

The Gospel of the Kingdom

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The
KINGDOM
of the
KING

by Colin Winfield

CONTENTS

Forward

Introduction

Chapter	Page
1 The Biblical Meaning of the “Kingdom of God”	9
2 The Visible and Invisible Realms	12
3 The Gospel of the Kingdom	17
4 The Inadequate Concept	21
5 The Relevant Concept	24
6 The Sound Doctrine of the Kingdom	29
7 Kingdom Living?	35
8 Submission to the King	44
9 Disciples of the King	47
10 Disciples of the Kingdom	54
11 Becoming a Disciple	60
12 Entering into the Kingdom of God	65
13 The Purpose of God in Creation	73
14 The Failure of the First Adam	79
15 The Triumph of the Second Adam	84
16 Reigning in Life with Christ	90
17 The Church of the Kingdom	97
18 Judaistic Christianity Opposes the Kingdom	106
19 The War on the Saints	110

20	The Body of Christ and the Kingdom	121
21	The Kingdom How?	129
22	The End of the Church Age - The Final Harvest.....	144
	Appendix	152

A Dream of Two Harlots

Tommy Hicks Vision

Forward

In 1986 we were given a copy of a book written by Peter Whyte entitled, “The King and His Kingdom”. It was a book that would transform our thinking as regards the true church, how it should look, and her relationship to the Kingdom of God.

This book, first printed in 1979, had just been reprinted, and two Dutch missionaries brought copies from the author who lived in Zimbabwe, which they gave to us. It was God’s timing.

Involved in a Christian organisation in the UK, we were seeking the Lord as to why it seemed that what He had initiated was beginning to lose its power. Our question was not just in respect of our organisation but extended to all denominational churches. What was wrong?

This book by Peter Whyte brought many much needed answers. The Holy Spirit used it to highlight scriptures where that which went by the name of ‘church’ was walking in an unscriptural manner. The Holy Spirit was opening our understanding, and in doing so we were discovering we were guilty of substituting *our* man-made systems on the church that only Jesus could build.

As we began to have our eyes opened to our error, we were led to come out of what we began to understand was spiritual ‘Babylon’ - a captivity of those who were the Lord’s amongst others who weren’t!

Now, in 2017, our attention has been drawn back to this teaching. Since 1986 we have learnt more about the necessary walk in the Spirit, more about the plan and purpose of God, not only in this age but in the ages to come. So it is, this revision of the message includes these truths that He has revealed.

Paul writes, “The earnest longing of creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.” (Romans 8:19) Who are these sons? Paul tells us. It is those “who are led by the Spirit of God; these are the sons of God.” (Romans 8:14)

The 2000 years of Church history portrays the picture of the battle to prevent the Kingdom of God becoming a reality in men’s hearts. To rightly understand this requires true discernment, and to understand where the plan and purpose of God is taking us, requires revelation only the Holy Spirit can give.

This revision of the original book entitled, ‘The King and His Kingdom’, hopefully helps clarify this message. Its basic message is unaltered, the true church must break free from the religious chains that bind her. Until she is free, the true church will not be victorious. The Kingdom of God - the reign of God in the hearts and lives of His Church - must become a reality in every true believer. It is their inheritance.

Jesus’ reign has been hindered by the spirit of antichrist right from the very beginning of the early church, even as it began to take its first innocent steps.

These last 2000 years have been about bringing the true church to corporate maturity, learning to avoid the deceptions that Satan was so easily able to sow as she began to take her first innocent steps.

Because of her innocence, even the sowing of tares amongst the wheat could not be dealt with in case the tender new growth might be damaged. But as we approach the end of this age these tares are now being removed, gathered into bundles ready to be burnt. This separation of tares from among the wheat has already been in progress

for some years, although only discerned by a few. This work which is done by the angels is progressing towards its prophesied conclusion.

Scripture also describes this 'separation' as the 'great falling way'. This separation will see the removal of mixture from that which is of God, a mixture that was akin to the nature of the feast of Pentecost which was a feast celebrated with leaven. The end-time church will be cleansed whilst a form of church that is false is already arising that displays a certain union.

Pentecost is over. Coming soon is the last great harvest that Jesus said would come at the end of this age. It is now the time for the trumpet to be sounded making a clear sound, a time typified by the Feast of Trumpets, for the Feast of Tabernacles is coming, which will see the true church that has no leaven, arise.

To preach the gospel of the Kingdom the true church has first to be living in its reality and demonstrating its power.

This is the call of this book.

My thanks go to Peter Whyte whose teaching the Lord used to begin to open the eyes of so many. The contents of this book we trust are 'of the Lord', freely given and freely shared. What truth there is is only His. May the Holy Spirit take what is of Him and reveal Truth to the reader.

For it is time.

Colin Winfield - 2017

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...” (1 Corinthians 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 Saviour and Lord.

While this is true, it is an 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 was 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 His 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 Millennial reign of Christ 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 understanding of the Kingdom message as revealed in the scriptures. It is intended to enlarge the reader’s concept of the “gospel” and to challenge 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 as King and His sovereign purpose for His body.

This book, if it is true, will demand a response.

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 understood by the natural man.

The Kingdom of God is spiritual.

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

But sadly, it seems not every believer sees it.

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

ENTERING IN has an entrance as well as being a continuing process in this life. Not every believer has an “abundant entrance.”

This book is for all who are seeking the Kingdom of God, those who earnestly desire to FOLLOW and OBEY the Lord Jesus Christ - to be His disciple.

It is for those who desire to be overcomer's and to reign in life.

Such a book cannot be complete and it cannot be conclusive.

The reader must himself ask the Holy Spirit what He is wanting them to hear. Only He can lead us further.

CHAPTER 1

THE BIBLICAL MEANING OF THE “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 these understandings of the word ‘kingdom’, we will not always understand what the bible is saying.

We must add the third, archaic concept, which is that of 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.”

The Kingdom of God is His rule, His authority, His government, so 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 for our ultimate good.

In the Lord’s prayer Jesus taught us to petition God to reign over us. It is asking God that His will may be obeyed by men on earth just as He is obeyed in Heaven, in order that His will may be done on earth as it is in heaven...

“Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.” (Matthew 6:10)

When God 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 understanding 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 to be 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 here on earth now. 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 abundant and victorious life promised in scripture that should be enjoyed by all Christians today. For...

“The Kingdom of God is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 14:17)

This is not to say that there is no future realm when Jesus returns to the earth with His resurrected church, where His reign will have already been well established within them. The eventual goal of the city of God, that the saints of all ages have sought, still remains.

So the true church, which is the body of Christ, is not to be a fractured and feeble church that has become divided through losing the biblical concept of the Kingdom of God. It is time to awake!

The manifold wisdom of God will be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in heavenly places. (see Ephesians

3:10) The saints are to judge the world! (see 1 Corinthians 6:2) Who considers such a thing?

So, the Kingdom of God needs to be proclaimed both to the church and by the church, so we might return to the original biblical truth. Of urgent importance is for the true church to obey the instruction of their King, so they might proclaim the gospel of the Kingdom of God that will be preached in the whole world as a witness before His return. (see Matthew 24:14)

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 whose commission to His disciples was to preach the **GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD**.

The offer of 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 King Jesus as ruler of every aspect of our lives, we experience Kingdom living, which is a righteous, peaceful and joyful abundant life in the Holy Spirit.

But the gospel of the Kingdom it is not just about 'us', but about the King. When Jesus' Kingdom becomes a present reality we step onto the road to the city of God and God's eternal purpose.

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 realms.

He is the King of Heaven.

He is the King of the whole earth. Jesus said...

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

ALL AUTHORITY has been vested in a MAN - and His Name is 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 God - 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 perhaps 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 understand the Kingdom of God.

The spirit world, which includes heaven and hell, angels, demons and evil spirits, can perhaps 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, perhaps, to realise 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 around us.

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

“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.” (Hebrews 11:3)

“For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.” (Colossians 1:16-18)

The Bible reveals to us that there are at least three different heavens because Jesus and His throne are in the ‘third’ heaven. (see 2 Corinthians 12:2-4)

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 centre of the earth or the centre of the sun, or walk through the wall of your house.

The earth and its environs became the centre of the invisible rebel territory of the spirit world.

All around us in this other dimension, there is tremendous spiritual activity, a dimension often ignored by the natural man.

But Satan is called the ‘prince of this world’ (see John 14:30) because his unseen spiritual power pervades the visible world and is evident in the world order. Paul explained...

“The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” (2 Corinthians 4:4)

Mankind is thus 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. Unspiritual weapons and all man’s abilities are useless against these 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.

The 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 gift of the Holy Spirit such a Spirit-filled man is able to discern between good and evil spirits. He also has spiritual

authority and is able to exercise that authority over enemy spirits so as to manifest the Kingdom's reality.

However, until he has been fully trained - disciplined in the reign of God - the Kingdom of God - he will not be like his Teacher and Master, Jesus his King. Jesus said...

“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.” (Matthew 10:24-25)

The objective of every disciple of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God, is not just to gain bible knowledge, but is to be like Christ and to do what He did; to have His nature, and to walk in the will of the Father, having 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.” (Matthew 13:52)

Jesus reigns over both the visible and the invisible realms. His body upon the earth, which is His church, is intended to have His delegated authority, and the power and ability to exercise it NOW, in both the visible and invisible realms. For...

