of the Gospel. We must regain understanding of the quality of the eternal life we offer as well as its unending duration.

The Gospel of the Kingdom produces the QUALITY of God's life NOW in all who receive His reign over them.

It is a totally adequate message. Anything less is not totally good news.



CHAPTER 6

THE SOUND DOCTRINE OF THE KINGDOM

Having an inadequate concept of the Gospel causes us to preach an inadequate message.

The churches are full of men preaching and teaching on every issue except the Kingdom of God.

Divisions are constantly fostered by wrangling over the meaning of Scripture and striving over purity of doctrine according to a denominational viewpoint instead of a Kingdom viewpoint.

Various groups, using the same Bible, strive to get people “converted” or “saved” or to become members of their churches.

Once a person becomes a “church member,” he is taught all the doctrines that church believes, according to its interpretation of the Bible.

Every “church” does that which is right in its own eyes.

A large part of this religious activity in the Name of Jesus is to encourage members of one sect or denomination to leave and join another, where the doctrinal concepts are “right.” Millions of believers waste their lives learning doctrines and how to rebut opposing concepts from other groups.

The Kingdom of God is missing, resulting in division, and Satan overcomes the Church and makes it irrelevant to the majority of the world’s population.

In our blind pursuit of these anti-Kingdom objectives we forget the words of King Jesus:

ANY KINGDOM DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF CANNOT STAND (see Mark 3:24).

The Bible tells us that all Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for doctrine (teaching), for reproof and for correction.

Nevertheless, the objective of Bible study is to EQUIP THE MAN OF GOD FOR EVERY GOOD WORK. It is not to fill his head with Bible knowledge, but to teach him the WAY OF LIFE.

This is achieved by BEING TRAINED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS (see 2 Tim. 3:16,17).

The epistles to Timothy and Titus are commonly known as the Pastoral Epistles, but they are really expositions on SOUND DOCTRINE.

The Kingdom of God is RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PEACE AND JOY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT (Rom. 14:17).

Without righteousness we can have no peace or joy, so the basic objective of sound doctrine according to the Scripture is to bring every area of our lives UNDER THE REIGN OF CHRIST.

Paul states that he left Timothy at Ephesus in order to instruct certain men not to teach “strange doctrines” which gives rise to mere speculation. (1 Tim. 1:3,4).

BUT THE GOAL OF OUR INSTRUCTION IS LOVE from a pure heart and a good conscious and a sincere faith. For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion, wanting to be teachers of the Law [Judaistic religious law], even though they don't understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions. But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, realizing the fact that LAW IS NOT MADE FOR A RIGHTEOUS MAN, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to SOUND TEACHING [DOCTRINE], ACCORDING TO THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL... (1 Tim. 1:5-11).

When we become Kingdom-minded, we delight in obeying the King.

Jesus gave His Church the New Commandment that we are to LOVE ONE ANOTHER IN THE SAME WAY THAT HE DEMONSTRATED HIS LOVE TO HIS DISCIPLES. This commandment seldom requires us to die physically to prove our love, but it does require us to die to self.

This was the essence of the new commandment.

We are to structure our lives according to the pattern of Christ's life upon the earth, according to His unselfish servant attitude. His compassion and care for everyone about Him, never considering Himself.

It was to His three and a half years of living with His disciples, and not to His death on the cross, that He referred when He said:

Love one another as I have loved you (John 13:34).

This is why Paul stated that the whole objective of sound doctrine is to produce people who LOVE (1 Tim. 1:5).

The main part of First Timothy, from verse 1 of chapter 2 right up to chapter 6 verse 2, is an exposition of sound doctrine. The teaching is entirely concerned with ATTITUDES, CONDUCT, AND THE WAY WE LIVE AND RELATE TO EACH OTHER.

Finally Paul sums up with the following exhortations:

Teach and preach these principles. If anyone advocates a DIFFERENT DOCTRINE and does not agree with SOUND WORDS, THOSE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND WITH THE DOCTRINE CONFORMING TO GODLINESS, he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth... (1 Tim. 6:2b-5).

According to Paul, most theologians and teachers of “church” doctrines are conceited and understand nothing, because they have a morbid attention in controversial questions and disputes about words.

The sound doctrine of the Kingdom is teaching what Jesus taught, and conforming disciples to the image of Christ.

The DOCTRINE OF CHRIST involves THE WORDS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Jesus is the WORD OF GOD. Every word He speaks is His message, the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, which is THE WORD OF GOD that we are to hear, obey and transmit to others.

His words, His teaching, His doctrine is THE SOUND DOCTRINE OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching [doctrine] of Christ, DOES NOT HAVE GOD; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting; for the one who gives him a greeting [i.e. receives him] participates in his evil deeds (2 John 9-11).

But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels. And the Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition; if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will (2 Tim 2:23-26).

The sound doctrine of the Kingdom always agrees with the words of the King, and is aimed at conforming us to the image of Christ.

If we continue the dogmatic teaching of other debatable doctrines of any particular denomination or group to the extent that we separate ourselves from those who disagree with us, WE ARE HELD CAPTIVE BY THE DEVIL TO DO HIS WILL.

Without being aware of it we are imprisoned spiritually and cannot reign in life as effectively as God desires.

We are subtly deceived into rebelling against our King, when we believe we are serving Him.

The WORDS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST are the SOUND WORDS we must hear, obey and teach as the FOUNDATION of Christian life. This can only result in our being more and more conformed to His image. This is the SOUND DOCTRINE of the Kingdom and the sound doctrine which Paul and the other apostles taught. Let us repent of our own ideas and do the same.



CHAPTER 7

THEOLOGICAL CONCEPTS OR KINGDOM LIVING?

Jesus said that He is the way, He is the truth and He is the life (John 14:6).

He did not come from Heaven to bring us another religion about which theologians could speculate, producing endless conflicting concepts.

He came to show us the way to live.

He came to set us free from the reign of Satan, which prevents us from living the way God created us to live.

Man is designed to live in freedom under God's government, not under the bondage of the kingdom of darkness.

Even our physical bodies function best when we live in God's Kingdom. Psychosomatic sicknesses are impossible if we obey Christ.

Kingdom living is accepting the Rule of God in our lives and entering into the realm of His blessing here on earth.

No man who practices Kingdom living can ever have ulcers, arthritis, damaged emotions or nervous tension.

Jesus demonstrated this life.

The early Church called it simply, “the WAY of life” (Acts 9:2, 19:23, 22:4, 24:14, 22).

Jesus never said anything that the Father did not say.

He taught people right attitudes and right relationships, but His teaching is much more than ethics or philosophy or behavior patterns.

The life and teaching of Jesus is revelation of what God is really like and how His children are designed to live, when not deceived and bound by God’s adversary.

Any man, woman or child who lives in the Kingdom Way will be enviably happy, full of life-joy, always at peace, satisfied at being in God’s favor.

It will be as natural as breathing for him or her to rest in God’s salvation, regardless of the circumstances or conditions of life. Anxiety will have no place in his life.

The real issue is not whether the person has all the “right doctrines”, or correctly-interpreted concepts taken from the Bible. What matters is whether the person has the right life, and is full of peace and joy, and whether God’s delegated authority is used by that person to reign in life.

The Bible speaks of all that Jesus began to do and teach.

He did what He taught and HE IS what He taught.

Often we are so concerned with having right concepts - that we wrongly insist on as right doctrine - that we measure a man

by his viewpoints on doctrine rather than by what he is and does.

But the Reign of God is not a matter of food and drink, wearing of right clothes, or having correct doctrines on the method of baptism, the Millennium, eternal security, the white throne judgment, or the Communion of Saints.

The Reign of God is RIGHTEOUSNESS and PEACE and JOY in the Holy Spirit (Rom. 14:17).

The emphasis of many Christian Bible teachers (scribes) would make one think that a believer with wrong opinions will be denied entrance to Heaven.

How much water is adequate for baptism? Should it be through sprinkling or immersion? Should we baptize in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit or in the Name of Jesus only?

Can a believer lose his salvation and go to hell when he dies?

Can a Christian have a demon?

Is the Amillennial, Pre-Millennial or Post-Millennial view correct?

Should we use wine or grape juice in the communion cup?

These and a hundred other contentious matters are continually used by Satan to divide the Church of Jesus Christ.

Denomination and sects proliferate as a result. When we make agreement of opinion the basis of belonging to our “little kingdom” churches, we become Christian scribes and Pharisees unconsciously propagating the doctrines of demons.

By so doing we constantly ignore the admonition of Roman 14 to accept those with differing opinions.

Now ACCEPT the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions... Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and stand he will, for the Lord is able to make him stand (verses 1,4). ...For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another. (verses 17-19).

Entrance into Heaven does not depend on knowing the right answers to these questions, or upon one's Bible knowledge. There are no theological examinations to be passed at the gates of Heaven!

God has deliberately made it impossible for us all to interpret Scripture the same way.

He is more than able to save even those who have never seen a verse of Scripture or had one verse correctly quoted to them.

He does not desire His people to be one by legalistic agreement on some "Christian Philosophy", but to recognize they are a family with the same Father.

A family does not exist because they "agree"; a family exists because they have one father.

True Christianity is not a religion, but it consists of THE FATHER and His family, who should be different than all other people on earth.

Different because they know the WAY to LIVE.

Different because they know the TRUTH which is in Jesus Christ.

Different because they have the LIFE of God the Father within them, and the LIFE of God (the Holy Spirit) enables them to walk in God's ways. This LIFE is a river flowing from within them, not a religion. Religions always require their followers to obey laws imposed from OUTSIDE and to agree with certain concepts. Kingdom living is to know and experience CHRIST IN US, our hope of glory.

When Christians only have theological concepts, even the correct ones, it is no guarantee that they will be overcomers, enjoying a victorious Christian life.

Many a minister with a B.A. Theol. or D.D. suffers from fear, depression, insecurity, worry or anxiety, poverty or ill health.

Pastors with even forty years' experience in ministry sometimes have poor relationships with their wives and children or members of their churches.

Others are plagued by jealousy, pride of position, anger, impatience or a host of other wrong attitudes.

Gossip and slander are equally prevalent among Christians and non-Christians.

These things ought not to be! This is not Kingdom living!

They show clearly that we have lost the WAY; we do not understand the TRUTH; we do not manifest the LIFE.

Yet the whole of creation is groaning and straining with waiting to see the manifestation of the sons of God.

The world is waiting for a generation of Christians who will demonstrate the WAY OF THIS LIFE.

Those who are constantly being led by the Spirit of God are manifestly the sons of God, just as God was manifested in the

flesh of Jesus.

The Holy Spirit cries out to the Church - to the Spirit-filled Christians, NOT UNBELIEVERS:

Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me. He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcome and sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches (Rev. 3:20-22).

When Spirit-filled Christians allow King Jesus to be enthroned in their hearts; when the Holy Spirit within them instructs, leads and directs their lives; then the Kingdom of God has come. Only then can we REIGN IN LIFE.

Christian maturity is not something acquired through knowledge of Bible doctrines. It is the result of submission to the King, allowing His reign within to be manifested in right attitudes, right relationships and right behavior.

This is the meaning of the New Testament phrases, "TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT", and "TO BE LED BY THE SPIRIT."

Kingdom living is the life of the overcomer.

Kingdom living is reigning NOW with Christ, as well as reigning in the future.

Kingdom living is reality - NOT RELIGION!

We may have correct Scriptural concepts about baptism, yet fail to live the new life that Scripture says will result when the old man is buried in the water. God is more concerned with our living a "baptized" life than with the method of baptism used.

If every Christian in one city agreed on the doctrine of

eternal security, and then after death some failed to arrive in Heaven, their agreement on a concept would profit them nothing.

Conversely, if all agreed that a Christian could lose his salvation, and then ultimately they all arrived in Heaven, their concepts would again be exposed as worthless.

God is far more concerned with our attitudes and relationships, our love for one another. We grieve God by our division. Our intolerance of opposing opinions is sinful rebellion against His Royal law of love.

Great intellectual arguments by those using opposing proof-texts or interpretations of those texts are often waged over issues of Christians and demons. Disagreement with either view has caused great factions in the Church.

While we are preoccupied with proving our views and religiously fighting over concepts, we prove nothing except our immaturity. The real issue is not whether you hold the right view, but do you exercise authority over evil spirits? Do you know how to try a spirit according to First John 4?

In the normal course of a normal Christian life we are to be trained as disciples and then to go out in obedience to the commands of the King. Matthew 10:8 may be paraphrased:

Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, and cast out demons, freely using the Kingdom authority so freely given to those who obey Him.

If you only have doctrines on casting out demons or healing the sick, you have nothing. If you have the ability to do these things, you have everything.

The Kingdom of God does not consist in words, but in

power [ability] (1Cor. 4:20).

The Holy Spirit sends forth a call from God to His Church to repent of our dogmas and divisive concepts and live the Kingdom Way.



CHAPTER 8

SUBMISSION TO THE KING

King Jesus said:

If you abide in MY WORD, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:31, 32).

His Word in the context of this passage is NOT Scripture in general, but THE MESSAGE that He proclaimed.

His teaching, His commands, His Gospel of the Kingdom of God is THE WORD that the New Testament writers constantly exhort us to hear and obey.

The King Himself is THE WORD and He proclaimed THE WORD.

You cannot separate them.

Jesus is the good news and He proclaimed the good news, which is THE WORD OF GOD.

He is the King and He has greater authority than Moses or

Abraham.

When James wrote his epistle to the twelve tribes, exhorting them to be “doers of the Word,” he was urging them to DO WHAT THE MESSAGE - THE TEACHINGS - OF JESUS REQUIRED.

Therefore putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive THE WORD implanted [the message], which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves DOERS OF THE WORD, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of THE WORD and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was (James 1:21-24).

The early Church had no Bibles and therefore had no difficulty in understanding the terminology of the New Testament writers.

The meaning of “THE WORD OF GOD” for them was not the Bible, but Jesus Christ and His Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

TO KNOW AND OBEY THE WORD OF GOD IS TO KNOW AND OBEY THE MESSAGE WHICH JESUS BROUGHT TO MAN FROM GOD THE FATHER.

Any Bible-centered Christian who has not grasped this truth will flounder intellectually and struggle in confusion trying to DO EVERYTHING THE BIBLE SAYS.

You cannot do everything the Bible says because there is conflict between Moses’ law and the Royal law of love.

You must choose to obey Moses or Jesus.

Submission to the King therefore involves TOTAL OBEDIENCE TO HIM, and must involve TOTAL REJECTION of anything that opposes Him.

My sheep HEAR MY VOICE and ...they FOLLOW ME (John 10:27).

A disciple of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God is one who HEARS and DOES what He says.

Millions of fervent evangelical Christians are living in rebellion by refusing to obey the King in His most basic commands.

The King commanded His disciples to go into the world with the following objectives (Matt. 10:7,8 with 28:18-20):

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.

To heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers and cast out demons.

To make disciples for the King and His Kingdom.

To baptize them.

To teach them to DO ALL THAT JESUS TAUGHT HIS DISCIPLES.

If God's objectives are not our objectives, then we are rebels.

In almost any evangelical group the objective is to get more souls "saved" and then to teach them every doctrine we believe from the Scriptures, according to our church traditions.

We produce church members who may be faithful disciples of our denomination, organization, or a certain theology, but they are not disciples primarily of the King and His Kingdom.

If we submit to King Jesus and obey all five of His basic

commands, our first allegiance will be to the King and His Kingdom.

We will be obliged to DO all things that Jesus taught.

Then we will make disciples for the one and only Master and His Kingdom, teaching them, NOT THE DOCTRINES OF OUR SECTARIAN CHURCHES, but, TO DO IN THEIR DAILY LIVES EVERYTHING THE KING TEACHES US TO DO.

If you abide in MY WORD, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (John 8:31,32).

Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear MY WORD (John 8:43).

He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God (John 8:47).

When Jesus spoke these words, the New Testament had not yet been written. His instructions must therefore be understood against the background of His speaking; if we wish to obey our King, we must major on learning and DOING the words of Jesus. The vital necessity of abiding in the words which make up the doctrine of Christ cannot be overstressed. If your pastor or church does not obey Christ in this matter, than you are being led and taught by rebels, even if they are unwitting rebels.

To be true disciples of Jesus we must abide in the teachings-THE WORD of Jesus, and come to know the TRUTH, which will set us free.



CHAPTER 9

DISCIPLES OF THE KING

A disciple is a pupil or learner, and he must have a master and teacher.

In Jesus' days upon earth, the Master/Disciple relations Both Greek philosophers and Hebrew rabbis would gather around themselves groups of adherents, who would be called disciples of the one whose teachings were being followed.

John the Baptist made disciples in great numbers.

Scripture records that Jerusalem, all Judea and all the district around the Jordan, including many Pharisees and Sadducees, went out to John for baptism (Matt. 3:5-7).

Many thousands of people were involved, and John's disciples took his teachings to other areas.

We read of "Apollos, who taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John" (Acts 18:24-26).

Paul found disciples at Ephesus who knew only the Gospel

preached by John the Baptist and who had been baptized into John's baptism. Paul baptized them again into the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 19:1-5).

Jesus made more disciples than John the Baptist (John 4:1-2), so it is probably that His disciples numbered in the tens of thousands.

The Lord proclaimed and taught the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. He sent out the twelve and then seventy others to do likewise. These 82 He chose from His great throng of disciples.

Sending out His trained disciples to make disciples and teach them all that He commanded was an instruction with a safeguard.

Jesus knew that the common practice of the Jewish rabbi was to make his own disciples, who would learn his personal interpretation of the Scriptures.

Every rabbi did not agree with every other rabbi, and so there were varying groups of disciples.

Differences in belief resulted in various sects and divisions in Judaism. For example, the Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection life which was taught by the Pharisees, although they both used the Old Testament Scriptures to dispute their concepts.

The divisions of Christianity today have come about through the same satanic snare, making agreement on interpretation of Scripture the basis of relationship and fellowship.

This is not according to the doctrine of Christ, who made us all BROTHERS with ONE FATHER.

The biblical basis of fellowship is purely a FAMILY

RELATIONSHIP, not an agreement on the meaning of Scripture.

The safeguard that Jesus provided for the Body of Christ, in making disciples for Him only, is contained in the following words of Jesus:

But do not be called rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in Heaven. And do not be called leaders; for One is your leader, that is, Christ. But the greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted (Matt. 23:8-12).

The person teaching disciples in the case of a Greek philosopher or Jewish rabbi would be called their Master, Teacher or Leader.

Jesus very carefully commanded His disciples never to allow themselves any such status, title or position.

The Lord is fully aware of two inherent desires in different types of men.

One type desires to place himself above other men and to lord it over them.

The other (and majority) type desires to be ruled over and led.

Jesus therefore commanded that none of His disciples should make disciples for themselves, but only for the Lord Himself as the only Teacher and Master.

They were commanded to teach as an elder brother to a younger brother, and never on the basis of a Master/Disciple

relationship.

Always there is to be the pointing to the personal relationship of every disciple to the ONE MASTER, Jesus Christ.

The elder brother must be Christlike and an exemplary representative. Paul said, "You follow me AS I FOLLOW CHRIST."

If we wish to make disciples, we must be willing to say something like Paul said; "I am a follower of Christ, and I will teach you to do the same, by the way I live and by my own attitudes and behavior, as well as by my words and Bible teaching."

While the disciples were being trained by Jesus, the two sons of Zebedee were lobbying for seats at the right and left hands of power. The other disciples, who also had not yet learned the things of the Spirit, became indignant, since they all held the same ambitions. Jesus called them to Himself and taught them another principle of the Kingdom.

You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercises authority over them. It is NOT SO AMONG YOU, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave...(Matt. 20:25-27).

The disciple-maker must be one who lives in the Spirit and has a servant's attitude toward the disciples he trains.

His spirit will be imparted to them.

It must be THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST.

King Jesus specifically commands us not to exercise authority over others, which is the way of the world system and

of Satan's kingdom.

In Christ's Kingdom we may give instructions or commands, but we MAY NOT ENFORCE them in any way whatsoever.

If I train disciples, I cannot say they are "my disciples" in the sense of ownership, because they never belong to me - they only belong to Christ.

...and you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God (1Cor. 3:23).

...One is your Teacher [Master] and YOU ARE ALL BROTHERS (Matt. 23:8).

This is a vitally important point, because all believers we disciple must eventually be weaned from us and become our peers. Try using a concordance to check all the New Testament uses of the word "disciple". Scripture describes disciples as following only three different teachers besides Jesus:

John the Baptist (Matt. 11:2, Mark 2:18, Luke 5:33, etc.)

The Pharisees (Matt. 22:16, Mark 2:18).

Moses (John 9:28).

The word "disciple" is used to describe the followers of Jesus Christ until they were called Christians at Antioch (Acts 11:26).

The single exception to these four uses is the debatable translation in some versions of Acts 9:25, where the disciples lowered Paul over the Damascus wall in a basket. Some translations imply that they were Paul's disciples, but the logic of such interpretation is poor.

Paul had only been a believer a few days and was hardly trained himself, so the disciples in question were his converts. Scripture does not imply that they belonged to him in the sense

of ownership.

Many years later Paul rebuked the childish Corinthian church for their factions and desire to be disciples of one teacher rather than another. (1Cor. 1:12).

He pointed out that all gifted men given to the Church actually belong to the disciples.

...Let no one boast in men. For all things BELONG TO YOU, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death... and YOU BELONG TO CHRIST; and CHRIST belongs to God. (1Cor. 3:21-23).

It is only by learning from several different teachers that we can possibly provide all that a disciple needs, according to Ephesians 4:11-16. Therefore it is important that we encourage those whom we disciple to learn from others besides ourselves, and especially those who disagree with us. We must not demand a permanent submission relationship, but trust the Holy Spirit to lead them into all truth. Failure to accept one's pupils as equals after training them will perpetually limit their growth to your own stature in Christ. If you wean them correctly, some will outgrow you spiritually and even become your teachers, as they receive solid food directly from the Lord. All the different ministries of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers are needed in the process of producing maturity in a disciple.

The disciple's life is adjusted by ALL these ministries, so that he LEARNS THE UNITY OF THE FAITH and knowledge of the SON OF GOD.

According to the Bible, these ministries are people who teach disciples the unity of the faith and knowledge of Christ

until they come to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Eph. 4:11-13). They do not teach the divisive or sectarian doctrines of a denomination or group.

This brings us to Christlike maturity and saves us from remaining spiritual children, tossed around by every wind of doctrine.

The quality of the Body of Christ grows only through all the different parts working together, building itself up in love.

God hates sectarian and dominating spirits.

He therefore does not allow any disciple to come to maturity that sits under only one teacher or hears only the teachings of one denomination or group.

The Kingdom of God is too big for one denomination.

Disciples of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God must be edified and adjusted by the ministries appointed and given by the King. These will very often be men and women who are not clergy in today's Christian circles.

King Jesus does not wish His disciples to be bound by the concepts of one man or one section of His family. He therefore never gives ALL His gifted men to one denomination or group.

Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed in Him, "If you abide in My word [that is, My teaching], then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31, 32).



CHAPTER 10

DISCIPLES OF THE KINGDOM

Whenever Jesus taught the multitudes, He spoke in parables (Mark 4:1,2).

And with many such parables He was speaking THE WORD [the message] to them as they were able to hear it; and He did not speak to them without a parable; but He was explaining everything privately to His own disciples (Mark 4:33,34).

Every parable in the New Testament is a picture of the Kingdom of God. They reveal spiritual mysteries which Jesus did not wish to be revealed to anyone except His true followers. This is why He explained the parables only in private.

Until we have become disciples of both King and Kingdom, we will not understand the mysteries of the Kingdom hidden since the foundation of the world, which are contained in the parables (Matt. 13:35).

Jesus taught His disciples to seek the Kingdom first if they wanted their material needs to be met.

Christians first need to seek the Kingdom they have lost, and then as His disciples they need to seek the Kingdom which is HIDDEN.

The Kingdom is of the Spirit and is hidden from our natural minds and intellectual searching. It cannot be grasped by the proud.

We must HUMBLE ourselves before the King.

We must SUBMIT ourselves to Him as unlearned, unworthy servants.

Only then does the Lord give us His REVELATION of the Kingdom.

The King never calls us to be disciples of anybody except Himself, or anything except the Kingdom.

If I am a disciple of the Catholic Church;

If I am a disciple of Luther or Calvin or Wesley;

If I am a disciple of a denomination;

If I am a disciple of John the Baptist;

If I am a disciple of St. Peter;

If I am a disciple of St. Paul;

If I am a disciple of ANYBODY or ANYTHING except King Jesus and His Kingdom; I will never, never, never fully understand the parables.

Matthew chapter 13 contains seven parables of the Kingdom, and Jesus explains only two of them in the Scripture record. Yet when Jesus asked His disciples if they had understood all seven parables, they were able to answer “yes” (Matt. 13:51).

He then made a revealing statement which in itself contains

another parable:

Therefore every scribe [Bible teacher] who has become a disciple of the kingdom of Heaven is like a head of a household, who brings forth out of his treasure things new and old (Matt. 13:52).

The Jewish scribes of that time had remarkable resemblance to some of our Christian clergy or Bible teachers WHO ARE NOT DISCIPLES OF THE KINGDOM.

Who were the scribes? They were the men responsible for teaching the people; all higher instruction was done by them. They systematically studied the law, and in New Testament times were the recognized authorities on and exponents of the Scriptures.

They were honored by the people for their teaching, being given such respectful titles as “rabbi,” which means “my master”, “my teacher” (Matt. 23:8); “lawyer” (Matt. 22:35); and “doctor of the law” (Luke 5:17). They proudly claimed these titles and positions of leadership and acclaim, even wearing special clothes to identify and separate themselves from the “common people.”

They used the law to regulate and control everybody’s life and it was their job to study it, interpret and expound it to the laity. Where Scripture lacked details they supplied them and their teaching gradually became more complicated until it had the effect of adding to the requirements of the law. The result was that the common people were loaded with “burdens too heavy to be borne.”

Their vast and complicated mass of scribal teaching was orally transmitted and required prolonged study to master. They taught in the synagogues and trained their pupils (disciples) in

their doctrines. The development of their concepts eventually became known as “the tradition of the elders.”

Jesus said that every scribe who became a (trained) disciple of the Kingdom would be able to understand the parables, which reveal hidden things that are new, yet old.

They are new because they were not revealed in the law but old because they had existed before it.

Kingdom truth is new wherever it is revealed, but old because it has been hidden since the foundation of the world (Matt. 13:35).

The Holy Spirit did not allow all the parables to be explained in the record of Scripture. As a result, they are still veiled, waiting to be revealed by the Spirit to disciples of the Kingdom.

The parable of “The Sower and the Seed” and that of “The Wheat and the Tares” are the two that are explained by Jesus.

Jesus is the Sower of the seed and the world is His field in both parables.

In the first one the seed is THE WORD OF THE KINGDOM (Matt. 13:19), which is sown in men’s hearts. The fruitful Christian is the one who hears the Word of the Kingdom, understands it and obeys it (verse 23).

In the second parable, the good seed is THE SONS OF THE KINGDOM, the people Jesus sows in the world.

A person who receives and understands the Word of the Kingdom brings forth its fruit in his life. Such people are the wheat stalks that bear grain.

A disciple is a learner of that to which he aspires.

To be a disciple of the Kingdom of God is to learn how the reign of God functions, and how I can receive it and its enablement

so that I can reign in life.

Faith is the great dynamic of the Kingdom and with it we have the ABILITY to please God and move mountains.

There is no ability, no power, no authority in God's Kingdom except it be founded in faith.

Faith is not something we can produce of ourselves, but a gift from God. Jesus revealed the way it is increased.

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and be planted in the sea', and it would obey you.

"But which of you, having a slave plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come immediately and sit down to eat'?

"But will he not say to him, 'Prepare something for me to eat, and properly clothe yourself and serve me until I have eaten and drunk; and afterward you will eat and drink'?

"He does not thank the slave because he did the things which were commanded, does he?

"So you too, WHEN YOU DO ALL THE THINGS which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done'" (Luke 1:5-10).

The exquisitely simple answer that Jesus concealed in His parabolic reply was, "SERVE AND OBEY ME IN HUMILITY, and I will increase your faith."

Forgiveness, mercy and compassion are the catalysts of Kingdom life.

Without forgiveness we cannot enter into the righteousness,

peace and bubbling joy that characterizes the disciples of the Kingdom.

This was revealed by Jesus when He commented on the “Lord’s Prayer” (Matt. 6:14,15) and again when Peter queried Him about how many times he should forgive a brother.