“The Kingdom of God does not consist in words, but in power.” (ability - Greek, *dunamis*) (1 Corinthians 4:20)

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

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...

“If I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you.” (Matthew 12:28)

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

Satan's dominion, though it issues from the invisible realm, is manifested in the world. His influence is visible everywhere 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, to bring victory - the KINGDOM OF GOD.

The Kingdom of God is THE SOVEREIGN RULE OF GOD MANIFESTED IN CHRIST, and this has to emanate from the invisible spiritual realm to defeat this unseen influence reigning over men in the visible realm. In this lies the role of the body of Christ, the true church.

First she must herself be free...

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." (Galatians 5:1)

Then from her place in Christ she has a ministry to fulfil, to preach and demonstrate the gospel of the Kingdom to the dying world.

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', or 'good news'.

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 and reign of God - the Kingdom of God - the centre of His preaching and teaching.

Any concept of the gospel that does not include the Kingdom of God, the reign of Jesus in our lives, is inadequate, and is not the gospel that Jesus Christ proclaimed.

If we do not understand this aright, we will never have an adequate concept of the gospel.

The gospel is not just about salvation, so that we have deliverance from the wrath to come, or so we can find a place in heaven after we die, which we mistakenly think is man's only future. The true gospel is about us exchanging our life for the Lord Jesus', so His life can become ours; a life to be walked in the will of God, bringing abundant life because Jesus becomes our King.

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 and His disciples.

John the Baptist and Jesus both announced that the Kingdom of God was ‘good news’.

If our concept of the gospel is one of ‘salvation only’ we might think it strange that there was any ‘good news’ before the cross, because, like Paul, we preach ‘Jesus Christ, and Him crucified’, and think this in itself is complete.

But the gospel is much more than even this. Men reduce the gospel message by omitting the ‘Kingdom’ from the gospel, but Paul did not restrict His message to salvation only, although this brings entrance to the Kingdom.

In his farewell to the elders of the city of Ephesus, Paul 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)

Paul equates the GOSPEL of God’s grace with proclaiming the Kingdom, and says that by so doing he had declared the WHOLE PURPOSE OF GOD.

Within the message of the Kingdom lies the answer to what is God’s plan and purpose for mankind. This is why the Kingdom of God was called the ‘good news’ before the cross.

Speaking of God anointing Him to preach the ‘gospel’ or ‘good news’, Jesus began His ministry with this declaration in 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 favourable year of the Lord.”
(Luke 4:18-19)

It is still the good news that the poor, the captives, the blind, and the downtrodden, can find victory; a victory that is found through the Kingdom of God being manifest.

All such misery is the result of the works of Satan but the good news is that Jesus came to destroy the works of the evil one, for...

“The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.” (1 John 3:8)

Satan, in his cunning to distort this message, however, has men preach ‘good news’ without any necessity to change. We therefore see a false gospel of prosperity preached that allows ‘self’ to remain in men’s hearts. A soulless gospel more akin to motivational speaking tickles men’s ears but is NOT the gospel of the Kingdom.

The true message of the Kingdom still begins with the call to repent. The commission Jesus gave to His disciples was “that **REPENTANCE FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS** should be proclaimed in His Name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”
(Luke 24:47)

When a man repents, he turns from ‘self’ to God. There may be differing reasons why any man will turn to God, but as the Father draws men to Himself they become aware of their need for salvation and the need for Him to change their lives.

Repentance is not just a one time event, but has to bring forth an ongoing attitude toward God, which will enable him to become entirely dependent on Him.

Jesus said that He could not do anything except that which He saw His Father doing...

“Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless *it is* something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.” (John 5:19)

Jesus’ whole life was submitted to the government of God through the Holy Spirit within Him, and so, as we enter the Kingdom, this becomes our deep desire also.

Men might seek salvation in many places but it can only be discovered within for Jesus said, “The Kingdom of God is within you.” (see Luke 17:21)

It is the government by King Jesus in our lives that enables us to live in righteousness, peace and joy NOW. It is a life that we walk by His Spirit that He places within us when we are born again of the Spirit of God.

When our life is no longer controlled by our carnal nature, but by our own spirit which is born again and joined to the Holy Spirit, then we are able to walk in the will of the Father and begin to live the life of an overcomer. It is then that Jesus’ victory over sin and death becomes ours. It is then that we are able to walk by the Spirit as a true child of God, and the Kingdom of God becomes a reality in our life.

The Kingdom of God is the GOOD NEWS because God’s governance in our lives is the 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.” (see Acts 1:3)

Jesus’ disciples had heard Him proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God and had seen Him demonstrate the reality of Kingdom life for three years.

They had known Him as the Christ - the Messiah, the Son of God, and their 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 and its perfection. They did not yet understand that the Kingdom of God is God’s complete and ultimate answer to man’s need.

They displayed their ignorance of the Kingdom by restricting their questioning 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 was therefore, “Are You restoring the kingdom to Israel?” (see Acts 1:6)

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

For nearly 2000 years Christians have also continued to reduce and obscure the Kingdom of God.

They have reduced the concept of the Kingdom of God to the confines of sectarian theology. They have reduced it by their worldly way of

thinking and this has produced man-made institutions under the guise of denominations, like that of Catholicism, Protestantism and all other denominationalism! Some have reduced it to their nationalism or racialism, like the British Israelites.

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

It has brought DIVISION, and as Jesus said, “If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.” (see Mark 3:24)

Worst of all, it is REBELLION against the King.

So it is that many in the modern-day world look at the denominations and regard them as irrelevant. They look at the denominations and reject the King!

The divided ‘little kingdoms’ that we call ‘churches’ have thus promoted division and have not in reality preached the gospel that JESUS COMMANDED TO BE PREACHED.

Instead of the full gospel, the good news that Jesus proclaimed, the ‘GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM’, men have developed various concepts of the gospel, using these in their preaching to make ‘converts’ to their own understandings. Men have preached about ‘Christ’, but not preached Christ. They have preached a ‘gospel of salvation’, but added requirements of ‘church membership’ and *their own* unscriptural understandings in place of the Kingdom. They have preached the King without His Kingdom. And in so doing they have in reality disobeyed the Lord.

That which is seen as ‘Christianity’, having lost the understanding and reality of the gospel of the Kingdom, have preached a reduced and inadequate concept of the gospel around the world.

The Catholics took their religion to every nation, a religion denying true spiritual new birth.

Recovering the truth of ‘justification by faith’, the Protestants took the true gospel of salvation around the world but also exported their varying man-made kingdom concepts that still deny the King’s rule.

The Anglicans, the Presbyterians, the Methodists, the Baptists, the Brethren, the Pentecostals, and a hundred other denominations all proclaim their ideas of the gospel, but still without the Kingdom message.

Even worse, the Jehovah's Witnesses proclaimed a kingdom without the King!

Small wonder that many in the world look at the "Babel" of so-called Christian churches and turn away in disgust.

People of the world are longing desperately for peace and joy, being oppressed by Satan and his world system, yet the collective churches of 'men's making' come with a reduced message that contains no total answer. In their blindness and rebellion the denominations offer the world conflicting concepts without true life. A thousand 'churches' offer a thousand different types of Christian religion to a confused world. Men respond to none unless they are drawn in by the partial truth that is proclaimed, but this does not give them entrance into the Kingdom of God, only ensnares them in the 'little kingdoms' of the men who do the preaching.

Any concept of the gospel which does not include the whole message of the Kingdom of God is inadequate and does not lead to a true walk in the Spirit. Therefore, it becomes ineffectual in bringing the victory Jesus came to bring and engenders and maintains a sectarian spirit. Satan loves and fosters these inadequate concepts of the Kingdom because it poses no serious threat to his worldly kingdoms in which he is still able to dwell and hold sway.

As the true church has, over recent past centuries, recovered truths that Satan was able to steal from the early church, bringing darkness over the church, it is time for the gospel of the Kingdom to now bring freedom.

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.” (see Matthew 24:3)

Jesus’ reply was that there would be false Christs, wars, famines earthquakes, tribulation, false prophets and increased lawlessness, BUT NONE OF THESE THINGS ARE THE SIGN. Jesus said that they were just the beginning of birth pangs. (see Matthew 24:8)

According to Jesus, the sign of His coming was that THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM would be 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.” (Matthew 24:14)

Jesus said THIS Gospel - “of the Kingdom”.

There is only ONE GOSPEL, but failure to fully understand the gospel of the Kingdom has led to our preaching only part of the total message.

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

Jesus identifies the gospel explicitly as “THIS GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM.”

This is not to detract from the wonder of the cross and all that Jesus accomplished at Calvary, for it is through the cross and His resurrection that we can come into the reality Jesus spoke of during his earthly ministry. It is through the cross that we not only obtain salvation but entrance into the Kingdom. Without the cross the Kingdom of God can never become a reality.

But a partial gospel has resulted in a salvation message devoid of the reality of the new life Jesus came to bring. The partial gospel is a limited message which produces salvation but denies entry into the Kingdom!

Cleverly, the spirit of antichrist has been able to restrict Christianity to a form of godliness but devoid of power. By replacing the 'Kingdom' with concepts of 'men's kingdoms' that do not require a walk in the Spirit, the true church remains in chains and has been prevented from living under Jesus' reign.