Matthew 18 contains the reply of Jesus to Peter’s question:

For this reason [the necessity of forgiveness] the kingdom of Heaven may be compared to a certain king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. (Matt. 18:23).

In the parable of the unforgiving slave that followed (verses 23-35). Jesus concluded with a vitally important unveiling of a Kingdom “mystery.”

God requires that we have mercy on others as He has had mercy on us.

Failure to be compassionate and to forgive men who sin against us causes God to hand us over to the tormentors - demonic influences - until we repent. Forgiveness is the only way that the unforgiving one can repay what he owes and be set free from the bondage and suffering resulting from resentment or bitterness.

A disciple of the Kingdom is happy and to be envied.

By understanding and obeying the doctrine of Christ, he avoids the torment of seething resentment, anxiety, anger and depression that afflict the unforgiving. He will also avoid the arthritis, stomach ulcers, nervous tension and other evils which are so often found in the life of the merciless, unforgiving person.

Vine’s Expository Dictionary states that Matthew 13:52 is

best translated as in the Revised Version:

...every scribe WHO HATH BEEN MADE A DISCIPLE of the kingdom of Heaven is like a head of a household...

The Holy Spirit is calling every Christian Bible teacher to repent of his sectarian spirit and become a disciple of the Kingdom of God. Then he will be able to bring forth out of his spiritual treasury the things of old and new that meet men's needs in reality. He will be like a father, able to protect, provide, train and form his family with God-like ability.



CHAPTER 11

BECOMING A DISCIPLE

The followers of Jesus were known as His disciples, not as church members.

The disciples were first called Christians at Antioch (Acts 11:26). The name “Christian” means an adherent of Christ.

Today we have such muddled terminology that we apply the term to any church member, regardless of whether he or she is a dedicated follower, a disciple, of Christ.

We need to become disciples of the King and His Kingdom, and church membership can sometimes be a hindrance rather than a help. Loyalty to a man-made church will usually prevent total loyalty to the Kingdom of God. The claims of the organization usually take priority over the claims of the Kingdom when any conflict of interest arises. You cannot serve two masters.

Becoming a disciple involves first AN ACT OF MY WILL.
I WILL TO DO THE WILL OF GOD.

I WILL to be a disciple of King Jesus and His Kingdom.

Becoming a disciple means I STOP TALKING AND START DOING.

It may not be difficult for us to see the truth of the Gospel of the Kingdom, but we are an unholy nation of scribes and Pharisees. Our normal reaction, if we accept the truth, is to agree with it. Then we study it for ourselves in the Bible, read books and hear teachings on the King and His Kingdom.

We then make the fatal error of talking about it, and NEVER become TOTALLY COMMITTED TO DOING IT PERSONALLY.

We are so “concept-bound” that we will immediately start sharing the “new concepts” with anyone who will listen.

If I am a preacher, I start preaching it to my congregation.

If I am a “mature” Christian, I start teaching it to those in my care.

The example of Jesus Christ must be our example, and He was both a DOER and a TEACHER.

George Bernard Shaw said: “Those that can, DO. Those that don’t TEACH.” It is too often true in our churches that “those that can, DO; but those who can’t, PREACH.”

It is no use teaching the Kingdom concepts of married life if your marriage is a mess. It is no use teaching patience if you are impatient. It is no use teaching the Way of Christ if it is not the way you live. First of all YOU WILL TO DO WHAT THE KING SAYS, AND THEN YOU DO IT.

Only then do you pass it on to whomsoever the Lord gives you to disciple. The life you live is imparted spiritually

by association, and that is more important than theological concepts.

After the resurrection Jesus appeared to the eleven on a mountain in Galilee. There He gave a kingly command which, if obeyed, will turn the world upside down.

All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age (Matt. 28:18-20).

It is certain that the disciples obeyed His instructions which contain THE ONLY METHOD by which Jesus extends HIS Kingdom.

Jesus said, “MAKE disciples, and teach them to DO all that I commanded you.” This must be our first objective in becoming a disciple. We MUST LEARN all that Jesus taught and practice DOING what He says to the best of our ability.

A few days after He gave the instructions of Matthew 28:18-20, we have the events recorded in the second chapter of Acts. Thousands were added to the Church, and they were “continually devoting themselves to the teaching of the apostles, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer.”

The apostles’ doctrine of Acts 2:42 was simply that of teaching the people to DO IN THEIR DAILY LIVES THE THINGS THAT CHRIST HAD TAUGHT THEM.

This is simple, and so logical that it seems superfluous to point it out, yet it is nearly impossible to find a church in the 20th century that actually does this.

Becoming a disciple means that I must learn what Christ

taught His first disciples, and then do those things in my daily life.

Becoming a disciple is a process, just as becoming a son of God is a process. It requires the FORMATION of your life.

The first place for me to live out the teaching of Christ is in my own home. The second place is where I am employed.

Until the Kingdom of God is working in my own life, in my attitudes and relationships, I have not BECOME a disciple.

Becoming a disciple means applying the teaching to myself and changing myself.

This does not mean a humanistic self-reformation, but following in Jesus' steps and obeying His Spirit within me.

Unless I have the Spirit of Christ, I have no part in Him.

If I do have His Spirit in me than I can change myself, because I can do ALL THINGS through Christ who strengthens me.

The problem is that we find it easier to see the need for change in OTHER PEOPLE.

Jesus never told us to go and teach everything we find in the Bible, or men's opinions of what Scripture means, or all the traditions of our particular church. He said, "Teach ME."

I can therefore easily exhort others to change, yet never become a disciple because I fail to change myself.

Praying without ceasing is an attitude, and to become a disciple I must continually have this prayer attitude.

"LORD, CHANGE ME!"

Once this prayer attitude is established I will see that, although I must will to change myself, it will in reality

be the Lord working in me unresisted that changes me. Every circumstance of my life becomes a thrilling learning experience. I will understand that God uses everybody around me and every circumstance to mold and refine me. Trials and tribulations, suffering, pleasure, success or failure, all become learning experiences, working together for MY GOOD.

God has predestined me to be conformed to the image of His Son Jesus, and so ALL things are working in my life to change me from glory to glory.

Change is very important because it involves growth. If I am not continually being changed from glory to glory, I am not growing more like Jesus.

Only as we become more like our Master are we profitable servants, able to fulfill our function correctly as His Body upon the earth.



CHAPTER 12

ENTERING INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Jesus told Nicodemus that unless a man is born again of water and the Spirit he cannot SEE or ENTER INTO the Kingdom of God.

The Scriptures declare that as many as receive Jesus as King are given the right to become the sons of God, and that they are born of the will of God (see John 1:12,13). And again,

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God; and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him (1 John 5:1).

Millions of people are born of the will of God and have the right to BECOME sons, but many remain infants during their stay upon the earth. They all have the right to grow up into mature sons and become overcomer's, but few do so.

In the same way, all of God's children have the right to See and ENTER INTO the Kingdom of God, but few do so.

They do not SEE it because they have been taught

“Churchianity” and a Christian religion by others who likewise have not seen it.

They fail to ENTER INTO it because they generally believe the Kingdom to be only in Heaven or upon the earth in a future millennium.

It is true that there is a glorious future for us in our spiritual bodies in the Heavens. It is also true that there is an inheritance which God will bestow on us when Christ returns physically to the earth.

Nevertheless it is the present spiritual reality of the Kingdom with which we are to be concerned.

Jesus did not spend His time teaching about the Millennium or about life in the Heavens after death. He was preoccupied with proclaiming the WAY, TRUTH, and LIFE for the NOW. His apostles had the same mission, and so should we.

Jesus, when asked by the Pharisees when the Kingdom of God would come, replied:

The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or, ‘there it is!’ For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst [among or within you] (Luke 17:20-21).

The King’s rule (the Kingdom) is within us. His sovereignty is exercised from our inward parts; from our heart, or more accurately, our spirit.

Entering INTO His rule is therefore an ongoing process, and NOT ONLY THE MOMENT OF BEING BORN AGAIN.

Jesus made a qualification for those who desire to enter into His rule: we must be born from above FIRST. Then the process

of learning submission to the King begins.

In the parable of “The Sower and the Seed” Jesus explained that there were four categories of people who hear the Word of the Kingdom:

Those who do not understand it because the evil one snatches away the Word that has been sown in their heart (spirit).

Those who receive it with joy and then fall away when affliction and persecution arise because of the Word of the Kingdom.

Those who allow the worries of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth to choke the growth of the Word of the Kingdom so that it becomes unfruitful.

Those who understand the Word of the Kingdom and bring forth fruit in varying quantities.

Since the rule of God is WITHIN US, everybody has equal opportunity after HEARING the Word of the Kingdom to OBEY or DISOBEY, to enter His reign nor not.

Those who are MOST OBEDIENT to the teaching of Christ are those who produce much fruit.

The King reigns within, but only to the extent He is permitted. His Kingdom is the Spirit of God in our heart (spirit), but HE WILL NOT IMPOSE HIS WILL UPON US.

Always we remain free to choose our own way or His way. The Holy Spirit never takes away our wills.

God made us in His own image, and in that sense we are gods - always with the God-like ability to choose.

Jesus said:

If any man is WILLING TO DO His will, he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God, or whether I speak from Myself (John 7:17).

The Bible teaches us that we have already been delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred into the Kingdom of God's beloved Son (Col. 1:13).

We are therefore all IN the Kingdom of God, but we must SEE it and ENTER INTO it. We may compare this to entering the lobby of a vast building with thousands of rooms. We can stay there and be IN the building, but fail to go further INTO every part of it.

There is something we must DO -- something we must be willing to SUPPLY. We must respond to the work of the Holy Spirit within us by laying down all our own viewpoints and arguments with God, and submitting to His reign inside us.

There is no entrance into His Kingdom without SUBMISSION to Him.

The apostle Peter explains this to us perfectly:

Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. Now for this very

reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge; and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness; and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you (2 Pet. 1:1-11).

God has grant us everything pertaining to life and godliness through the true knowledge of Christ. He has given us precious and magnificent promises in order that we can share in God's divine nature.

We are FORGIVEN, ENLIGHTENED AND EMPOWERED by the Gospel of GRACE.

Because of this, we are to SUPPLY moral excellence, knowledge of Christ, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love.

IF these qualities are ours and steadily increasing, we are fruitful.

IF we practice these things we will never stumble, and IN THIS WAY WE HAVE AN ABUNDANT ENTRANCE INTO THE KINGDOM.

Peter was writing to the Church, so he was not talking about being born into the Kingdom.

He was also not teaching about entering the gates of Heaven. There is no “red carpet” or other special entrance into Heaven for Christians because of special achievement on their part. Jesus made this clear in His parable of “The Laborers in the Vineyard” (Matt. 19:27, 20:16).

Some labored much, others labored little; but they all received the same wage.

In the Kingdom of Heaven the first are last and the last are first. God does not play favorites with His children, and our worldly concepts of work incentives and rewards are invalid in the Kingdom. We may aim at only being good and faithful slaves who receive the accolade of “well done” from our Lord.

If we have indeed become disciples we will only rejoice at God’s mercy and goodness when He rewards the “last” equally with the “first”.

Envy, jealousy, pride of place, status and competitiveness are all SATANIC qualities.

They are from below, from (out of) this world.

Jesus said: :My kingdom is not of [from, or out of] this world...”
It is from above, from Heaven.

Everything having its origin in the world is diametrically opposed to the Kingdom of God.

Jesus requires that we be renewed in the spirits of our minds, because the principles of God’s Kingdom are the complete opposite of the principles and philosophies of the world.

The following examples contrast some of man’s natural (satanic)

concepts with those originating in the Kingdom of Heaven:

1. **World:** The ruler, master, leader or teacher is the greatest and receives the most honor.
K of Heaven: The slave of others is the greatest, and the weakest one receives the most honor.
2. **World:** Everything must be earned and paid for, therefore everything has its price. More expensive means better.
K of Heaven: The best is always free and given by God's totally unmerited favor. Grace can never be earned.
3. **World:** It is very important to be rich in material possessions. Security, power and influence lie in money.
K of Heaven: Material riches or poverty are irrelevant. True riches are rightness with God, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Security lies only in God. Power and influence over other men is not to be sought.
4. **World:** Get as much as possible. Give as little as possible, and then only from unwanted surplus.
K of Heaven: Give joyfully and sacrificially as the Spirit directs. Act only as a steward for God, who is the real owner of all you possess.
5. **World:** Outward appearances such as clothes, sophisticated behavior, table manners, eloquence of speech and correct accent are of first importance. Conceal wickedness of heart is secondary or disregarded.
K of Heaven: Only the inward appearance of the heart is relevant. External appearances are secondary.

6. **World:** To be well-educated and well-informed raises us above lesser men.

K of Heaven: All human knowledge is as dung compared to knowing Christ and being conformed to His servant image. Eternal knowledge of greatest value is imparted by God's Spirit alone. The eye cannot see it and the ear cannot hear it.

7. **World:** University degrees after our names and titles before them confer status upon us (e.g., The Hon., Rev., Most Rev., Pastor, Father, His Grace, D.D., M.A., B.A., M.Sc., etc.).

K of Heaven: The admiration of other men is not to be sought, and if received it must be passed on by the recipient to God. All God's Children are simply brethren, and status is given only to God.

Our entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven will be blocked by the Lord until we have our minds renewed. We must abandon the satanic kingdom concepts that human society naturally embraces.

If our aim is to be socially acceptable and intellectually approved by men, we will never enter the Kingdom abundantly. We will never find the treasure hidden in the field or purchase the pearl beyond price.

Progressive entrance into the Kingdom means coming more and more under the reign of the King.

To those who voluntary obey Him, the King gives power and ability without measure.

This power and ability is to overcome Satan and the world and to reign in life.

You chose to become a servant and ultimately a willing slave for Christ the King because the Kingdom of Heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When you discover the Kingdom of God you will JOYFULLY GIVE UP EVERYTHING YOU POSSESS in order to obtain it.

Suddenly you find that NOTHING else compares to it, for it alone is the thing of ultimate value.

The Kingdom of God is like a pearl beyond price.

Sell everything you hold dear -- your pride, status, knowledge, possessions, social position, money and influence, love of “your” denomination and “your” church -- and buy the pearl.



CHAPTER 13

THE PURPOSE OF GOD IN CREATION

When God created the Heavens and the earth and all it contains, it was a perfect creation.

And God saw ALL that He had made, and behold, IT WAS VERY GOOD (Gen. 1:31).

From the beginning of creation God has had a purpose. It is unalterable and it will be fulfilled.