So it is, the GOOD NEWS of the 'rule of God' has yet to be preached in the whole world for a witness to all nations. The church has been deceived into relinquishing this good news.

The full solution to mankind's problem still eludes him without the Kingdom message. This is because the worldly system has its origin in the evil one, and the worldly man thinks he knows everything about life, yet in reality doesn't actually know HOW TO LIVE IT.

The unseen spiritual influence 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 society. It is a fact that...

“The whole world lies in the power of the evil one.” (see 1 John 5:19)

...but the good news is that Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil! (see 1 John 3:8)

This is why the gospel of the Kingdom is for TODAY and not just some future occasion.

In failing to preach the full gospel of the Kingdom for NOW the churches of men have found themselves succumbing to the spirit of antichrist which has eventually removed any spiritual power they may once have had.

In so doing the ‘churches of men’ have become irrelevant, because the origin of their reduced and often perverted message is sadly not from heaven but from the world!

The partial gospel, that which has become a different gospel, has come about by the church not looking to the Holy Spirit as Teacher, which has thus enabled the spirit of antichrist to use the souliness of men’s intellects and his natural mind to distort his idea of God’s purpose.

If the Kingdom of God is missing from the gospel we proclaim, and in its place we add ‘*our*’ concepts, then we become the blind leading the blind. We are no longer in harmony with the purpose of God, which will eventually see ALL the kingdoms of this world become the Kingdom of Christ when Jesus comes to reign upon the earth.

The prime purpose of proclaiming the gospel is not to win converts to ‘our group’, as is the plan of many, 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’s glorious rule or Satan’s dominion, whether we believe it or not, and whether we understand it or not.

It is inadequate to tell men just to BELIEVE IN CHRIST.

We must tell them to BELIEVE CHRIST and OBEY HIM.

Jesus said that we are to MAKE DISCIPLES (OF HIMSELF) AND TEACH THEM TO DO ALL THE THINGS THAT HE TAUGHT...

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

If Jesus Christ is our Lord, how can we not BELIEVE what He said, and how can we not DO what He said?

When we reduce the Kingdom of God only to heaven and the future we have in reality lost the keys of the Kingdom. We are left with the reduced concept that the Kingdom is only something we inherit in the

future, a misplaced understanding that has little or no relevance for the life we live TODAY.

But when we consider the gospel that Jesus Christ proclaimed, we see a relevant concept and a relevant answer to the crying needs of the world NOW.

Jesus brought the answer to deliver man from having to live NOW under the domain of the prince of the world.

Deliverance from this world that lies under Satan's power means being set free from pride, lust, greed, cruelty, war, poverty, sickness and all that makes life on earth, hell on earth, with no present victory.

Living under the 'Kingdom reign of God' brings heaven on earth, creating a people who are loving, caring, kind, humble, gentle, content, merciful and peaceful, yet without fear. A people with power and authority that can only come from God.

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

The fundamental problem of humanity is that God had designed man from the beginning to live in His Kingdom. Until they find it, they don't truly know how to LIVE.

The cry of every human heart is for God. We have a built-in desire for a heavenly life, which is often expressed in man's search for Utopia. We seek for God even when we think He is unknowable. Sadly we often try to achieve what we think is 'heaven' by our own efforts, or we are deceived into seeking that which is only a false hope.

The world - and sadly, the church - is still waiting to hear the only message with total relevance to men's needs: the good news of the Kingdom of God, which will bring heaven UPON THE EARTH by His Kingdom first becoming a reality in the hearts and lives of those who will be the sons of God.

If we only offer eternal life in heaven, we only proclaim part of the gospel. We must regain an understanding of what eternal life is, a life that begins NOW, as well as having an unending duration in the ages to come.

The gospel of the Kingdom brings God's life NOW in all who receive His reign over them.

Anything less is not totally good news.

CHAPTER 6

THE SOUND DOCTRINE OF THE KINGDOM

Until we have an adequate concept of the gospel we will only preach an inadequate message.

It is hard to find any who are preaching and teaching the full gospel, the gospel of the Kingdom of God, preaching instead a partial gospel, a gospel of salvation only. Because of this, we see men teaching denominational doctrines to those who are saved so as to make disciples to *their* man-made kingdoms, and not making disciples of Jesus as He commanded.

Divisions are constantly created by the teaching of these man-made doctrines according to a denominational viewpoint instead of the Kingdom of God.

Despite using the same bible, truth differs from one denomination to another because the Holy Spirit is not upheld as the Teacher. After striving to get people “converted” or “saved”, all concern is to try to make these proselytes become members of man-made churches.

Once a person becomes a “church member,” he is then taught all the doctrines that church believes, according to its interpretation of the bible. Every denominational church does that which is right in its own eyes.

A part of this religious activity, nominally in the Name of Jesus, may be to encourage members of one sect or denomination to leave that one and join another, where the doctrinal concepts are proclaimed to be ‘right’! All the while new believers are frustrated from being led into all truth by the Holy Spirit.

This is the sad reality of not understanding the gospel of the Kingdom. If Jesus is not truly King, the Kingdom of God is not seen or entered, and believers remain as babes in the divided ‘churches’ that men have built. So it is Satan overcomes the true church and makes Christianity

irrelevant to the majority of the world's population. What is portrayed as being of Christ, isn't! Men reject the man-made Christian religion they see thinking that if this is Jesus they don't want Him.

So what is truth? The bible tells us that all scripture is God-breathed and profitable for doctrine (teaching), for reproof and for correction.

The objective of teaching is to EQUIP THE CHILD OF GOD FOR EVERY GOOD WORK through walking in the commandments of Jesus by the Spirit. It is not to fill his head with bible knowledge, but to teach him the WAY OF LIFE. It is not to learn about Jesus but to know Him.

An essential part of teaching is BEING TRAINED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, as Paul says...

“ All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 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...

“For the Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 14:17)

In Christ we are made the righteousness of God, but not knowing we are righteous, and not knowing that have a right standing with God, peace or joy may elude us as a constant reality. The basic objective of sound doctrine according to the scriptures, is to bring every area of our lives UNDER THE REIGN OF CHRIST and to teach us who we are in Him.

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...

“...remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than *furthering* the administration of God which is by faith.

“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, (The Mosaic Law of Judaism that seeks justification by works) 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, realising 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, ACCORDING TO THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL.” (1 Timothy 1:3-11)

When we become Kingdom-minded, having had our minds renewed, we delight in obeying the King, obeying His Spirit who is in us, and walking in His commands that He has written on our hearts.

Jesus gave His church, a 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 our selfish attitudes. It necessitates unconditional love.

This is the new commandment of the New Covenant...

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)

If our lives are to be structured according to the pattern of Christ’s life upon the earth, according to His unselfish loving servant attitude, this can only be achieved if we walk by the Spirit. It cannot be copied by means of works, but only by Christ’s life being outworked through us. For this to happen we have to walk in the newness of Christ’s resurrection life, knowing that our old self was crucified on the cross with Jesus. The declaration that Paul made, we must make...

“It is no longer I that lives but Christ who lives in me.” (Galatians 2:20)

The whole objective of sound doctrine is to produce people who walk in LOVE. (see 1 Timothy 1:5)

The main part of the first letter to Timothy, from 1 Timothy 2:1 to 1 Timothy 6:2, is an exposition of sound doctrine; teaching that is concerned with ATTITUDES, CONDUCT, AND THE WAY WE LIVE AND RELATE TO ONE ANOTHER.

Paul then sums up his 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 Timothy 6:2b-5)

The sound doctrine of the Kingdom is teaching what Jesus taught, and making disciples after Him, disciples who are being conformed to the

image of Christ. So it is that every believer needs to be taught by the Holy Spirit...

“As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.” (1 John 2:27)

It is by the anointing within that the Holy Spirit will witness to our spirits what is truth, and what is error. As Jesus said, the Holy Spirit will lead us into ALL TRUTH.

Jesus is the WORD OF GOD and every word He taught is part of the message of the gospel of the Kingdom of God. This is THE WORD OF GOD that we are to HEAR - OBEY - AND THEN TRANSMIT TO OTHERS.

Jesus' words, His teaching and His doctrine, is THE SOUND DOCTRINE OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD. It must abide in us and we must abide in it...

“And one 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)

“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 Timothy 2:23-26)

The sound doctrine of the Kingdom are the words of the King which are able to conform 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 by this LED INTO CAPTIVITY BY THE DEVIL. Without being aware of it we are imprisoned spiritually and cannot reign in life because of our man-made divisions.

We are subtly deceived into rebelling against our King, when we think we are serving Him but aren't doing! We think *our* interpretations of scripture, that we are convinced of, are truth, but...

“No prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.” (2 Peter 1:20-21)

Let us pray, therefore, asking our Father to open the eyes of our understanding that we might grow in a knowledge of God and the Lord Jesus Christ. It is time to grow spiritually and not remain as babes.

“May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give to us a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him... *that* the eyes of our hearts may be enlightened, so that we will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come, putting all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as Head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” (see Ephesians 1:17-23)

CHAPTER 7

KINGDOM LIVING?

Jesus said that He is the way, the truth and the life. (see 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 and give us life.

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

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

So Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil as scripture tells us...

“The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.” (1 John 3:8b)

When Jesus sent out the twelve to preach, saying, “The Kingdom of heaven is at hand,” He told them to...