God's purpose was first of all a Royal family of children made in His image, according to His likeness.

Each child unique as God is unique.

Children who are altogether good, as God is good.

Children full of God's nature and character who obey their Father, who is also their King.

From the beginning God has been a Royal Sovereign, yet a loving Father, who created man that He might enjoy the fellowship of a family.

His desire for His children is that they should have dominion over the earth and ALL that it contains (Gen. 1:26-28).

The dominion is over both the visible material world and the invisible spiritual realm.

After giving Adam and Eve authority to rule over the earth and every other species of living creature, God BLESSED them and then commanded them --

To be fruitful,

To multiply,

To fill the earth,

To SUBDUE the EARTH and

To RULE over every living creature (Gen. 1:28).

Adam was created to be king of the earth.

Eve was created to be his helper and to REIGN with him.

The five commands that God gave the first two Royal children are simple to understand, but the fourth one, “to subdue the earth,” is meaningless if we exclude the invisible realm.

God’s creation of the time - and space-limited world was VERY GOOD.

What was it, then, that needed subjugation?

The living creatures were all vegetarian (Gen. 1:30).

Fish, birds, animals and reptiles needed no subjugation in the beginning. Adam and Eve in Eden’s garden, surrounded by harmless animals, are a picture of what God is going to restore ultimately on the earth. The world will yet see “the wolf and the lamb...graze together, and the lion...eat straw like the ox” (Is. 65:25).

There were as yet not thistles or thorns, and so the soil needed no subduing (Gen. 3:17-19).

The first four verses of Genesis show us that darkness covered the earth when it was still a waste and emptiness.

The forces of darkness were there.

Satan and his fallen angels were in rebellion against God before Adam. They had been cast out of God's Heavenly abode which is LIGHT, down to the earth. Satan is the ruler of darkness, and evil spirits dwell in darkness.

The darkness that covered the earth was both physical and spiritual.

The purpose of God was, and still is, that His children should SUBJUGATE and RULE OVER Satan and the rebellious host of darkness.

Psalms 8 gives us a picture of His purpose for men:

What is man, that Thou dost take thought of him? And the son of man, that Thou dost care for him? Yet Thou hast made him a little lower than GOD [Heb. Elohim]. And crowns him with glory and majesty! Thou dost make him to RULE OVER THE WORKS OF THY HANDS; Thou hast put ALL THINGS UNDER HIS FEET (Ps. 8:4-6).

To be made "a little lower than God" is to be made very, very high indeed. Adam was made HIGHER than the angels, including Satan.

Careful reading of the first two chapters of Hebrews sows that since the failure of the first Adam, man was made for a little while lower than the angels. Then Jesus rendered the devil powerless (Heb. 2:14). As the second and final Adam, Christ,

the firstborn of many brethren, has raised every believer back to man's original "higher than the angels" status.

The angels are now "ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation." (Heb. 1:14).

ALL things have been subjected to redeemed mankind. Nothing is excluded from this subjection, even though we do not yet see all things subjected to us (Heb. 2:5-8).

That God should choose such a weak and vulnerable instrument as man to subdue the rebellious spirits is hard to comprehend. Nevertheless this is precisely what the first two verses of Psalm 8 declare.

O Lord, our Lord,
How majestic is Thy name in all the earth,
Who hast displayed Thy splendor above the Heavens!
From the mouth of infants and nursing babes
Thou hast established strength [or a bulwark],
Because of THINE ADVERSARIES
To make THE ENEMY and the revengeful CEASE
(Ps. 8:1-2).

It is the rebellious angels who are the ADVERSARIES of God. It is Satan who is THE ENEMY of God, not man.

God LOVES ALL MEN and He proved it on the cross of Calvary.

The Holy Spirit declares through David that God has chosen humans to deal with Satan and other evil spirits.

David looked at the awesome Heavens, the moon and the

stars, “the work of God’s fingers,” and, feeling his own human weakness and insignificance by comparison, he cried out to God.

What is man, that Thou takes thought of him?

And the son of man, that Thou cares for him?

It was just as incredible to David as it is to us that God would choose weak and puny men to subdue the mighty and powerful spiritual beings opposed to Him.



CHAPTER 14

THE FAILURE OF THE FIRST ADAM

Adam was a perfect creation, but he was without experience, and experience is necessary for the development of man's character. He had to be faced with situations which would test him and allow him to develop a character like that of his Father.

...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control... (Gal. 5:22, 23).

God desires to produce this same character in His sons, yet it is formed by a gradual learning process. Adam was not exempt from this process, but two paths of learning were open to him, just as they are open to every child of God.

THE TREE OF LIFE, which is the way of the Holy Spirit, would have made him a spiritual man. This way would have developed Adam's spirit. It is the way of OBEDIENCE, chosen by Christ, enabling a man to walk in the Spirit, totally submitting himself to God the Father. All the wisdom and knowledge of

the Father would have been available to Adam. He would have been joined in perfect union with the Father, in ONENESS with the life of God.

Instead Adam chose the second way, THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL. This is the way of the REBELLIOUS, the way of the natural man.

Both paths lead to maturity, but the SOULISH MATURITY produced by the senses of this world produces a maturity which is full of human wisdom, human knowledge, human philosophy, theology, and religion. It is earthly, nonspiritual, that of the natural man, and unacceptable in the Kingdom of Heaven.

SPIRITUAL MATURITY is not of this world. It cannot be grasped. Man cannot strive for it or produce it by self-effort. It is imparted by God. It comes by grace alone, and the soulish man must die before the Spirit can be his directing and motivating power.

Adam chose the independent way of the soul, rejecting the rule of the Spirit in his life, and so death became mandatory.

Had he chosen the tree of life, he would have lived a life directed by the Spirit of God in union with his own spirit. Such a life has no need for death. It is ONE with the Father. It is ETERNAL LIFE.

Adam was created to be the ruler of the earthly realm. He was at first a perfect, God-like creature.

He enjoyed beautiful fellowship with His Father in Eden.

He had ready access to the presence of God.

He had remarkable intelligence and abilities.

He was a Son of God.

He was a king.

As a ruler of the earth he derived his authority from God, but he was able to exercise full authority only while he remained under God's authority.

The authority of Adam was delegated authority.

The source of authority was not in himself, but in God.

When he disobeyed the express command of God, he moved out from the Spirit-controlled life into the soul-directed life. As a result, he lost the full authority that had been his while he obeyed God. He lost the total ability to subjugate the earth.

This was the failure of Adam.

Adam REJECTED THE REIGN OF GOD.

Adam REJECTED THE KINGDOM OF GOD and as a result placed himself and all his seed in the domain of darkness.

Adam's fall did not result in the rulership of the earth being given by God to Satan.

God is KING of the whole earth.

Satan is a USURPER who has no legal right to the dominion of the earth. His power consists in his great ability as a LIAR and DECEIVER, whereby he confuses men and cheats and defrauds them of their inheritance.

The Bible does not teach us that all the kingdoms of the world have been given to Satan by God. We only have Satan's word for it. Satan offered them to Jesus at his temptation with these words:

I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been

handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish (Luke 4:6).

It is extraordinary that Christians use this text as their only basis for assuming that Satan is the legal ruler of the world, since he always speaks lies. Jesus said of him:

“He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies (John 8:44).”

Contrary to the lying statement of the devil, the Scriptures tell us that dominion over earthly kingdoms is dispensed only by God.

This sentence is by the decree of the angelic watchers,
And the decision is a command of the holy ones,
In order that the living may know
That the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind,
And bestows it on whom He wishes,
And sets over it the lowliest of men (Dan 4:17).

...He does according to His will in the host of Heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth... (Dan 4:35).

God has never given the earth to Satan. On the contrary, the Bible teaches that it was made for man and given to men. Not only was it given to Adam, but the instruction to multiply and reign was repeated by God to Noah (Gen 9:1-3).

The psalms also confirm this:

The Heaven, even the Heavens, are the LORD'S: but the earth hath he given to the children of men (Ps. 115:16).

Nevertheless, we are always left with our free will.

We can choose to serve the god of this world or, like Joshua, we can choose to obey God and His Christ.

When a man submits himself to the Kingdom of God he is able to overcome the enemy, the god of this world.

Job was a righteous man, blameless and fearing God, and as a result God put a hedge of protection around him, and Satan could not touch him (Job 1:6-12).

The devil's limited authority is so obvious when we read Job. Satan had to ask permission from God to interfere in Job's life.

In the same way he had to ask God's permission to "sift Peter like wheat" (Luke 22:31).

The result of Adam's failure was that he placed himself outside of God's complete protection.

By rejecting the Kingdom of God he made himself vulnerable to the power of Satan.

One who rejects the REIGN of God over his life joins the rebellious and places himself under the influence of darkness. This can be a total or partial dominion, and partial rebellion leaves God's children with areas of their lives influenced by Satan.

By contrast, the heroes of faith listed in Hebrews 11 accepted the reign of God in their lives. They believed Him instead of their circumstances or the devil's lies, and so obtained the salvation of their souls. They did not, however, receive the promise of the inheritance of the earth.

Until the birth of the Messiah, man's ability to subdue the earth was no longer sufficient.

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Unredeemed men could not subdue the forces of darkness.
They had lost power to REIGN IN LIFE.

This was the result of Adam's failure.

They could not inherit the earth.



CHAPTER 15

THE TRIUMPH OF THE SECOND ADAM

...through the one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to ALL men, because ALL sinned... (Rom 5:12).

...through one transgression there resulted condemnation to ALL men, even so through the one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to ALL men (Rom. 5:18).

Through Adam's rejection of the Kingdom of God ALL men became prey to sin and subject to death.

The second Adam, Jesus Christ, through His obedience to the Father overcame sin and death and restored the Kingdom of God for ALL men.

This good news is so unbelievably good that it is seldom proclaimed without qualifications which nullify it.

The incredible fact is that Jesus won a total and complete victory on Calvary, redeeming ALL men from sin and death.

There is nothing more that needs to be done.

To tell a man that he is going to Heaven BECAUSE GOD LOVES HIM AND DIED FOR HIM AT CALVARY TO PROVE IT is the good news.

It is also good news to hear that God loves us as we are, not as we will be after we have reformed.

Few sinners reject the good news when they hear it correctly proclaimed. They can respond to love, but not to condemnation.

The Kingdom of God upon the earth was permanently and irrevocably established by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

John the Baptist will most certainly be in God's Kingdom in Heaven, yet he never got into the Kingdom of Heaven upon the earth.

This is why Jesus was able to say:

Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet HE WHO IS LEAST IN THE KINGDOM OF Heaven is greater than he. We would judge John the Baptist a Holy man by any standard. He might be set up as a fine example of holiness of Christians (Matthew 11:11). Jesus said that the most ineffectual, stumbling, Christian spiritual infant is GREATER than he.

Greater because he is IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD, and a partaker of God's grace. Greater because in this life he can share in the triumph of the second Adam.

He is justified by faith.

He is under no condemnation.

God has removed his sins from him and remembers them

no more.

In God's eyes he is holy, righteous, perfect, without sin and has passed from death to life.

He is no longer required to keep the law of Moses to justify himself before God.

THERE IS NOTHING HE CAN DO TO ADD TO THE COMPLETE AND PERFECT REDEMPTION ACCOMPLISHED BY THE KING AT CALVARY.

In the record books of Heaven the sins and failures of God's children are NOT RECORDED. Only righteous acts and successes are of any permanent interest to God.

In the promise of the NEW COVENANT God declared that He will remember our sins no more (Jer. 31:34).

All that King Jesus accomplished at Calvary was ACCOMPLISHED FOR THE BENEFIT OF HIS CHURCH.

Some men will not respond to the Gospel.

They simply do not believe it, so reject it and remain under bondage to Satan.

Many millions of Christians fall partially into this category, being bound by "Christian Law" and the "traditions of the elders," teachings that have been developed by generations of believers who did not "see" the Kingdom of God and never entered into it completely.

The greatest conceptual problem facing the Church is knowing WHO WE ARE AND ACCEPTING WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE FOR US.

According to the Scriptures we are crucified with Him, buried with Him, resurrected with Him, glorified with Him,

and seated with Him on His throne (Rom. 6 and Eph. 2).

We can accept the fact that Jesus triumphed and that HE IS GLORIFIED AND ENTHRONED IN Heaven. Our difficulty is in believing that WE ARE GLORIFIED AND ALREADY ENTHRONED WITH HIM.

The Scriptures make it quite clear that we are ONE SPIRIT with the Lord (1Cor. 6:17).

We are His Body upon the earth, and since “all things have been put under His feet” it is true that all things are under our feet.

The Church of the Kingdom is the object of God’s love, and the purpose of His incarnation was to GIVE US EQUALITY WITH HIMSELF, TO SHARE HIS LORDSHIP OVER ALL CREATION.

...No one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes it and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body.

For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh.

This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church (Eph. 5:29-32).

The fact is that we have been GIVEN UNBELIEVABLE STATUS according to the natural mind.

We must therefore humble our proud, human, intellectual understanding and accept the truth that is in Christ Jesus.

We are joined to Christ. We are JOINED to Christ. We are ONE WITH HIM and we SHARE EQUALLY WITH HIM AS JOINT HEIRS OF GOD THE FATHER (Rom. 8:17).

Everything that God is and has is ours.

...the world or life or death or things present or things to come; all things belong to you, and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God (1 Cor. 3:22,23).

We have been redeemed to reign with Christ and to reign in life.

Satan is no longer our master, and we are intended to lord it over him instead of the devil having power over us, we have authority over him.

This is the triumph of the Second Adam.

This is why those who receive the gift of righteousness will reign in life.

Then the sovereignty [Kingdom], the dominion, and the greatness of all, the kingdoms under the whole Heaven will be given to THE PEOPLE OF THE SAINTS of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him (Dan. 7:27).



CHAPTER 16

REIGNING WITH CHRIST IN LIFE

For if by the transgression of the one [Adam], death reigned through the one [Adam], much more those who RECEIVE the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness WILL REIGN IN LIFE through the One, Jesus Christ. (Rom. 5:17).

The total cumulative sin of all mankind was laid upon Jesus Christ at Calvary.

Adam's transgression allowed sin and death to reign over all mankind.

The second Adam's triumph was a greater accomplishment.

Jesus not only died for all men, but made it possible for those who RECEIVE THE FREE GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS TO REIGN IN LIFE.

The question we must answer is, "How do we reign in life in practical reality?" It is not difficult to produce a biblical doctrine on the truth, but the problem is to make it work in our daily lives.

**First of all, we must RECEIVE the abundance of
grace and the gift of righteousness.**

There is absolutely no way for a Christian to reign in life unless he is baptized in the Holy Spirit by Jesus Christ. He must also unreservedly accept the Gospel of grace. He must accept his righteousness as a free gift from God, totally unmerited.

Putting it bluntly, you cannot reign in life if you believe that your eternal security depends on you.

As long as you find Scripture verses to undermine your total trust in what Christ has accomplished and make your Heavenly goal conditional on your own faithfulness, you cannot reign in life.

Secondly, we must never forget who we are.

We are heirs of the Father.

We are His family.

We are children of the Kingdom.

We are ONE SPIRIT with God and Christ.

We are God's delegated authority upon the earth.

Once we have received power from on high we have all the power that Jesus has latent within us.

**Finally, we must never forget that EVERYTHING in
both visible and invisible realms is SUBJECT TO US
except God Himself.**

Every evil spirit is subject to us.

The good angels are sent by God to serve us in answer to our prayers.

The evil angels, while against us, must obey us.

Satan knows that we are made higher than he, but he still wars against the Church by lies, deception, subterfuge and bluff. His tactics are aimed at preventing us from knowing who we are and our authority as believers.

If any Christian is in bondage to demons of fear, sickness, poverty, inadequacy, or anything else that stops his reigning in life, it is either through ignorance of the truth or forgetting what Christ has accomplished for him.

Satan has NO POWER OVER A CHRISTIAN except that which we consciously or unconsciously ALLOW him.

Everything in the world must obey the mature children of the Kingdom.

Animals, insects, the elements, the governments of the nations, EVERYTHING is intended by God to be in subjection to us.

All this power is our inheritance in the Kingdom, but God withholds it from those who refuse to grow up spiritually.

Just as a wise earthly father withholds a vast inheritance from infants, so God does the same with His Church.

He withholds it until we have learned obedience through suffering;

Until we have learned to humble ourselves through humiliating experiences;

Until we have learned patience and long-suffering

through frustration and stress;

Until we have learned to love as God loves, with His impartial agape love;

Until we have learned compassion and mercy as He has shown us compassion and mercy;

Until we have learned to rest in His salvation, to enter into His rest;

Until we have learned to praise Him in every situation and trust Him totally;

Until we have learned to wage spiritual warfare and to cast out demons.

Not until we have learned all these things and they are manifestly working in our lives can we reign in life.

Some of this Kingdom authority is corporate authority.

The governments of the nations will not be subject to one or two mature sons. There must be a great number of God's children working together in corporate maturity before all the kingdoms of this world become the Kingdom of Christ.

Nevertheless, each individual believer C A N OVERCOME Satan and his demons if he is willing to leave his childhood and grow into "THE MEASURE OF THE STATURE WHICH BELONGS TO THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST" (Eph. 4:13).

The fullness of Christ is the measure to which ALL can grow.

The weapons that we are to use in our struggle against spirits are only as effective as our submission to the King.

The power of our weapons increases with the development

of God's character within us.

We are only ready to punish all disobedience when our own obedience is complete (2 Cor. 10:3-6).

Faith in what Christ has accomplished and what God declares is our shield against every satanic missile discharged against us.

The totality of our salvation entrenched in our minds provides a helmet that cannot be damaged or dislodged.

The Gospel of the Kingdom of God is the Word of God's message, which is the sword of the Spirit with which we are to kill (spiritually) those that oppose the Kingdom.

The King is called Faithful and True and He judges and wages war in righteousness (Rev. 19:11).

The sons of the Kingdom clothe themselves in white linen (their righteous acts) and they follow Him.

Together with the King they wage spiritual warfare against the rebellious rulers of the earth and their demonic armies.

From the mouth of Christ comes a sharp sword, and with this sword (His Word) He smites the nations and rules them with a rod of iron.

Likewise from the mouths of His disciples comes the same Word of the Kingdom, the sword of the Spirit with which we can conquer and take possession of the world for our Lord.

The King must sit on His throne in the Heavens UNTIL His enemies have been subdued by the sons of the Kingdom.

But He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time onward, UNTIL HIS ENEMIES BE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS

FEET (Heb. 10:12,13).

The return of Jesus Christ will be delayed until we, the Church have made His enemies a footstool for His feet.

The devil has deceived the majority of Christians into believing that Jesus is going to come and do the job for us at His second coming; but this is simply not true.

We are His Body upon the earth, and Jesus sits at the right hand of God WAITING FOR THE TIME when we complete our corporate task.

The original instruction of God to man in the Garden of Eden cannot be changed.

As God's delegated authority upon the earth, the Church of the Kingdom, the Body of Christ is responsible to carry out God's instructions.

**We Are
To be fruitful;
To multiply;
To fill the earth;
To subdue the earth; and
To REIGN OVER EVERYTHING.**

We are to be the kings of the earth that bring their glory into the holy city, the New Jerusalem; for only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life may enter its gates.

And they sang a new song, saying,
"Worthy art Thou to take the book, and

to break its seals; for Thou was slain,
and didst purchase for God with Thy
blood men from every tribe and
tongue and people and nation.

And Thou hast made them to be a
kingdom and priests to our God;

AND THEY WILL REIGN UPON THE EARTH” (Rev. 5:9, 10)

The trained disciples of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom receive the Kingdom (the power to reign) and reign upon the earth.

We are commanded by Jesus to make disciples of individuals initially, but of WHOLE NATIONS ultimately.

Through the power of prayer we can move the hands of God, so believing prayer is ULTIMATE POWER for humanity.

Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, but not until the children of God repent from their “Christian religion” and seek the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

The King sits upon His throne and waits for His people to repent of their little church kingdoms, their traditions, and their inadequate religion and become committed solely to the King and His Kingdom.

Then the time will arrive when the saints take possession of the Kingdom and reign upon the earth.

Then the sovereignty [Kingdom], the dominion, and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole Heaven will be given to THE PEOPLE OF THE SAINTS of the Highest

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One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him (Dan. 7:27).



CHAPTER 17

THE CHURCH OF THE KINGDOM

Jesus said, “I will build My Church and the gates of Hades will not overpower it” (Matt. 16:18).

The gates of a city in Bible days were the seat of authority. The elders and rulers of the city sat in the gates, and the people came to hear the reading of the law. The judges gave out judgments and the king’s place of audience was in the gates.

The word Hades means “not to be seen.”

The term “the gates of Hades” therefore denotes the rulers, the powers of the “not to be seen,” the spiritual powers of darkness.

Jesus was saying, “I will build My people that I have called out (My Church), and the ruling powers of the kingdom of darkness from the unseen realm (the gates of Hades) will not overpower them.”

The Church of the Kingdom is not designed or built by man.

Men are the material (the lively stones) out of which King Jesus builds His Church. It consists of people who have responded to the Gospel and have been called out of the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of Christ.

God delivers us from the reign of Satan and transfers us into the reign of His beloved Son, King Jesus (Col. 1:13).

Jesus identifies the children of God as “sons of the Kingdom,” never as “sons of the Church.”

Jesus uses the word “church” to collectively identify the sons of the Kingdom who are the people who live under His reign.

Judaism and the heathen religions teach that there must be sanctified places, temples, and buildings where men can meet for divine worship.

In the Kingdom of God the temple of God is a spiritual building made of living persons, who are those He has called out. Collectively these people are identified as His Church or as the Body of Christ.

The people can meet anywhere.

The Church of the Kingdom has no consecrated places, holy sanctuaries or buildings, which ignorant men call “the House of the Lord.” The people are the House of the Lord.

The Church of the Kingdom makes use of any building that suits its needs.

It can meet anywhere at any time.

It only takes two or three to assemble together, and the Church of the Kingdom is meeting with the King in their midst.

They worship God in spirit and in truth (see John 4:19-24). Whenever the people of His Church meet, THEY SANCTIFY

THE PLACE BY THEIR PRESENCE.

They are the temple of God.

God is inside them and they carry Him and the Kingdom of Heaven with them wherever they go. They cannot go anywhere “to meet with God” because they never leave His presence. He lives inside them.

There is one Church that Jesus is building, and Scripture identifies it only by locality. He has only one Church, and all the believers living in one place are called the Church in that place.

All His people in Rome or Corinth or Ephesus are identified as “the Church of Rome,” or “the Church at Corinth” or “the Church at Ephesus.”

All His people in your city should be identified only by the name of your city or by the names of suburbs or areas if its size is very large.

Nevertheless, these are all ONE AND THE SAME CHURCH.

If you live in London, you are a member of the Church in London. If you live at Earls Court you would, for practical purposes, be further identified as a member of the Church at Earls Court in London.

If you leave London and go to live in Log Angeles, you will then be a member of the Church in Los Angeles.

You are still in the same Church, simply living in another local expression of the one Body.

Every Christian who is identified by any other name, denomination or otherwise, except the name of his locality, is

committing spiritual adultery and is living in deception.

He is living like the Jews of the captivity in Babylon and must leave there if he wishes to dwell in the New Jerusalem.

Since Jesus lives in the Church of the Kingdom, He calls it His Body.

The sons of the Kingdom are members of His Body and they...

...have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the Heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels to the general assembly and church of the first-born who are enrolled in Heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of A NEW COVENANT...(Heb. 12:22-24).

The Church of the Kingdom is the City of God, the Heavenly Jerusalem, and the throne of God and the Lamb are in it.

Within it flows a spiritual river of life, and in it also is the tree of life which produces fruit every month, and its leaves are for the healing of the nations.

The people of this Church reign in life and will continue to reign forever and ever (Rev. 22:1-5).

The people of this Church do not live under law, since they have the spirits of righteous men made perfect.

They have come to Jesus, who is the Mediator of a new covenant which is totally different from the covenant of law that God made with Moses.

This NEW COVENANT produces the Church of the Kingdom.

The people of His Church have the Spirit of God within

them, and God puts His laws into their minds and writes them on their hearts. They all know the Lord, from the least to the greatest of them. God is merciful to forgive their iniquities and He remembers their sins no more.

It is impossible to join the Church of the Kingdom.

It has no membership cards or church board or secretary or treasurer. It has no Pope or Archbishop or hierarchy.

The Lord adds to it daily those who are being saved.

The stones of this spiritual temple of God are unlike bricks which men build together. They are living, lively stones that Jesus moves about continually.

They are not dead bricks cemented with immovable mortar, rigidly fixed in one place.

Only a dead brick in a man-made church is locked into a wall with one above him, one on each side and one below him, rigidly fixed with the mortar of natural man's concepts of "churches" and "stones" and "authority" and "submission" and "body members."

Jesus loves His "stones" and He is constantly adjusting them, polishing them and changing them. He changes their appearance and also their positions. Change is the norm of their lives.

The Church of the Kingdom has only one Head, only one Master, only one Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

The Church of the Kingdom has no clergy or laity, and all its people have equal access to God the Father as His beloved children. They are a Kingdom of priests, a holy nation, a royal

priesthood, a people for God's own possession. They are in reality a mediatorial people, able to mediate between God and all men outside His Kingdom. Every single child of God is a priest of God and so the whole congregation is one class.

In the Church of the Kingdom there is no special class of people who take care of spirituals affairs while less spiritual ones take care of secular affairs. Every single person in this Church is equally responsible and able to attend to God's business on the earth.

The Church of the Kingdom has no written rules and regulations. The people of Israel had the law of the Mosaic covenant. The Church of the Kingdom has no book of LAW, because under the new covenant God chooses to work in them by His Spirit. They are led by the Spirit, and this is God's way of identifying His Sons.

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God (Rom. 8:14).

But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter (Rom. 7:6).

Every person in the Church of the Kingdom is a son of God. There is neither male nor female, Jew or Greek, neither master nor servant, but ALL ARE BRETHREN in Christ (Gal. 3:26-29).

The Holy Spirit is free to work in and through any man, woman or child in this Church. He is not hindered by the pride of men, who would forbid women to be God's anointed ones and cannot believe He would use children to rebuke them.

The Church of the Kingdom has older brethren who teach

and train the young brethren in their formative years. The goal of all instruction is to produce people who love with God's agape love and who live in the Spirit.

In the Church of the Kingdom there is NO COMPETITION, no desire for position or status among the older brethren. The mature ones have become servants, and their highest ambition is to become slaves of the others in the Church.

The Church of the Kingdom is in the world. It does not withdraw itself into seclusion for fear of contamination by the world. Instead it goes about boldly everywhere and anywhere to salt the earth with its Heavenly presence. It is not merely defensive, but confidently and righteously assertive.

It is the light of the world, and wherever the light shines the powers of darkness flee away, because darkness is banished by light.

The gates of Hades shall not overpower it [or prevail against it] (Matt. 16:18).

The unseen rulers and powers do not overpower or prevail in battle against the Church of the Kingdom.

It is constantly engaged in spiritual warfare against these world forces of darkness, these spiritual forces of wickedness in the unseen realm. It does not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the spirits dominating men.

These spirits without bodies can only function, BY MEANS OF MEN, through whom they oppose the Kingdom of God.

It is a warring and triumphant Church, but its weapons are not carnal. It does not need swords, money, human authority, votes, popular acclaim or men's opinions in its armory. None of these things are necessary to it, though not one of men's "little

Kingdoms” can be sustained without them.

The Church of the Kingdom walks in the flesh, but it does not war according to the flesh with human abilities and resources.

Its weapons are divinely powerful for the destruction of the enemy fortresses in men’s minds. These fortresses are the philosophies of men, the speculations and lofty thoughts which oppose the true knowledge of God.

Every thought and concept opposing the King and His Kingdom in any way is an ENEMY FORTRESS. These strongholds are built in men’s minds by evil spirits in order to sustain REBELLION, which is disobedience to the King.

The Church of the Kingdom follows and obeys Christ because it is armed and made capable of punishing all disobedience by its own obedience (see 2 Cor. 10:3-6).

This Church represents only the Kingdom of God. It is a bold, powerful, conquering Church bringing THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD UPON THE EARTH.



CHAPTER 18

JUDAISTIC CHRISTIANITY OPPOSES THE KINGDOM

...you are a chosen race, a royal PRIESTHOOD,
a HOLY nation, a people for God's own possession,
that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him
who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...
(1 Pet. 2:9).

In the Church of the Kingdom every believer is a PRIEST
and a SAINT (a holy person).

There is no mediatorial class called priests, and no special
class of super-holy ones known as saints because of their
achievements.