“...heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, *and* cast out demons.” (Matthew 10:8)

When God's Kingdom comes even Satan's effects on our physical bodies and our minds will also come under Jesus rule. No man who walks in the Kingdom need have ulcers, arthritis, damaged emotions or nervous tension; all those things Satan has been able to bring upon us.

Jesus taught right attitudes and right relationships, but His teaching is much more than ethics or philosophy or behaviour patterns.

The life and teaching of Jesus also brings forth the reality of what God is really like and how His children are to reflect this when not deceived and bound by God's adversary.

Jesus first taught the Truth but then made the Way for us to receive His Life so we might walk in its reality. This is what it means to receive the Kingdom.

Any man, woman or child who lives in the Kingdom can have peace and joy as they walk in God's favour. Regardless of the circumstances or conditions of life, anxiety need have no place in his life. It will be as natural as breathing for him or her to rest in God's salvation; under His rule.

The real issue is not whether the person has all the 'right doctrines' or correctly-interpreted concepts taken from the bible, but is about them having union with Christ which brings forth His life that is full of peace and joy, and from where God's delegated authority - in Jesus Name - they can stand against Satan and so reign in life.

The gospels speak of all that Jesus began to do and teach and describes what He did, showing that HE IS what He taught.

Often we are more concerned with having right concepts, insisting on right doctrines rather than a person being what he is and does.

For 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, eternal security, the white throne judgment, or the communion of saints, although He will clarify and teach us these things.

The emphasis of many 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 baptise in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit or in the Name of Jesus only? Controversies that are centuries old!

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

Can a Christian have a demon?

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

Although the correct understanding of these and a hundred other matters are important, these are continually used by Satan to divide the church of Jesus Christ.

Denomination and sects have proliferated as a result, because we make agreement of opinion the basis of belonging to *our* 'little kingdoms', *our* 'churches'. We need to stop propagating divisions but rather acknowledge and maintain our unity of the Spirit, whilst we look to the Spirit to bring us into a unity of the faith. This necessitates us recognising the Holy Spirit as our Teacher so He can show us where we might be even propagating the doctrines of demons without realising it.

By looking for agreement to *our* understanding by mental assent, we constantly ignore the admonition to accept those with differing opinions as regards their standing in the Lord...

“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... But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.” So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this - not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way. I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean. For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died. Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil; 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.” (Romans 14:1,4 and verses 10-19)

Entrance into heaven does not depend on knowing the right answers to these questions, or upon one’s bible knowledge, but on the reality of our having been born again by the will of God. There are no theological examinations to be passed to enter heaven!

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

His people are not made one by virtue of any *legalistic* agreement to doctrine but are one because they have been born into a family with the same Heavenly Father.

Like a natural family we do not belong to one another because we ‘agree’, but we are a family because we have one Father.

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

Different because they have the LIFE of God the Father, and Jesus within them, with the LIFE of God (the Holy Spirit) enabling them to walk in God’s ways. Jesus prayed that those who believe in Him would be...

“...one, even as you, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they might be in Us.” (John 17:21)

This new LIFE in Christ is as a river flowing from within, not a religion. Religions always require their followers to obey laws and creeds imposed from OUTSIDE, and to agree with certain concepts. Kingdom living is to know and experience Christ IN us, our hope of glory. Then, by being taught by the Holy Spirit, He will lead us into all Truth and bring us to a unity of the faith.

This walk in the Spirit, by which we live in the Kingdom, is the ‘WAY’ Jesus came to make possible by being born from above. THEN...

“If anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

THEN we can receive spiritual understanding and revelation that only the Holy Spirit can impart to our new spirits.

THEN we can begin to grow spiritually.

THEN we begin to believe and understand the same things as the Holy Spirit teaches us all what is Truth, whilst emphasising the thing that matters most is our love for one another.

If Christians do not become disciples of the Kingdom, but are only given theological concepts, even the correct ones, they are not able to become overcomer's, enjoying a victorious Christian life. The life of Christ must flow from within. It does not come from without.

So it is Christians may still suffer from fear, depression, insecurity, worry, anxiety, poverty and ill health, because they don't appropriate Jesus' RESURRECTION LIFE.

Those who have not found the Kingdom, despite being 'Christians' for many years, may still have poor relationships with their wives, children and their fellow man, because the LIFE Jesus came to give us still escapes them.

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

Although it should not be, gossip and slander are equally prevalent among Christians just like non-Christians!

But these things ought not to be. This is not Kingdom living!

These things show clearly that we have not found the WAY, that we do not understand the TRUTH, and that we aren't manifesting the LIFE Jesus came to give us.

Satan has done all he can to prevent this reality, this victorious Kingdom life from being manifest, even in those who have been born

of the Spirit. So it is the whole of creation is still groaning and straining, waiting to see the manifestation of the sons of God; sons who are led by the Spirit. Paul wrote...

“The anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.” (Romans 8:19)

To the question, “Who are these ‘sons’?” Paul gives the answer...

“All who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” (Romans 8:14)

The world is waiting for the true church to demonstrate the **WAY OF THIS LIFE** that Jesus came to give us. The world is waiting for those who are true sons to come forth, those walking in the reality of the reign of Jesus in their lives.

Jesus is still saying to the true church, **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.” (Revelation 3:20-22)

When true believers allow Jesus to be their King and enthroned in their hearts, when they allow the Holy Spirit within them to instruct, lead and direct their lives, **THEN** they have entered the Kingdom of God which allows them to **REIGN IN LIFE** and grow up to a mature man, to the fulness of Christ.

Christian maturity, however, is not just something acquired through knowledge of bible doctrines, although we cannot believe beyond the true knowledge that the Holy Spirit has revealed to us. Spiritual maturity is the result of submission to the King, allowing His reign ‘within’ to be manifested, His life in us to bring forth right attitudes, right relationships and right behaviour, **BY HIS SPIRIT**.

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

KINGDOM LIVING is reigning in life NOW through Christ; not just some future hope.

KINGDOM LIVING comes through an exchanged life; not by following concepts, forms or examples.

KINGDOM LIVING comes through ‘knowing’ that we died with Christ, were buried with Him and then raised with Him, and that we are now seated with Him in heavenly places at the right hand of the Father.

KINGDOM LIVING is ‘KNOWING’ that our old man was crucified with Christ Jesus; past tense.

KINGDOM LIVING is walking in this reality so we can RECKON that we have been raised with Him - because we have been!

KINGDOM LIVING is then living the resurrection life Jesus provides as we receive of His life in exchange for our old life.

KINGDOM LIVING is no longer submitting to the power of sin for its power over us has been broken in our lives through the cross.

KINGDOM LIVING is no longer walking under the Law, for in Christ we have died to the Law.

KINGDOM LIVING is no longer submitting to the flesh, for Jesus has made the Way for us to walk by the Spirit.

KINGDOM LIVING is submitting to the will and reign of our KING.

KINGDOM LIVING is walking by faith, believing and walking in what God has said; walking with Him.

KINGDOM LIVING is walking in love.

KINGDOM LIVING is walking in Truth.

KINGDOM LIVING is exchanging our life for Jesus'; no longer allowing 'self' to rule our lives but letting Jesus sit on the throne of our hearts...

“Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.” (Matthew 16:24)

“And He said to them all, ‘If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for My sake, the same shall save it.’” (Luke 9:23-24)

“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters - yes, even their own life - such a person cannot be My disciple.” (Luke 14:26)

KINGDOM LIVING is being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

KINGDOM LIVING is being taught by the Holy Spirit. In this way we become Jesus' disciples. Jesus said...

“I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.” (John 16:7)

But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, HE WILL LEAD 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. (John 16:13)

So it is every true believer has the Holy Spirit within, given to lead him into all Truth by the anointing within...

“As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him. (1 John 2:27)

The normal Christian life is to be trained as disciples and then to go out in obedience to the commands of the King, led by His Spirit. If we are His disciples, just like Jesus' disciples of old, He will send us out to...

“Heal *the* sick, raise *the* dead, cleanse *the* lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.” (Matthew 10:8)

“Heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, ‘The Kingdom of God has come near to you.’” (Luke 10:9)

To effectively preach the gospel of the Kingdom we have to live in its reality; a reality that is evident by demonstrating the power of God in our lives. For...

“The Kingdom of God does not consist in words, but in power.” (1Cor. 4:20)

So the Spirit sends forth the call TODAY, a call from God to *His* people to repent; to repent of '*our*' dogmas and divisive concepts, and live the Kingdom Way under the rule of her King.

CHAPTER 8

SUBMISSION TO THE COMMANDS OF 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’ is NOT scripture in general, but THE MESSAGE that Jesus proclaimed. Sometimes the whole bible is wrongly referred to as ‘the Word of God,’ whereas it is more accurate to say that it contains the ‘Word of God’.

Jesus’ teachings, His commands, His gospel of the Kingdom of God, is THE WORD that the New Testament writers constantly exhort us to hear and obey.

Jesus Himself is THE WORD just as He also proclaimed THE WORD.

You cannot separate them.

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

This is because through Jesus Christ the written word becomes the LIVING WORD - and the written word quickened by the Holy Spirit within us, becomes the Word of God.

When James wrote his epistle to the twelve tribes, exhorting them to be “doers of the Word,” he was in effect urging them to DO WHAT THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS required, and not be hearers only...

“Therefore putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive THE WORD implanted (what Jesus taught), 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 scriptures are not just any collection of writings, but writings written by men moved by the Holy Spirit speaking from God.

When we are born again of the Spirit of God we receive the Spirit of Christ within, His anointing to teach us and to lead and guide us into ALL TRUTH, so we can interpret the scriptures aright. To know and obey the written ‘Word of God’ is to know and obey the very message Jesus Himself taught, or which He subsequently brought forth through His apostles. So it is that the Holy Spirit will always agree with the Word.

Sadly, in almost any evangelical group, after someone is ‘saved’ they then teach them every doctrine they believe according to *their* interpretation of the scriptures or according to their church traditions, rather than encouraging them to be taught by the Holy Spirit. In this way they make disciples after themselves rather than disciples of Jesus. They produce ‘church members’, encouraging them to be faithful disciples of ‘their’ denomination, ‘their’ organisation, or ‘their’ particular teacher or theology, thus preventing them from being disciples of the King and His Kingdom.

Because such converts are then not being led by the Spirit, but by men, these denominational church members may be encouraged to DO EVERYTHING THE BIBLE SAYS, but by works and effort, instead of being fruitful by a Spirit led life.

The problem remains, as it did with the Law of Moses, that man cannot carry out the Law because it is not by faith...

“Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the

word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.” (Hebrews 4:1-2)

To be doers of the Word requires us to walk by faith, not to walk in works of the flesh. True submission to the King involves WALKING IN THE SPIRIT which will lead to TOTAL OBEDIENCE TO HIM, and must involve TOTAL REJECTION of anything that opposes Him. Jesus said...

“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. 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)

And Jesus warned...

“Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear MY WORD...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 8:43&47)

When Jesus spoke these words, the New Testament had not yet been written. His instructions must therefore be understood against the background of what He taught. If we wish to obey our King, we must learn and DO what Jesus taught, abiding in the words which make up the doctrine of Christ.

To be true disciples of Jesus we must ABIDE in His teachings - THE WORD which *is* Jesus. And it is as we abide in His Word that we come to know the TRUTH, which will set us free. So it is...

“If we continue in Jesus’ word, then we are truly disciples of His; and we will know the truth, and the truth will make us free.” (see John 8:31-32)

CHAPTER 9

DISCIPLES OF THE KING

A disciple is a pupil, one who is learning from a master or teacher.

When Jesus walked upon earth, both Greek philosophers and Hebrew rabbis would gather around themselves groups of adherents, men who would be called disciples of the one whose teachings were being followed.

John the Baptist made disciples in great numbers.

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

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

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

Paul found disciples at Ephesus who knew only the gospel preached by John the Baptist, and who had been baptised into John's baptism. Paul therefore baptised them again into the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. (see Acts 19:1-5)

Jesus, we read, made more disciples than John the Baptist...

"The Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptising more disciples than John, although Jesus Himself was not baptising, but His disciples were." (John 4:1-2)

Jesus began His ministry proclaiming and teaching the gospel of the Kingdom, but then He then sent out the twelve, and then seventy other disciples, to tell others that "The Kingdom of God was at hand." He gave his disciples authority over "unclean spirits and every kind of

sickness,” telling them to “heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers *and* cast out demons.” (see Matthew 10:1-8 and Luke 10:1-3)

As Jesus’ earthly ministry came to an end, and before Jesus returned to heaven after His resurrection, He commissioned the eleven disciples saying...

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and MAKE DISCIPLES of all the nations, baptising 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.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

And...

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptised shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly *poison*, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” (Mark 16:15-18)

In similar fashion Paul instructed Timothy...

“The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (2 Timothy 2:2)

In sending out His disciples to make disciples, and teach them to observe all that He commanded, Jesus was not asking His disciples to make disciples after themselves, but to make disciples of Jesus Himself.

This was quite contrary to the practice of the Jewish rabbi's whose disciples would in turn make their own disciples, passing on their personal interpretations of the scriptures.

Each rabbi did not necessarily agree with every other rabbi, and so there were varying groups of rabbinical disciples. So it was that differences in belief resulted in various sects and divisions in Judaism. The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection, for example, which was taught by the Pharisees, although they both used the Old Testament scriptures to dispute their concepts.

In a similar way the divisions of Christianity today have come about through the same way of making agreement on the interpretation of scripture the basis of relationship and fellowship. The reality of Jesus Christ being Head over His body, with every member being taught by His Spirit that is in them, is lost. So, in disobedience to Jesus' teaching, some men make disciples after themselves and do not live by Jesus' admonition...

“Do not be called ‘Rabbi’; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers. Do not call *anyone* on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. Do not be called ‘leaders’; for One is your Leader, *that is*, Christ.” (Matthew 23:8-10)

In Jesus Christ we are all BROTHERS with ONE FATHER, part of one family, not part of some organisation built upon some agreement on the meaning of scripture.

Men seek fellowship but this reality of true fellowship is only found by walking in the light as Jesus Himself is in the light; THEN we have FELLOWSHIP with one another. (see 1 John 1:7) Divisions should not exist in the Body of Christ by virtue of having different teachers for we should all be disciples of Jesus Christ.

The person teaching their own 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.

To deceive many, Satan has been 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, far more numerous type, desires to be ruled over and led.

In contrast, those who teach in the body of Christ, are to teach as an elder brother to a younger brother, and never on the basis of a 'master-disciple' relationship.

In the true church there is always to be the pointing to the personal relationship of every disciple to the ONE MASTER, Jesus Christ.

The elder brother must also be Christ-like, however, and an exemplary representative so they can say as Paul said, "You follow me AS I FOLLOW CHRIST." (see 1 Corinthians 11:1)

If we wish to make disciples of Jesus Christ, we must have a similar attitude to the one Paul had, that of being a 'follower of Christ, who will teach others to do the same, by the way we live and by our own attitudes and behaviour, as well as by our words and bible teaching.'

Anyone who teaches should have the attitude of a servant. While the disciples were being trained by Jesus, the two sons of Zebedee were lobbying for seats at His right and left hand. The other disciples, who also had not yet learned the things of the Spirit, became indignant, since they all held to 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 exercise 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. (Matthew 20:25-27)

The disciple-maker must be one who himself has learnt to walk in the Spirit, one having a servant's attitude toward the disciples he helps train and pass teaching on to.

Teachers in the denominations seem to ignore that Jesus specifically commanded us not to exercise authority over others, which is the way of any hierarchical system. Israel of old had a hierarchy structure which was from God, just as in the angelic realm does, but in the body of Christ it is not to be so, for WE ARE ALL BROTHERS and Jesus should be the ONLY Head.

In Jesus' Kingdom the instruction we may share has to be discerned by the hearer as being of Christ. If I teach, I cannot say to my hearers, "You must believe what I am saying," nor should we treat any as being 'our disciples', for our fellow brethren belong solely to Christ. As Paul said...

"You belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God." (1 Corinthians 3:23)

We must never forget Jesus words...

"One is your Teacher (Master) and YOU ARE ALL BROTHERS." (Matthew 23:8)

This is a vitally important point, because all believers we help disciple must still be taught by THE Teacher, the Holy Spirit within, and able to discern truth and error. Those we might teach must only see us as a brother. They should not have to be weaned from us to become our peers And those we teach must be able to go on to learn far more than ourselves.

The New Testament describes disciples as following only three different teachers besides Jesus...

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

The Pharisees (Matthew 22:16, Mark 2:18)

Moses (John 9:28)

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

Paul rebuked the childish Corinthian church for their factions and desire to be disciples of one teacher rather than another...

“One of you is saying, “I am of Paul,” and “I of Apollos,” and “I of Cephas,” and “I of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 1:12)

Paul pointed out that all gifted men given to the church actually belong to all 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.” (1 Corinthians 3:21-23)

We should not treat a brother with a particular gifting as being somehow on a higher level than ourselves or more special than any other brother. When Jesus ascended He gave gifts to men. These are giftings that He gave to brothers for the benefit of others in the Body of Christ...

“He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-12)

The denominations use these giftings to create a clergy-class. But a disciple’s life is to be helped by the proper working of each individual part. The ministries from the whole body are needed for us to grow and go on to maturity.

Within the denominations some seek to join the ‘clergy-class’ seeing it as a profession, requiring all to pay for what we learn, but Jesus said, “Freely we have received, freely give.” (Matthew 10:8)

We each need all the different giftings that are found within the body, not just those we need in our infancy as Christians. The whole church is to corporately grow so that the body begins to build itself up in love.

In the process of growing spiritually a believer is not to become the disciple of any one brother. It is the most dangerous place if those who teach take the place of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the ones they teach. We must not demand a permanent submission relationship from any brother but always point the one we teach to the Holy Spirit who alone can lead the disciple into all truth.

Failure to accept those we teach as equals, those who teach will limit the growth of others to their own stature rather than to that of Christ. Those who are taught correctly can spiritually outgrow the ones who teach them, and even become their teachers as they receive revelation and spiritual understanding directly from the Lord.

All the different ministries within the body are needed in the process of producing maturity in a disciple, and according to the Bible, these ministries are just brothers who equip other believers for the work of service, the ministry of the whole church. A true teacher should not teach any divisive or sectarian doctrines of any denomination or group but always point the disciple to Jesus Christ who, by His Spirit, will lead them into all Truth. We should never forget what Jesus taught...