The idea of clergy and laity has its origin in Judaism and has
nothing to do with the New Covenant. Our denominational
“churches” therefore propagate Judaistic Christianity, and not
the Church of the Kingdom.

Judaistic Christianity is opposed to the Kingdom of God.

Until we see this deception, we cannot enter into and live in the Kingdom as God desires us to live. We remain in rebellion against the King.

The Church of the New Testament is NOT a perfect pattern for us to follow. It was a stumbling infant.

We can spend years studying and teaching out of First Corinthians, but fail to notice that the Corinthians were divided, drunken, immoral, petulant babies. Many or most of them would never gain admittance to our assemblies which preach “holiness” if they were alive today.

Careful reading of First Corinthians 2:1 through 3:3 reveals that Paul and the other apostles are the “WE who speak wisdom,” the “WE who have the revelation of God,” the “WE who receive from the Spirit,” and the “WE who have the mind of Christ.”

The Corinthians were still babes, walking in the flesh. THEY DID NOT HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST, and Paul could only write things to them suitable for INFANTS (1Cor. 3:1-5).

This was true despite the fact that they were not lacking in any gift of the Spirit and were ALL BLAMELESS SAINTS in God’s eyes (1Cor. 1:2,7,8).

For the same reason -- that of divisions -- few Christians today have the mind of Christ. Paul rebuked the whole Church in Corinth for their divisions. How much more would he rebuke those today who fail to identify themselves only by locality, instead saying, “I am a Baptist...Methodist...Pentecostal...” or whatever name defines their particular denomination, group or sect?

This is why the Bible urges us to grow in the knowledge of Christ, and to have our minds renewed. Only a RENEWED MIND, filled with the humility of Christ, can fellowship in the spirit with the Spirit of God.

And to no be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect (Rom. 12:2).

If all believers had the mind of Christ already, Paul would not have exhorted us to have our minds renewed. It is very misleading to take part of a sentence from Scripture, such as “we have the mind of Christ,” and then apply it indiscriminately to every Christian.

Paul was also careful to point out that the apostles were not a special class of SUPER-SAINTS, but merely SERVANTS who belonged to the people of God (1 Cor. 3:5-7, 21-23).

The RIGHTEOUSNESS and HOLINESS of a Christian is a GIFT from God, according to the Gospel of the Kingdom.

This is the GOOD NEWS! It is such good news that millions of God’s imprisoned saints fail to believe it understand it.

Satan is the author of their bondage and “Judaistic Christianity” is his strategy of deception to bind and overcome the Church.

The Church of the New Testament was a Jewish sect (Acts 28:22) and dominated by Spirit-filled teachers who had been raised in Judaism. They brought things of the old covenant into the Church, and these things are a snare and a deception which prevent any possibility of corporate Christian maturity.

The Church at Jerusalem was so infantile that they

continued to KEEP THE LAW OF MOSES AND TO OFFER SACRIFICES IN THE JEWISH TEMPLE, not realizing that THE OLD COVENANT WAS OBSOLETE.

Thirty years AFTER the resurrection of Christ there was thousands of Jewish BELIEVERS in Jerusalem.

Despite the fact that the twelve apostles were the founders of the Church at Jerusalem, that Church had no real understanding of the Gospel of grace.

It was these CHRISTIAN JEWS who wanted to kill Paul because of THE TRUTH he taught AGAINST THE LAW AND THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM (see Acts 21:17-31).

As long as we are deceived into copying the pattern of the New Testament Church we will be bound by Satan, just as our long-deceased brethren, the Jerusalem Jews, were bound.

God had to destroy the temple at Jerusalem in A.D. 70 because of their inability to HEAR the truth and to SEE and ENTER INTO the Kingdom of God.

God is likewise going to destroy EVERY man-made church and denomination for the same reasons.

It is impossible to obey the King and walk in the Spirit maturely if we cling to the temple, the law, the priests, and the traditions of the elders.

These things are for Judaism and not for the Church of the Kingdom.

They deceive, confuse, delude and divide, rendering us impotent.

Judaistic Christianity is opposed to the King and the Kingdom of God.



CHAPTER 19

THE SECRET WAR OF THE SAINTS

...the horn [Satan] was waging war with the saints and OVERPOWERING THEM until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when THE SAINTS TOOK POSSESSION OF THE KINGDOM (Dan. 7:21, 22).

Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole Heaven will be given to THE PEOPLE OF THE SAINTS of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom; and all the dominions will serve and obey Him (Dan. 7:27)

Daniel prophesied that Satan would wage war on the saints and OVERPOWER THEM.

For nearly 2,000 years we have witnessed the fulfillment of this prediction.

The Church is triumphant IN DEATH, but overcome and failing to be triumphant IN LIFE.

This will continue until the SAINTS RECEIVE THE KINGDOM, until we become OVERCOMER'S who receive THE SOVEREIGNTY -- the ability to reign in life.

The saints must TAKE POSSESSION OF THIS AUTHORITY which is THEIR INHERITANCE, yet withheld by our Father from infants and little children. IT IS WITHHELD BECAUSE OF OUR DIVISIONS -- THE MARK OF FLESHLY BABIES.

The war that Satan wages is his kingdom (sovereignty, rule and authority) against the Kingdom (sovereignty, rule and authority) of God.

It is spiritual war and therefor that MAIN BATTLE IS INVISIBLE, although it has visible results in our lives.

Satan's strategy is to occupy our minds with OPEN WARFARE so that we fail to see his HIDDEN battle, which has overcome the saints for 2000 years.

The open war includes the occult, Satan worship, spiritualism, heathen religions, yoga, T.M., secular humanism, demonized people, sickness, racialism, politics, humanistic education and every obvious Christ-denying church. He also distracts us with theology, doctrinal arguments and various interpretations of Scriptures, bibliolatry and weird "Christian" cults.

While we are busy protecting our "churches" from all these things, or merely arguing about them, we are still secretly and unknowingly being overcome.

Occult practices are usually regarded as our most dangerous enemy, but this is really a diversion to distract us from the main strategy for our subjugation.

Satan's hidden method of overpowering the saints is to keep

them in his great city called Babylon.

The spiritual city of Babylon is the concealed war, the main battle, which Satan has successfully hidden from the vast majority of Christians, but not from all.

**BABYLON IMPRISONS THE SAINTS WITHIN HER
WALLS THROUGH JUDAISTIC CHRISTIANITY.**

Every tradition, every structure, every Christian organization which commands a saint's first loyalty before the Kingdom of God is Satan's ultimate weapon.

Disobedience to the King results in the paralysis of the members of Christ's Body.

The Greek word "paralysis" means SECRET UNDOING.

No word more aptly describes the condition of the members of men's "little kingdom" churches.

Within every single church that man has made is the secret undoing of the angel of light.

Any local "church" that is bigger or smaller than its locality is NOT THE CHURCH OF THE KINGDOM.

ANY "CHURCH" THAT MAKES AGREEMENT ON DOCTRINE THE BASIS OF UNITY IS NOT THE CHURCH OF THE KINGDOM.

Any "church" that continues to promote and practice Judaistic Christianity is practicing "sweet rebellion" against the King, albeit in His Name.

The true Church in a locality is all the people of God in that place. The Bible speaks of the Church at Corinth or Ephesus or

Rome or Jerusalem. Always it is ONE CITY -- ONE CHURCH.

When the local church at Rome began to structure itself with a hierarchy and then expanded its hierarchical influence beyond its locality, it became ensnared in Babylon.

The original church at Rome was started by apostles of Christ, but as soon as the invisible power of Babylon secretly bound its leaders with PRIDE they began to expand their “dominion” beyond their city’s borders. The moment they established a “Roman Church” outside of Rome they became a DENOMINATION.

The local church had become bigger than its locality and therefore was no longer the Church of the Kingdom, but the “Roman Church.”

This did not stop God’s children in the denomination being fruitful and multiplying any less than the Jews kept their faith and multiplied in the historic Babylon captivity.

Nevertheless, in their captivity they could never FILL THE EARTH, SUBDUE IT AND REIGN.

This error has been repeated time after time in Church history.

Luther was born in the Roman denomination, but was led by God’s Spirit to oppose the Babylonian influence. A movement began which eventually gave birth to the “Lutheran Church” which again is not the Church of the Kingdom, but just another denomination.

Denominationalism is a class spirit or policy which demands devotion to the interests of the sect to which we have given a name.

A denomination is a collection of individuals called by the same name to identify and SEPARATE them from others.

The moment we do this we are adulterers, unfaithful to our God and King. How shall a woman married to one man take another name while he lives?

The moment we dominate (give a name to) ourselves we disobey Christ; we reject His reign over us and unwittingly accept the reign of Satan. When we TOLERATE or SUPPORT anything that divides the people of God we are opposing Christ's commands.

There are no gray areas in this clash of kingdoms, this clash of authorities. There is only black or white: black if we obey darkness, and white if we obey light.

The infantile Corinth Church can be forgiven their immaturity (their divisions), as they were still "awaiting eagerly the REVELATION of Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 1:7).

Our infantile divisions expressed in denominationalism warrant less forgiveness, for we are no longer awaiting the revelation of Jesus Christ. We have it written in hundreds of millions of copies of the New Testament.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ was given by God to Jesus to show TO THE SLAVES OF CHRIST -- not to the slaves of denominational Judaistic Christianity (Rev. 1:1).

Until we repent of our rebellion and start to hate BABYLON we cannot easily understand the Book of Revelation. Yet there is nothing complicated or hidden from the OBEDIENT SLAVE OF JESUS CHRIST.

When he has "found the Kingdom," it is no longer hidden.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ is Kingdom truth for disciples of the King and His Kingdom, to enable them to “see” what is happening in the invisible realm, to reveal to them the SECRET WAR of Satan and his deceptive spiritual city of Babylon.

There is no time, as we know it, in the invisible realm. John was therefore instructed to write in a book:

THE THINGS WHICH HE HAD SEEN,
THE THINGS WHICH ARE,
AND THE THINGS WHICH ARE ABOUT TO OCCUR
AFTER THESE THINGS (Rev. 1:19).

The curtain of the invisible was drawn back and John was allowed to see what is HAPPENING in the spirit realm. It was happening then, it has been happening for 2,000 years, and it is still happening. It is more a revealing of a PROCESS than of events.

The secret war on the saints, the Babylon of Judaistic Christianity including every Catholic, Protestant, Eastern or other man-made church is uncovered by God in the revelation He gave to show to His slaves.

We are COMMANDED by the Lord to COME OUT OF THIS GREAT DECEIVING WHORE CITY AND STOP BEING HER HARLOT DAUGHTERS (see Rev. 18:4).

The Holy Spirit pleads with us to come out of the city of Babylon and enter the New Jerusalem, the city of God.

The New Jerusalem proceeds out of the invisible realm, just as Babylon proceeds out of the invisible realm. But New Jerusalem is the Bride of Christ. (Rev. 21:1-11).

The holy city is past, present, and future. For now we are to be concerned with its present aspects.

Its foundations are the 12 apostles, so it is the Church of the Kingdom of God (Rev. 21:14).

There is no temple in the city, for the Lord God and His Lamb King are its temple (Rev. 21:22).

It is full of the light of God, which is agape love, and the kings of the earth (the REIGNING, OVERCOMING SAINTS) bring their glory into it (Rev. 21:23-24; Rev. 22:5).

Its gates never shut, and nobody who is not continually washed in blood of the Lamb may enter it (Rev. 21:27).

The city is the Church that Jesus is building, the Church of the kingdom of God. In the city nobody resists the King or His commands. They are all ONE with their Father God, with their husband Jesus, and WITH EACH OTHER.

Within the city flows a spiritual, invisible river of the water of life. It is the life of God which flows, and the one tree of life stands on both sides of the river.

This tree of life is Jesus Christ and His Bride, for the two have become one. The tree bears FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT continually; there is no special fruit season. The leaves of this tree are for the healing of the nations (Rev. 22:1-2).

The nations need this healing NOW, not only in some future millennium.

Blessed, happy and to be envied are those who wash their robes, because they have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates (Rev. 22:14).

Those who slander (murder) their brethren; those who fornicate with the great harlot Babylon; those who make idolatry of their traditions, doctrines, denominations and organizations;

and those who love and make the lying deceptions of Babylon (Judaistic Christianity) have no right to the tree of life or right of entrance into the city by its gates, even though they are born again and filled with the Spirit. (Rev. 22:15-16).

This revelation is for THE CHURCHES, for born again, baptized, Spirit-filled Christians who are ensnared in the city of Babylon (Rev. 22:16).

To the imprisoned saints overcome by the great deception, the master plan of Satan, which is Judaistic Christianity, the Holy Spirit and the Bride (the New Jerusalem) say “COME” (Rev. 22:17).

Those who hear this warning and refuse the Spirit and the Bride lose their share in THE TREE OF LIFE and THE HOLY CITY during their life upon the earth (Rev. 22:18-19).

They DO NOT lose their right to enter the gates of Heaven after death, but they can never be OVERCOMER’S WHO REIGN IN LIFE.

(The King James Version wrongly translates verse 19 as “book of life” instead of “tree of life.”)

The Church of the Kingdom is God’s army upon the earth, and as it rallies behind its King it will oppose and destroy the city of Babylon.

I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things
FOR THE CHURCHES.

I am the root and the offspring of David,
the bright morning star (Rev. 22:16).

And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes, take the water of life without cost (Rev. 22:17).

And he who overcomes, and who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father; and I will give him the morning star. He, who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches (Rev. 2:26-29).

He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of Heaven, from My God, and My new name (Rev. 3:12).



CHAPTER 20

THE BODY OF CHRIST AND THE KINGDOM

The Body of Christ is a spiritual organism, not an organization.

It is nevertheless tangible and visible because it is composed of people we can see and touch.

Every member of Christ's Body is connected directly to Him, and we are ONE SPIRIT with Him and with each other.

You cannot decide whether you want to be a member of the Body, because you cannot join it, neither can you leave it.

You are a member only if the Spirit of Christ dwells in you (Rom. 8:9-11).

A human body would be dead if it were cut into pieces.

Likewise, the Body of Christ could not live if it were divided; but it is very much alive and therefore is not divided.

If we look at the denominations and sects and think that they are the divided Body of Christ, we will be deceived. Not

one of them is the true Body of Christ.

Within these “churches” are people who are members of the true Body of Christ, yet their instructions are NOT THE BODY.