“ONE IS YOUR TEACHER, EVEN CHRIST.” (Matthew 23:10)

In this way all are brought to Christ-like maturity and prevented from remaining as spiritual children, tossed around by every wind of doctrine.

The body of Christ will then grow through all the different parts working as they should.

No disciple will come to maturity who sits under only one teacher or hears only the teachings of one denomination or group.

Let us remind ourselves again that Jesus told us...

“IF you abide in My word (that is, His 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 describes the scene...

“He began to teach again by the sea. And such a very large crowd gathered to Him that He got into a boat in the sea and sat down; and the whole crowd was by the sea, on the land. And He was teaching them many things in parables, and was saying to them in His teaching.” (Mark 4:1-2)

“And with many such parables He was speaking THE WORD 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 only explained the parables in private.

Until we have become disciples of both the King and His Kingdom, we will not understand the mysteries of the Kingdom hidden since the foundation of the world, those which are contained in the parables...

“All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables, and He did not speak to them without a parable, to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet: ‘I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things hidden since the foundation of the world.’” (Matthew 13:35)

The Kingdom is of the Spirit and is hidden from our natural minds and intellectual searching.

The Kingdom cannot be grasped by the proud. We must HUMBLE ourselves before our King.

We must **SUBMIT** ourselves to Jesus.

Only with this attitude is the Kingdom **REVEALED** to us.

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

If I am a disciple of the Catholic Church, or if I am a disciple of Luther, or Calvin, or Wesley, or any man, if I am a disciple of any denomination, if I am a disciple of John the Baptist, if I am a disciple of Peter, or Paul, or **ANYBODY** or **ANYTHING** except Jesus and His Kingdom, I will **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”...

“Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked. ‘Yes,’ they replied.” (Matthew 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.” (Matthew 13:52)

Denominational clergy and modern-day bible teachers have a remarkable resemblance to the Jewish scribes of the time Jesus walked on the earth, those **WHO WERE NOT DISCIPLES OF THE KINGDOM**.

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

They were honoured by the people for their teaching, being given such respectful titles as “Rabbi,” which means “teacher.” (see Matthew 23:8); “lawyer” (see Matthew 22:35); and “doctor of the law.” (see 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’, just like the denominational clergy of our day.

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 it, 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 bear.” (See Matthew 23:4)

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.’

But Jesus said that every scribe who becomes a disciple of the Kingdom would be able to understand the parables, teachings 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.

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 modern day disciples of the Kingdom.

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

In the first one Jesus describes the ‘seed’ as ‘THE WORD OF THE KINGDOM’, which is sown in men’s hearts, (see Matthew 13:19) and we see that the fruitful Christian is the one who hears the word of the Kingdom, understands it, receives it and obeys it. (verse 23)

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

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

To reign in life we must learn that FAITH is the great dynamic of the Kingdom of God, and without it we cannot please God, but with it we can move mountains.

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

Faith is not something we can produce of ourselves, but is a gift from God. We are given a measure of faith which, as we use it, it grows. 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.”

We must also learn that FORGIVENESS, MERCY and COMPASSION are also the catalysts of Kingdom life.

Without forgiveness we cannot enter into the righteousness, peace and joy that characterises the disciples of the Kingdom.

This was revealed by Jesus when He taught the ‘Lord’s Prayer’...

“For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” (Matthew 6:14-15)

Peter asked Jesus how many times we should forgive a brother, suggesting perhaps seven times. Jesus replied...

“I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.” (Matthew 18:22)

Jesus then went on to tell a parable about an unforgiving slave.

In the parable of the unforgiving slave (verses 23-35) Jesus concluded with a vitally important unveiling of a Kingdom ‘mystery.’ The parable concludes...

“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.” (verses 32-35)

We must learn that 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.

These are keys any disciple of the Kingdom must learn. By understanding and obeying these essential doctrines of the Kingdom, he avoids the torment of seething resentment, anxiety, anger and depression that afflict the unforgiving, inner feelings which in turn can be the cause illnesses such as arthritis, stomach ulcers, nervous tension and other complaints which are so often found in the life of the merciless, unforgiving person.

Such are the lessons to be learned by the disciple of the Kingdom, lessons that make manifest the reign of Jesus in our lives.

CHAPTER 11

BECOMING A DISCIPLE

The followers of Jesus were known as His ‘disciples’.

The disciples were then first called ‘Christians’ at Antioch, a name meaning an ‘adherent of Christ’. (see Acts 11:26)

Today some have such muddled terminology that they apply the term to any denominational church member, regardless of whether he or she is born again of the Spirit, or a true follower and disciple of Jesus Christ.

Jesus said...

“Unless one is born again he cannot SEE the Kingdom of God.” (John 3:3)

And comparing natural birth with spiritual birth, Jesus also said...

“Unless one is born of water (the natural) AND the Spirit he cannot ENTER the Kingdom of God. (John 3:5)

So it is only after salvation that we begin to see the Kingdom. Unlike salvation, which is a gift given by grace through faith, to become a disciple there is a condition. There is an ‘IF’.

Becoming a disciple involves AN ACT OF WILL - “I WILL TO DO THE WILL OF GOD. I WILL to be a disciple of King Jesus and His Kingdom.”

Becoming a disciple involves consecration.

Becoming a disciple should be part of us receiving salvation. It need not take time, but sadly, because the gospel of the Kingdom has not been preached, a new believer is often delayed from making this essential decision, this choice of will.

Because new believers are pointed to men's denominations rather than the Kingdom they are hindered from entering the Kingdom. It may take many years to reach this place that they could have reached on the day they were saved. Some have never reached it!

Rather than making disciples of Jesus, new believers are introduced to church membership. Being required to give loyalty to man-made church systems, believers are prevented from giving loyalty to the Kingdom of God, because no one can serve two masters. When the claims of the organisation are expected to take priority, the claims of the Kingdom are often even seen as disobedience!

It may be that we have SEEN the truth of the gospel of the Kingdom but like the unholy nation of scribes and Pharisees, although we agree with it, might study it in the bible, read books and hear teachings on it, we might make the fatal error of talking about it and NEVER become TOTALLY COMMITTED TO DOING IT PERSONALLY.

To become a disciple we must stop being just a hearer and become a doer.

We can be so "concept-bound" that we may even start sharing the Kingdom in the form of a "concept" with anyone who will listen.

If I am a preacher, I might start preaching it.

If I am a teacher, I might start teaching it.

BUT first of all we must be a DOER.

Just as it is no use teaching what the scriptures say about of married life if our marriage is a mess, or teaching patience if we are impatient, it is no use teaching the Way of Christ if it is not the way we live.

First of all YOU MUST WILL TO DO WHAT THE KING SAYS, AND THEN YOU MUST DO IT.

Only then are we in a place to pass the good news of the Kingdom to whomsoever the Lord leads us to share with. The life we live is imparted spiritually by association, and not just by teaching, but by

example. This is often far more effective than sharing theological concepts. We are to be WITNESSES - by word AND deed.

After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to the eleven and gave the kingly command which was to 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, baptising 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.” (Matthew 28:18-20).

It is because they obeyed, we ourselves are Christians today. Jesus said, “MAKE disciples, and teach them to DO all that I commanded you.”

So our first objective in becoming a disciple should be to LEARN all that Jesus taught, and DO what He said. In these commands we discover His nature. Carrying out Jesus’ commands is not to be done by works of the flesh, however, but by walking in the Spirit. This is NOT doing things FOR Jesus but displaying His nature that Jesus imparts into our hearts. It is then that the works we walk in are those He has prepared for us to walk in...

“For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10)

These are not works that we initiate but are works that are initiated by the Holy Spirit who is now in us, as He leads us.

After Jesus’ ascension, when the disciples had been filled with the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost, thousands were added to the church, and they were “continually devoting themselves to the teaching of the apostles, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer.” (see Acts 2:42)

Jesus had told His disciples to teach others to observe all that He had commanded them, to DO IN THEIR DAILY LIVES THE THINGS THAT CHRIST HAD TAUGHT THEM.

This is so simple and so logical that it seems superfluous to point it out, yet it is nearly impossible in our day to find this reality.

Becoming a disciple means that I must learn from Christ and then do those things He teaches in my daily life.

But before we become a disciple there is a decision of will we must make because Jesus said...

“Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me.” (Matthew 16:24)

A choice has to be made...

"IF anyone comes to Me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, (compared with their love for Me) yes, even their own life, such a person cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:26)

This choice cannot be partial because Jesus demands our ‘all’...

“...those of you who do not give up everything you have, cannot be My disciples.” (Luke 14:33)

What we learn as a disciple is then a process. It requires the FORMATION of Christ in our life.

We find that the first place to live out the teaching of Christ is in our everyday lives, in that place, situation or circumstance where we already are. It might be in our own home. It might be where we are employed.

Until the Kingdom of God is working in our own lives, forming our attitudes and being worked out in our relationships, we will not bear the fruit of a true disciple.

Becoming a disciple means applying Jesus’ teaching to ourselves and letting the Holy Spirit change us. It is not a humanistic self-reformation, but allowing the Spirit to work within our hearts.

Unless I have the Spirit of Christ, I have no part in Him, but if I have His Spirit in me then He will change me and enable me to walk in a manner worthy of the Him.

Paul exhorted the church at Thessalonica to pray without ceasing. (see 1 Thessalonians 5:17) This is the attitude the disciple is to have, continually praying...