Each institution is in reality a faction commanding loyalty to its doctrine, organization, constitution or traditions, which it uses to distinguish and SEPARATE its self and its members from others.

These divisions can only exist as long as Christians are not Kingdom-minded and give allegiance to their denominations under the reign of Queen Babylon rather than to King Jesus.

These visible and paralyzing divisions EXIST ONLY INSIDE THE INVISIBLE WALLS OF THE SPIRITUAL CITY OF BABYLON and prevent the saints from filling the earth, subduing the enemy and reigning corporately upon the earth.

The behavior of God’s children or their ignorance does not change their SON-SHIP. It may spoil their fellowship and estrange them, but the child born of the will of God remains His child, EVEN IN BABYLON.

God sees the Body of Christ as ONE BODY.

He says it is ONE BODY.

Therefore it is ONE BODY AND CANNOT BE DIVIDED.

We need to see the Body of Christ the way God sees it.

Every soul who is truly in a living relationship to God through Jesus Christ is joined to all others who have the same relationship.

They may not agree with each other, they might not be willing to acknowledge each other, but they have all been

baptized INTO ONE BODY (Eph. 4:4,5).

But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired (1 Cor. 12:18).

God joins us to PEOPLE; not denominations or organizations.

We cannot choose those people to whom we wish to be closely related.

God decides this.

We must learn to see who God has connected to us.

We can only be directly joined to a small number of other people. They must have access to us and we to them, and there must be ongoing communication.

How do we know who they are?

By the revelation of the Holy Spirit and the practical realities of our life situations. They have to be people with whom we live or work and have continuing fellowship.

“Fellowship” does not only mean attending the same meetings and taking communion bread and wine together. It is possible to do these things and have no real Body fellowship, no true koinonia.

Koinonia is a sharing in the deepest sense, not only in participating in assemblies, but sharing of our lives in a covenant commitment embracing every sphere of life.

The apostle John said that the apostles’ fellowship (koinonia) was with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ, and that he desired us to have this same fellowship.

Fellowship of this type is only possible if we walk in the light and abide in the light.

The test of koinonia is whether we love our brothers and sisters with unfeigned Christlike love (1 John 1:3-2:11).

If we do not actually love each other with the unselfish love of Christ, then we cannot have koinonia.

The problem is that church structures and traditional understandings of church relationships do not generally allow for this type of fellowship. It might be discussed, studied in Scripture and preached about, but in practice there is no reality.

We generally fail to move from words to practical reality.

Our relationships, our fellowships, are too shallow.

The “churches” of Judaistic Christianity generally preclude the proper functioning of the Body of Christ.

One qualifies for membership by agreeing with the doctrinal statement of the “church.” He remains in good standing by attending meetings, having good moral character and giving money to the “church.”

These qualifications for membership of men’s “churches” do not identify the members of the Body of Christ. It is possible for a person to fulfill all these qualifications for “church membership” and yet NOT BE A MEMBER OF CHRIST’S BODY.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ is clearly directed at believing “church members.” He calls to the churches and request HIS PEOPLE TO COME OUT OF THE SPIRITUAL CITY OF BABYLON.

The Holy Spirit and the Bride of Christ say “come” (or come out), and we must heed this command if we thirst for the FREE WATER OF LIFE, which is the EXPERIENCE OF

TRUE BODY LIFE, and ONLY FLOWS WITHIN THE CITY OF NEW JERUSALEM.

Men have made false doctrines about being in a “Body of Christ” which delude and deceive us so that we wrongly believe that we are joined to “a Body” if we belong to a “church.”

This is an intellectual concept and subtly deceives millions, because they do experience BODY LIFE IN REALITY.

They are joined to other people by organizational or doctrinal ties which are the Babylonian substitute for the relationship we are required by God to have.

TRUE BODY LIFE only exists when we are joined to each other by the BONDS OF THE NEW COVENANT established in the blood of Christ.

We can only enjoy membership of Christ’s Body if we enter into and keep the New Covenant with other people in obedience to God.

The individual Christian family and the whole family of God only functions correctly when the STANDARD OF OUR UNION IS THE NEW COVENANT.

The New Covenant requires total commitment of ourselves to God and OTHER PEOPLE, not to a “church” or denomination or organization.

A husband and wife enter into a godly marriage for better or worse, in sickness or in health, and bestow upon one another all their worldly goods.

This is what it means to enter covenant relationship.

To experience the Body of Christ in reality is to be joined to other Christians at this level of commitment.

A member of the Body of Christ is a “lively stone” joined to other “lively stones”.

The member SUPPORTS AND SUSTAINS other members and is supported and sustained by them.

However, this is NOT SOMETHING WHICH CAN BE EXPERIENCED BY ANY FORMULA OR PATTERN. Babylon will always COUNTERFEIT the things of New Jerusalem, and many “churches” offer something which appears to be Body life.

To distinguish the true from the false we must remember GOD’S DEFINITION OF THE NEW COVENANT.

God promised that He would put His laws into our minds and write them on our hearts. This means that the New Covenant is a spiritual covenant that WORKS OUT FROM WITHIN US.

It is not something that is imposed from an external source. That is always the method of Babylon.

God puts a desire in our spirits (hearts) to function in New Covenant relationship with other people.

Jesus Christ personally joins the members of His Body together. He is the Builder of His Church. Only God can join “lively stones” together, and He places us “in the Body just as He desires.” (1 Cor. 12:18).

As we enter the Kingdom of God we must repent of our Babylonian church memberships and see the Body of Christ as He sees it and see the place in it where God has really placed us.

We must review and assess the degree of our obedience to the King and our loyalty to His Kingdom.

If Babylon, the great whore, has a stronger hold on our allegiance than the King, then we are HER HARLOT DAUGHTERS. We are unfaithful to our Husband, Christ. Babylon makes us spiritual harlots as she made Israel spiritual harlots centuries before Christ.

True life in the Body of Christ is being married to Christ. It involves a spiritual union that transcends every relationship between people except that of perfect holy matrimony.

The Body of Christ is people who are joined to Christ and to each other by and in the Holy Spirit.

JESUS SEES US AS HIS OWN FLESH BECAUSE WE ARE MEMBERS OF HIS BODY. He nourishes and cherishes us because we have become His flesh.

Through our LIFE UNION with the King and other members of His Body we enter into an intimate sharing of life with God the Father.

This is true koinonia. This is the fellowship that the apostle John desires for us.

Where there is this true fellowship there is the Church of the Kingdom, the Body of Christ in physical reality.

Where there is not this true fellowship there is no true experience of the Body of Christ in physical reality, although there may be “church” services, the Lord’s Supper, baptism, Bible studies, good works and evangelism.

Religious activities do not make or form the Body of Christ.

It is only THE LIFE OF GOD truly functioning in Christian lives that produces the Body of Christ.

We must learn to distinguish between the “churches” of

men and the Body in which HE LIVES.

We need not be concerned about our differences of creed, ritual, institution and interpretation of Scripture. We must love one another and concentrate on the SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP THAT GOD HAS GIVEN US TO HIMSELF AND TO EACH OTHER.

When a disciple has developed a personal love relationship with Jesus in submission to Him, then that disciple will enjoy true Body Life, because he will love ALL other disciples.

Without obedience to the King, we cannot have the Kingdom.

Without the Kingdom we cannot experience and enjoy the Body of Christ.

The King must be free to function in His Body, but He will not coerce or dominate His wife.

He patiently awaits her voluntary response to His Spirit.

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; and be subject to one another in the fear [reverence] of Christ.

Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself, for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body. For this cause a man will leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh.

**THIS MYSTERY IS GREAT; BUT I AM SPEAKING
WITH REFERENCE TO CHRIST AND THE CHURCH
(Eph. 5:15-32).**



CHAPTER 21

THE KINGDOM HOW?

“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the Lord of hosts (Zech. 4:6).

The first word of the Gospel of the Kingdom is always REPENT.

Repentance involves giving up all our own viewpoints and our arguments with God.

It means to change our minds, to change the way we think and live.

Repentance is not needed only once, but it is a CONTINUOUS ATTITUDE which allows God to form us and to lead us by His Spirit.

To repent of our Judaistic Christianity is a necessary step to enable us to enter the New Jerusalem and for the Kingdom to come in personal and corporate reality.

We are so bound by the traditions of Judaistic Christianity

that we struggle to conceive of Christ's Body, of fellowship, outside of the existing structures of men's "churches."

Nevertheless, no special meeting place, organization or official hierarchy is necessary for the fellowship that God has ordained for us.

THE SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP THAT GOD HAS GIVEN US TO HIMSELF AND TO EACH OTHER IS EVERYTHING WE NEED FOR OUR FELLOWSHIP AND FUNCTION AS HIS BODY.

We find this hard to comprehend, because we are so accustomed to the secret bondage of Babylon that we are afraid of the simplicity and freedom of life in the Spirit.

The Babylonian harlot church structure, although a counterfeit, is very close to the truth.

It is true that we are all to be members of a local body.

It is true that God provides elders to teach and guide the younger ones.

It is true that we are to assemble ourselves together for corporate prayer, praise and worship.

It is true that we are to obey those who care for our lives (souls).

Nevertheless, God does not desire us to make the INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH OR THE BIBLE OR THE LOCAL BODY the center of Christianity.

GOD JEALOUSLY DESIRES THE SPIRIT WITHIN US.

King Jesus is the center of Christianity.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS HIS ACTIVE AGENT OF THE NEW COVENANT, THE UNIFYING ONE, THE LEADING

ONE, WHO MUST REIGN WITHIN US.

The dilemma we face is like that of the Church of Jerusalem in the first century.

After Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit they could not adapt to LIFE IN THE SPIRIT. They clung to the temple, the priests, the law and their traditions.

THEY THEREFORE OPPOSED THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

This made it necessary for God to use the Roman armies under Titus to destroy the temple and sack Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

In the twentieth century we have seen God using the forces of atheistic communism to do the same thing in Russia, China and many other lands. Church buildings have been closed or destroyed. Christian clergy, priests and pastors have been jailed or murdered. The Bible has been taken away from the people, and they have been deprived of their traditional forms of assembly, worship and religious expression.

This is an actual fulfillment of the prophecy in the Book of Revelation, that Babylon, the great city, WILL BE THROWN DOWN WITH VIOLENCE and not be found any longer. (See Appendix references to Revelation 18:20-24.)

The Lord is shaking the earth and removing those things which can be shaken, in order that HIS KINGDOM, which cannot be shaken, may remain.

...for our God is a consuming fire (Heb. 12:29).

In the centuries where this has already happened, the Body of Christ is more united, more loving and more virile because

the Christians have been forced to rely upon the Holy Spirit.

If we in the Western world will not repent and stop opposing the King and His Kingdom, we will find ourselves experiencing similar GREAT TRIBULATION.

The fire of God's judgment is not limited to communism. It can be seen in terrorism, racial conflicts, inflation, famine, the breakdown of law and order, and weak, bungling governments or harsh, totalitarian governments.

God's main instrument for the execution of His judgment in this generation appears to be economic; hence the world's oil crisis and insoluble monetary problems.

The submission of our own free wills to the will of God is to RECEIVE HIS KINGDOM, to allow the King to rule our lives from within. He reigns through the Holy Spirit and never dominates. He reigns in our lives only as far as we voluntarily submit to Him.

The Kingdom can therefore be manifested in us only as much as we ALLOW Him to RENEW our minds and CHANGE US.

To become a disciple of the King and His Kingdom is to embark on a life of CONTINUOUS CHANGE and to stop making excuses for rejecting His reign over us.

God commands all men everywhere to repent, so this is not optional. YOU AND I ARE INCLUDED.

Willful disobedience to the King is rebellion and rejection of His Kingdom.

There is only one way the Jesus extends His Kingdom. We

are to BECOME HIS DISCIPLES and to MAKE DISCIPLES WHO DO WHAT HE SAYS.

This is the whole answer to the question, “The Kingdom How?

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There is no methodology, no formula by which we can become disciples and make disciples.

It is like raising children.

No two children are alike, so no rigid method is applicable to every child. We can only learn general principles for parenthood, because every child is UNIQUE, and so is each one’s environment and relationships.

We can study parenthood in books, but the realities of raising children can only be learned in the crucible of life’s experience, by SLOW PROCESS.

The same thing applies to the disciples of the Kingdom of God. We must learn the DOCTRINE OF CHRIST and the principles of the Kingdom, but the practice of it, walking by the Spirit, is learned by SLOW PROCESS.

Every one of us is made in the image of God and is a UNIQUE, godlike person.

Jesus referred the Jews to Scripture to confirm this (John 10:34, 35).

I said, “You are gods, and all of you are sons of the Most High” (Ps. 82:6).

We cannot take God and put Him in a box surrounded and limited by the walls of our theology.

Likewise we cannot take God’s sons and put them into any

mold in order to produce disciples. Each son of the Kingdom is “a god” and must be accepted and recognized as such.

There are no two alike, and no two are discipled exactly the same way because the ONLY REAL TEACHER IS THE HOLY SPIRIT, the Helper.

He is more than able to teach us directly by His communication with our own spirits to which He is united. He also works through other believers to adjust our lives, and this is why we must submit to one another. Nevertheless, we are to receive only that which comes from THE HOLY SPIRIT, THAT WHICH PRODUCES LIFE.

We are NOT to receive that to which the Spirit within us does not bear witness, for He agrees only with that which flows from the river of life.

When the Helper [the Comforter] comes,
whom I will send to you from the Father, that is
the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father,
He will bear witness of Me [Jesus] (John 15:26).

But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes,
He will guide you into all truth; for He will not
speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears,
He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.
He shall glorify Me [Jesus]; for He shall take of Mine,
and shall disclose it to you. All things that the Father
has are Mine; therefore I said, that He takes of Mine,
and will disclose it to you (John 16:13-15).

The essence of the New Covenant is that God puts His Spirit inside us, and our spirit is joined to His Spirit.

The Word of God (Jesus -- the Logos) is living and active, and when He comes in He makes a division between the soul and the spirit of God's children. The spiritual man in us is separated by Jesus from the soul and body, so that the Spirit of God can dwell in our mortal bodies and be joined to our spirits uncontaminated by the sins that all believers commit (Heb. 4:12-13).

Our whole life is to be spent in trying to learn and live out what is pleasing to the Lord.

Our spiritual age is known to our Father.

He does not demand from a 2-year-old infant that which He expects from a 16-year-old teenager. Neither does He expect from a 16-year-old the maturity of a person aged 50. He also does not expect from the 50-year-old the wisdom and experience of an 85-year-old.