“LORD, CHANGE ME!”

Once this desire is established in our hearts, although we must will to to be changed, it will in reality be the Lord working in us - unresisted - that changes us.

Every circumstance of our lives becomes a learning experience. God will engineer circumstances and we will understand that God uses everybody around us to mould and refine our lives. Trials and tribulations, sufferings or failure, pleasure or success, all become learning experiences, working together for OUR GOOD.

God has predestined every believer to be conformed to the image of His Son Jesus, to change us from glory to glory.

Change involves growth. If I am not being changed, I am not growing.

Then, as we become more like Jesus, we become profitable servants, able to fulfil our function correctly within His body.

CHAPTER 12

ENTERING INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD

It was in answer to the questions of Nicodemus that Jesus said...

“Unless a man is born again of water and the Spirit he cannot see or ENTER the Kingdom of God.” (John 3:5)

The scriptures declare...

“To all who did receive him, to those who believed in His Name, He gave the right to become children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or man’s will, but born of God.” (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)

Thousands 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 should be able to SEE and ENTER the Kingdom of God, but few do so.

They do not SEE, because in place of the Kingdom they are taught how to comply with man-made church system, and its form of man-made Christian religion created by those who likewise have not seen it.

Many do not ENTER the Kingdom because they are deceived into thinking their religious activity is this reality.

Many fail to ENTER the Kingdom because they have been deceived, believing the Kingdom to be only in heaven, or upon the earth in the future millennium when Jesus will return to reign upon the earth.

It is true that there is a glorious future for us in our spiritual bodies in the age to come. It is also true that there is an inheritance which God will bestow on us at the resurrection of the righteous and the catching away of the saints, when Jesus returns and we put on immortality. However, we misunderstand the plan and purpose of God if we fail to enter NOW into the present spiritual reality of the Kingdom.

Jesus did not spend His time teaching about the Millennium or about life in heaven after death. He proclaimed the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE for TODAY. His apostles had the same mission, and so should we, for this is the ministry of the true church which is the Body of Christ, to preach and teach the full gospel of the Kingdom of God.

Jesus, when asked by the Pharisees as to 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 to be manifest within us now. His sovereignty is then exercised from our inward parts; from our heart, or more accurately, our spirit, our inner man.

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

Jesus explained the qualification for those who desire to enter into His Kingdom rule, that we must be born from above FIRST.

We must then submit to the King and begin the process of learning submission to Him.

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...

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

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

3. 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.

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

Since the rule of God is to be manifest WITHIN US, everybody has equal opportunity after HEARING the Word of the Kingdom, to OBEY or DISOBEY, to let Jesus reign, or not to.

According to our ability and circumstances those who are obedient to the teaching of Christ produce much fruit.

His Kingdom is made real by 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 overrides our will.

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

Jesus spoke about this choice...

“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 for...

“He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the Kingdom of His beloved Son.” (Colossians 1:13)

All who are born again of His Spirit are therefore IN the Kingdom of God, but we nevertheless must SEE it and ENTER INTO it. We may compare this to entering the lobby of a vast building blindfold, 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. The blindfold must be removed. We must respond to the work of the Holy Spirit within us by laying down our lives; laying down all our own viewpoints and arguments with God, and submitting to His reign within us.

There is no entrance into His Kingdom without SUBMISSION to our God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

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 Saviour, 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 SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST will be abundantly supplied to you.” (2 Peter 1:1-11)

This is the wonder of our marvellous salvation, that God has granted us everything pertaining to life and godliness through the true knowledge of Christ, and has given us precious and magnificent promises in order that we can share in His divine nature.

We are REDEEMED, FORGIVEN, ENLIGHTENED AND EMPOWERED by this gospel of GRACE.

Our response is to SUPPLY moral excellence, knowledge of Christ, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love.

IF these qualities are ours and steadily increasing, we will be 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 new birth, about being born into the Kingdom, but the reality of the Kingdom becoming manifest in our lives.

He was also not teaching about entering the gates of heaven because 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 Labourers in the Vineyard.” (Matthew 19:27-20:16).

Some laboured much, others laboured little; but they all received the same wage for IT IS BY GRACE WE RECEIVE SALVATION.

Our worldly concepts of work incentives and rewards are invalid in the Kingdom. In the Kingdom of Heaven many who are first will be last, and the last, first. We are to aim at 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, worldly, selfish or even Satanic qualities.

They are from below, from this world.

Jesus said, "My Kingdom is not 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 spirit 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 and worldly concepts with those originating in the Kingdom of Heaven:

1. World: The ruler, master, leader or teacher is the greatest and receives the most honour.

Kingdom of Heaven: The slave of others is the greatest, and the weakest one receives the most honour.

2. World: Everything must be earned and paid for, therefore everything has its price. More expensive means better.

Kingdom of Heaven: The best is always free and given by God's totally unmerited favour. Grace can never be earned.

3. World: It is very important to be rich in material possessions. Security, power and influence are found in money.

Kingdom of Heaven: Material riches or poverty are irrelevant. True riches are rightness with God and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Security lies only in God. Power and influence over other

men is not sought.

4. **World:** Get as much as possible. Give as little as possible, and then only from unwanted surplus.

Kingdom of Heaven: Give joyfully and sacrificially as the Spirit directs. Act only as a steward for God of what one has, who is the real owner of all you possess.

5. **World:** Outward appearances such as clothes, sophisticated behaviour, table manners, eloquence of speech and correct accent are of first importance. Concealed wickedness of heart is secondary or disregarded.

Kingdom of Heaven: The inward appearance of the heart is important. External appearances are secondary.

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

Kingdom 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 Honourable, Reverend, Most Reverend, Pastor, Father, His Grace, D.D., M.A., B.A., M.Sc., etc..)

Kingdom 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.

We find no entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven until we abandon self and the worldly kingdom concepts that human society naturally embraces.

Whilst we retain an aim to be socially acceptable and intellectually approved by men, we will never enter the Kingdom. Our own worldly ambitions must die. To buy the treasure hidden in the field, the pearl beyond price, we must sell ALL WE HAVE, for...

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and SOLD ALL THAT HE HAD and bought it.” (Matthew 13:45-46)

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

To those who voluntarily obey Jesus as their King, He gives power and ability without measure.

This power and ability enables us to overcome Satan and the world, and to reign in life.

Because the Kingdom of Heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When you discover the treasure of the Kingdom of God you will JOYFULLY GIVE UP EVERYTHING YOU POSSESS in order to obtain it. Jesus explained...

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid *again*; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.” (Matthew 13:44-46)

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

So let us sell everything we hold dear by a deep change of heart - our pride, our status, acquired knowledge, possessions, social position, money, influence and most importantly SELF which desires such worldly treasures - and buy this 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.” (Genesis 1:31)

As we read of the very beginning of creation we see that God had a purpose. It is unalterable and it will be fulfilled.

God’s purpose was to have sons made in His image, according to His likeness.

So it is each child is unique as God is unique. God’s desire was to have children who are altogether good, as God is good. Children full of God’s nature and character, children who obey their Father, who is also their King. Children who love Him.

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

God’s desire for His children was that they should have dominion over the earth and ALL that it contains. He said...

“Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”(Genesis 1:26-28)

This dominion was to be over both the visible material world and the invisible spiritual realm, for man was also a spiritual being.

After giving Adam and Eve authority to rule over the earth and every other species of living creature, we see that God BLESSED them and then commanded them to be fruitful - to multiply - to fill the earth - to SUBDUE the EARTH and to RULE...

“God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and SUBDUE it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (Genesis 1:28)

Adam was made king of the earth.

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

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

This is because God’s creation, in which He created time and space, was VERY GOOD.

What was it, then, that needed subjugation? What was man needing to SUBDUE?

The living creatures were all vegetarian...

““To every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, *I have given* every green plant for food.’ And it was so.” (Genesis 1:30)

Fish, birds, animals and reptiles needed no subjugation in the beginning. Adam and Eve in Eden’s garden, were surrounded by harmless animals, a picture of what God is going to restore on the earth during Jesus’ Millennial reign. In the Millennium the world will again see...

“the wolf and the lamb... graze together, and the lion... eat straw like the ox.” (see Isaiah 65:25)

But when the earth was created it was already this way.

When it was created there were as yet no thistles or thorns on the earth and so the soil needed no subduing. Only after man’s fall did we see this curse come upon the earth...

“Then to Adam He said, ‘Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, “You shall not eat of it”: Cursed *is* the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat *of* it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground. For out of it you were taken; For dust you *are*, and to dust you shall return.’” (Genesis 3:17-19)

Although all God created was VERY GOOD 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 already there as Adam was to discover!

We know Satan and his fallen angels had already been in rebellion against God before Adam. They had been cast out of God’s heavenly abode; cast out from LIGHT and cast down to the earth. Satan had become the ruler of darkness where his evil spirits also dwell.

The darkness that covered the earth was both physical and spiritual. The purpose of God was, therefore, and still is, that His children should SUBDUE and RULE OVER Satan and the rebellious host of darkness. This is the battle that we see being played out from the very beginning of the book of Genesis and which will continue to the end of the book of Revelation.

Psalm 8 gives us a picture of God’s purpose for man, and in this purpose, also the Son of Man...