Our perfect Father does not stop there, but He trains every 2-year-old differently, every 16-year-old differently, every 50- or 85-year-old differently.

He makes allowances for each of His UNIQUE children. He is the greatest Dad in all the world. (Pause and think of this -- and praise Him, love Him -- your mature, tolerant, kind, merciful, patient, loving, delightful, all-wise Abba Father.)

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Disciples Function First in Their Own Homes

Disciples of the Kingdom first practice the teachings of the King in their immediate families. A man learns to be a godly

husband and father and a woman a godly wife and mother by DOING the TEACHINGS OF JESUS in their own home.

Disciples of Jesus do not study the Bible in order to find sermon material to preach at other. They study the Bible to learn how they are to adjust themselves first. They learn HOW TO LIVE and, after some months or years of LIVING THE NEW WAY, they can demonstrate the New Covenant life.

Only out of their own obedience to the doctrine of Christ IN THE FUNCTION OF IMMEDIATE DAILY RELATIONSHIPS will they become true disciples.

When a husband and wife SUBMIT to the King and SUBMIT TO EACH OTHER, the Kingdom of God has become a reality in their home. Their children will also be trained by their example and be raised as disciples, without any need of a Sunday school.

In the Kingdom, fathers and mothers are totally responsible to teach their own children the way, the truth and the life.

The family unit is like a cell of the body.

When a family is obeying the King and loves one another as Christ loves them; then the Kingdom of God has come in that home. They are living in the covenant relationship that God has ordained.

Disciples Are Joined to Other Disciples

One body cell cannot live outside the body, and so a disciple family is always joined BY THE LORD to other members of the local Body of Christ.

If we choose those to whom we wish to be joined we will make a mistake. We must see who God has sent into our lives.

He places the members in the Body according to HIS WILL
- not our will.

When we align ourselves exclusively with one denominational church, we hinder Jesus in the building of HIS CHURCH. He has only ONE Church or group in any locality, and He does not necessarily join us to the other members of the “church” we have joined.

Jesus will always join us to other people, not to an organization or man-made structure. He very often joins us to those we would never choose, and so we must submit to the Holy Spirit and His desires.

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Leaders Are Elders in the Church of the Locality

A leader in the Church of the Kingdom can best be understood as a pioneer. He (or she) will be one who has been through trials and testings and has learned to be an overcomer in life, one who knows God’s ways and knows THE WAY, having “gone before.”

Spiritual leadership and authority in the Kingdom are totally opposite to Babylonian concepts.

In the New Jerusalem the leaders are at the foundation of the spiritual building, bearing up the younger and weaker ones. They do not control or dominate them in any way.

In Babylon, those at the top give orders, which are passed down a descending chain of command, and fear of authority makes the masses submit.

The Holy Spirit never dominates or orders us around, and true spiritual authority has His nature because it emanates

from Him.

It must be sensed, recognized and submitted to voluntarily, because of a love relationship.

Perfect love casts out all fear, and so submission based on fear or coercion is Babylonian.

Jesus is our perfect example of true spiritual authority. He never ordered people to do things or made Himself a judge over them. His authority was always based on the love and respect people had for Him.

Jesus did not say, "I am the King, therefore you must keep My commandments."

This is how worldly authority is wielded -- by appealing to the power of office.

Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments," and "You are My friends if you do everything I tell you."

The authority of the apostle Paul was that of the Spirit. If others recognized it, then it was effective. If they refused him, then he would not enforce it. He could only be an apostle to those who receive him as an apostle.

Paul was responsible for the planting of churches in Asia (Acts 19), yet later they rejected him and so he withdrew gently, as the Holy Spirit will do from our slightest resistance (2 Tim. 1:15).

When we are led by the Spirit, the elders in the local community of the redeemed function as leaders and guides, just as parents function in a natural family.

Younger disciples are nurtured and trained, but **MUST AFTER SOME YEARS BE WEANED and ALLOWED TO**

BECOME ADULTS. Every disciple must be expected to eventually produce and train his own family of disciples.

The counterfeit in Babylon, where ministers are always shepherds and the laity are always sheep, perpetuates the eternal childhood of the believers.

In Babylonian a ministry becomes an office, and the office bears authority.

In the New Jerusalem there are NO OFFICES. All ministries are simply FUNCTIONS IN THE BODY OF CHRIST, and it is the functioning of the ministry that reveals the authority.

God invented organization and hierarchy, but He designed it for the angelic hosts, not for His family.

In the Kingdom of God, the children of God are designed to function in voluntary submission to each other out of a loving family relationship, in the same way that the Holy Trinity relates. All are to desire to serve rather than be served. All are to recognize the functions of other members of the Body of Christ and lead, advise, follow or obey according to the desire of the Holy Spirit.

Spiritual authority in the New Jerusalem, The Bride of Christ, is diametrically opposed to worldly authority, which is that imposed by Babylon, the city ruled by the principalities and powers opposed to King Jesus. The enemy powers only the form of hierarchy which God made for the angels, and they have subtly deceived the Church into using their systems of organization and hierarchal structure, which restrict and preclude the Kingdom of God.

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The crumbling kingdoms of men within the walls of Babylon

are being shaken, crushed and removed by the Kingdom of God.

King Jesus is sitting on His throne, and will reign until we have put all His enemies under His feet.

This will never be done by the might and power of religious structures, but only by the AUTHORITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Those who truly love God and become disciples of His King and Kingdom will walk BY THE SPIRIT.

He will lead us. He will teach us.

He alone must direct the Body of Christ.

THE HOLY SPIRIT MUST BE RESTORED TO HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE IN ALL OUR ACTIONS AND DELIBERATIONS.

It is our attitude toward the Holy Spirit that determines our submission to the King.

THE SPIRIT and the Bride say “COME,” and we must respond by abandoning spiritual Babylon and stop encouraging and financing its perpetuation.

We must renounce our sectarian churches and give our loyalty only to the ONE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST, which is His Body.

Submission to the King requires rejection of the Babylonian system of clergy and laity and the rejection of any authority that tries to coerce or control God’s children. Church boards, synods, executive councils and every hierarchy are visible manifestations of the city of Babylon, and we must reject and renounce them in the interests of the Kingdom.

In New Jerusalem we must recognize and support only those

with an anointing from God who function in our communities as GIFTS OF THE RISEN CHRIST, as described in Ephesians 4 and Romans 12.

The King insists that we receive ALL TRUE BELIEVERS into our midst as fellow priests and holy brethren, regardless of their different ideas and varying doctrines.

If God receives them as partakers of the New Covenant, then we have no option but to realize that we are in a covenant relationship with them.

To refuse to share the Lord's Table with any other believer, except one who persists in sinning and refuses correction, is a Babylonian attitude, TOTALLY OPPOSED TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD. It is an admission of guilt that it is OUR DENOMINATIONAL TABLE, and not really THE LORD'S TABLE at all.

As God's children repent of their harlotry and gather UNTO HIM alone, so His Kingdom increases upon the earth.

King Jesus is waiting for His Body upon the earth to throw off its shackles, to arise and conquer the demonic forces of darkness.

If we desire to fulfill God's purpose for us we must BE FRUITFUL, MULTIPLY, FILL THE EARTH, SUBDUE IT AND REIGN.

Involvement in spiritual warfare is absolutely necessary for every disciple of the Kingdom. The submission of demons to the authority of the believers is manifest evidence that the Kingdom of God is come.

WE ARE ALL RESPONSIBLE TO CAST OUT DEMONS, THEREBY SUBDUING GOD'S ADVERSARY, AND TO PUT ALL THE KING'S ENEMIES UNDER OUR FEET.

The Kingdom of God WILL INCREASE UNTIL ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THIS WORLD, BOTH SECULAR AND RELIGIOUS, HAVE BEEN THROWN DOWN AND THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST FILLS THE WHOLE EARTH.

There is no way it can be stopped (See Psalm 2.)

Happy and to be envied are those who are willing to be persecuted for the sake of God's righteousness.

HIS NAME shall be constantly in their thoughts.

The kingdom of darkness will be OVERCOME by their light, for they shall be illumined by God and THEY SHALL REIGN FOREVER AND EVER.

The stone that struck the statue became a great mountain [kingdom] and FILLED THE WHOLE EARTH (Dan. 2:35b).

in the days of those kings the God of Heaven will set up a KINGDOM WHICH WILL NEVER BE DESTROYED, and CRUSH AND PUT AN END TO ALL KINGDOMS, but it will itself endure forever. Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true, and its interpretation is trustworthy (Dan. 2:44, 45).

In the last days,

The mountain [Kingdom] of the house of the Lord will be established as the chief of the mountains [kingdoms];

And all the nations will stream to it.

And many people will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain [Kingdom] of the Lord, to the house [the Body of Christ] of the God of Jacob;

That He may teach us concerning His ways,

And that we may walk in His paths."

For the law [instruction] will go forth from Zion,

And the WORD OF THE LORD FROM JERUSALEM (Isa. 2:2-3).

APPENDIX

A DREAM OF TWO HARLOTS

While preparing the final chapter of this book I had an unusual dream, and the Lord gave me an interpretation of it.

This is the only time I have had the experience of hearing from the Lord in this manner, and the Scriptures from Proverbs, which He gave me to confirm it, were unfamiliar to me.

The following is an account of the experience, followed by the Scriptures confirming God's interpretation.

I dreamed that I was in a spacious office talking to a young receptionist. She was about thirty years my junior, charming, pretty and exuding fresh innocence, and we liked each other tremendously.

As we walked to the door of the office I put my arm across her shoulders in a fatherly gesture, thinking of her affectionately like my own daughter.

After a few paces she trustingly responded by putting her arm around me.

She walked with me to the lobby, and as we left sight of those behind us in the office I bent and kissed her lips gently in farewell. She smiled back at me and we parted in a beautiful atmosphere, totally devoid of any sexual overtones.

I rode in the lift to the car park, and for a split second I entertained a fleeting fantasy of a love affair with that fawn-like creature. I dismissed it as being unthinkable for an old married grandfather, and a Christian, too!

The lift reached the car park level and a harlot appeared. She was waiting for me in the lobby, by the door to the parking lot.

She was middle-aged, no longer fresh; blond, hard, with a good figure and aggressive. She reached for my hand, promising, selling herself hopefully.

I was disgusted, affronted and totally unattracted, but I politely refused her and walked across the dusty lot toward my distant car in the sunshine.

My thoughts were filled with self-righteous indignation. What did she take me for? I am a fine Christian husband and father. I could never go with a prostitute.

I looked back across the lot and she was busy negotiating with a rather ugly, coarse man who had come out of the lift shortly after me.

He quickly accepted her and she began to walk with him to his car. She quoted him \$50, and I thought how hard it must be for a whore to entertain unattractive men. "No wonder she quoted him double the \$25 she had offered me," I thought vainly.

He took her hand and, without pausing in their walk to his car, he refused and said he would pay her \$15.

She tried to get loose, refusing him and his lower price, but he ignored her and kept walking, dragging her with him.

A fight developed and she broke loose and ran, but made no attempt to get away altogether. She was acting out a price negotiation and would take his battering in the course of her daily business.

I felt compassion for her momentarily and then squashed it; she was only reaping what she sowed, the wicked woman.

Then I woke up.

It was 3:33 a.m.

I said, “Lord, what was that all about?”

And the Lord explained the dream.

“You thought that those two women were totally different types, the first innocent and the second a whore.

“But I tell you that your dream concerned two harlots, and both represent Babylonian Christianity.

“The young one looks like the potential Bride of Christ. She represents the innocent appearance of men’s churches with the Bible studies, the beautiful services, the preaching, the meetings, and all that makes men say that their “churches” are definitely of God. It is all done in Jesus’ Name.

“But I say to you that the young one is the MORE DANGEROUS. She lulls you into a sense of false security and innocence, but eventually if you pursue that sweet relationship she will seduce you; and you will also seduce her.

“You will be in an adulterous relationship that does not appear to be one. Eventually your loyalty to her will exceed your loyalty to Me.

“My children have little difficulty rejecting the obviously wrong cults and sects, the dreary, lifeless churches which the professional whore represents.

“Therefore it is the other one of whom they are to be warned. They must flee from her or they will be ensnared.”

My son, give attention to My wisdom, incline your ear to My understanding; that you may observe discretion, and your lips may reserve knowledge. For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and smoother than oil is her speech; but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death, her steps lay hold of Sheo. She does not ponder the path of life; her ways are unstable. SHE DOES NOT KNOW IT [All “churchianity” is deceived]. Now, then, my sons, listen to ME, and do not depart from the words of My mouth. Keep your way far from her, and DO NOT GO NEAR THE DOOR OF HER HOUSE, lest you give your vigor to others, and your years TO THE CRUEL ONE [Satan]; lest strangers be filled with your strength, AND YOUR HARD-EARNED GOODS [tithes and offerings] GO TO THE HOUSE OF AN ALIEN; and you groan at your latter end, when your flesh and your body are consumed [your earthly life is wasted]; and you say, “How I have hated instruction! And my heart [spirit] spurned reproof! And I have not listened to the voice of my teachers, nor inclined my ear to my instructors! I WAS ALMOST IN UTTER RUIN IN THE MIDST OF THE ASSEMBLY AND CONGREGATION” (Prov. 5:1-14).

And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and

precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality, and upon her forehead a name was written, a mystery, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. And when I saw her, I wondered greatly (Rev. 17:3-6).

"And the woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth." After these things I saw another angel coming down from Heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined with his glory. And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! And she has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird. For all the nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality." And I heard another voice from Heaven, saying, "Come out of her, my people, that you may not participate in her sins and that you may not receive her plagues; for her sins have piled up as high as Heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Pay her back even as she has paid, and give back to her double according to her deeds; in the cup which she has mixed, mix twice as much for her. To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as a queen and I am not a widow, and will never see mourning.' For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord who

judges her is strong” (Rev. 17:18-18:8).

“Rejoice over her, O Heaven and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her.” And a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “Thus will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer. And the sounds of harpists and musicians and flute-players and trumpeters will not be heard in you any longer; and no craftsman of any craft will be found in you any longer; and the light of a lamp will not shine in you any longer; and the voice of the bridegroom and bride will not be heard in you any longer; for your merchants were the great men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery. And in her was found the blood of the prophets and saints and of all who have been slain on the earth (Rev. 18:20-24).



THE KING AND HIS KINGDOM



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