“What is man, that You take thought of him? And the Son of Man, that You care for him? Yet You have made him a little lower than GOD. (Hebrew: Elohim) And crown him with glory and majesty! You make him to RULE OVER THE WORKS OF THY HANDS; You have put ALL THINGS UNDER HIS FEET.” (Psalm. 8:4-6)

In Adam man was made to rule over all the works God had made, a rule that was to be hindered by thinking he could be like God. Made a little lower than God he joined Satan in his rebellion by taking of the tree of knowledge of good and evil in an endeavour to be like God.

So all mankind fell! Left without hope until Jesus came to “make propitiation for the sins of the people”, and restore the broken fellowship that Adam’s fall brought, and destroying the power of death that it brought.

So in due time, Jesus was made for a little while “lower than the angels” making Him like His brethren in all things...

“You have made Him a little lower than the angels...” (Hebrews 2:7)

“...Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honour, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone...” (Hebrews 2:9)

“...that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.” (Hebrews 2:14)

The good news of the Kingdom is that the second and final Adam, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of many brethren, has been raised and in Him every believer has been raised with Him, to a status now, “higher than the angels”, and the angels are now “ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation.” (Hebrews 1:14)

Of Jesus the writer to the Hebrews says...

“What is the Son of man that You take care of him? You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory

and honour, And set him over the works of Your hands. You have put all things in subjection under his feet.” (Hebrews 2:6-8)

ALL things have been subjected to Jesus even though we do not yet see all things subjected to Him...

“For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings. For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one *Father*; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, ‘I will proclaim Your Name to My brethren. In the midst of the congregation I will sing Your praise.’

“And again, ‘I will put My trust in Him.’

“And again, ‘Behold, I and the children whom God has given Me.’

“Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.” (Hebrews 2:10-14)

That God should choose such a weak and vulnerable instrument as ‘man’ to subdue the rebellious spirits is perhaps hard to comprehend but in Christ this is our victory. The first two verses of Psalm 8 declare...

“O Lord, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth, who has displayed Your splendour above the Heavens! From the mouth of infants and nursing babes You have established strength. Because of THINE ADVERSARIES to make THE ENEMY and the revengeful CEASE.” (Psalm 8:1-2)

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

God’s love extends to ALL MEN and He proved His love on the cross of Calvary.

The Holy Spirit declares through David that God has chosen ‘man’ to deal with Satan and his evil spirits; a victory won by Jesus.

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 You take thought of him? And the Son of Man, that You care for him?” (Psalm 8:4)

It seems that it was incredible to David, just as perhaps it is to us, that God would choose ‘man’ to subdue the mighty and powerful spiritual beings opposed to him.

But in Christ that power to overcome Satan was manifest and now that power is ours in Christ. In Christ Satan is put under our feet.

For in Christ we have been raised far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, **NOT ONLY IN THIS AGE** but also **IN THE ONE TO COME**. And God has put all things under Jesus feet, and **GIVEN HIM AS HEAD OVER ALL THINGS TO THE CHURCH**, which is His body. (see Ephesians 1:20-21)

In Christ we have been raised and we have been seated with Him in the heavenly places, in order that in the **AGES TO COME** He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ. (see Ephesians 2:6-7)

What man lost through Adam’s fall, Jesus has won back. Only by deception can Satan prevent us appropriating this victory Jesus has won for us, a victory that is ours as we enter the Kingdom of God.

So let us enter.

CHAPTER 14

THE FAILURE OF THE FIRST ADAM

Adam was a perfect creation, created a spiritual man, but he was innocent. In innocence there is vulnerability. Adam was without experience, and experience is necessary for the development of man's character and understanding.

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

Adam could have developed spiritually if he had remained in obedience to God.

Maturity and spiritual growth come by way of OBEDIENCE. This was the way that was chosen by Christ, totally submitting himself to God the Father. All the wisdom and knowledge of the Father would have been available to Adam for he was joined in perfect union with the Father, in ONENESS with the life of God.

Instead, Adam chose to eat of THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL, seeking to become as God. This is the way of the REBELLIOUS, the way of the natural man.

This path led to an increase in knowledge, but it was SOULISH, produced by the senses of this world, a form of maturity which is full of human wisdom, human knowledge, human philosophy, theology, and religion. It is carnal, earthly, and not spiritual; that of the natural mind, and opposite to that found in the Kingdom of God.

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 only by God. It comes by grace alone and the soulish man must die before the Spirit can be his directing and motivating power.

Before Adam could eat of the **THE TREE OF LIFE**, which would have given Adam eternal life, Adam had chosen the independent way of the soul, rejecting the rule of the Spirit in his life. By eating of the forbidden fruit he died as God told him he would. Physically, he did not die instantly, but on the day he ate of the tree he died spiritually, as God said he would. This spiritual death brought spiritual separation from God. Adam could have lived a life directed by the Spirit of God in union with his own spirit, but that day he was separated spiritually from God.

Adam had been created to be the ruler of the earthly realm. He was created a perfect, God-like being. He enjoyed beautiful fellowship with His Father in the garden of Eden. He lived in the very presence of God. He had remarkable intelligence and abilities. He was a son of God. He was a king.

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

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

When Adam disobeyed the express command of God, he moved out from the Spirit-led life into the soul-directed life. As a result, he lost the spiritual authority that had been his while he obeyed God. So it was that Adam **REJECTED THE REIGN OF GOD**.

Adam **REJECTED THE KINGDOM OF GOD** under which he lived. As a result Adam 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 to Satan, however, because the Lord was and still is **KING** of the whole earth. The earth is the Lord's, as scripture says...

“The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof.” (Psalm 24:1)

Satan was and is a **USURPER** who has no legal right to the dominion of the earth. His power consists in his great ability as a **DECEIVER**

and a LIAR, 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, although scripture tells us that “the whole ‘world’ lies in the power (or sway) of the evil one.” (1 John 5:19) Satan’s dominion is exercised in the world systems by virtue of influencing fallen men.

When Satan tempted Jesus he showed Jesus, in an instant, all the kingdoms of the world. Satan offered them all to Jesus saying...

“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 so many take these words of Satan’s and assume that Satan is the legal ruler of the world. But Satan is a deceiver and 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 these words by which Satan tried to tempt Jesus, the scriptures tell us that the authority over earthly kingdoms belongs to God. Speaking of God’s judgement upon Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel declared...

“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.” (Daniel 4:17)

And...

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

God has never given the earth to Satan but 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...

“And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. The fear of you and the terror of you will be on every beast of the earth and on every bird of the sky; with everything that creeps on the ground, and all the fish of the sea, into your hand they are given. Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you; I give all to you, as *I gave* the green plant.’” (Genesis 9:1-3)

The Psalms also state...

“The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD’S: but the earth He has given to the children of men.” (Psalm 115:16)

However, scripture tells us that Satan is the god of this world, but this is speaking of the world system, as John declared...

“We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.” (1 John 5:19)

Because we are always left with our free will, men can choose to serve the god of this world or, like Joshua, we can choose to obey God...

“...as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:15b)

So it is when a man submits himself to the Kingdom of God, to the reign of God, he is able to overcome the enemy, the god of this world.

We see this reality in the story of Job. 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. (see Job 1:6-12)

We see in this the devil’s limited authority over Job. Satan had to ask permission from God to interfere in his life.

In the same way Satan asked God's permission to "sift Peter like wheat." (see Luke 22:31)

We see that as a result of Adam's fall men can find themselves outside of God's protection and become vulnerable to the power of Satan. By receiving the Kingdom of God we recover that which Adam lost.

Anyone who rejects the REIGN of God over his life continues in this rebellion and remains under the influence of darkness. This can be a total or partial dominion, and even 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 God 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 their inheritance of the earth. This would wait for a future day for Jesus had not yet come...

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." (Hebrews 11:13)

What we need to understand is that until Jesus came, unredeemed man could not subdue the forces of darkness.

In Adam they had lost the power to REIGN IN LIFE. The good news of the Kingdom is that in Christ it is restored.

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.” (Romans 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.” (Romans 5:18)

Through Adam’s rejection of the Kingdom of God ALL men became prey to sin and subject to death. But the second Adam, Jesus Christ, through His obedience to the Father, overcame sin and death and made the way for those who would believe to enter again into the Kingdom of God.

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...

“Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of* the whole world.” (1 John 2:1-3)

“The redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; for the demonstration, *I say*, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.” (Romans 3:24b-26)

Jesus paid the price for the sin of the whole world that those who would believe in Him might receive newness of life.

The Kingdom of God could once again be established upon the earth in the hearts and lives of those who would receive the free gift of righteousness.

John the Baptist will most certainly now be in God's Kingdom in heaven, yet he never got into the Kingdom of Heaven during his life 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.” (Matthew 11:11)

We would judge John the Baptist a holy man by any standard. He might indeed be set up as a fine example of holiness for Christians.

Nevertheless, Jesus said that the most ineffectual, stumbling, Christian spiritual infant is GREATER than he!

Greater because every Christian has been...

“Transferred from the domain of darkness and transferred into the Kingdom of His (God's) beloved Son.” (Colossians 1:13)

Every true Christian is now able to see and enter INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD, having become a partaker of God's grace.

Greater because in this life every true believer can share in the triumph of the second Adam.

Greater because everyone born again of the Spirit has been redeemed and made righteous and holy.

As a new creation every new believer is made holy, righteous, perfect, without sin and has passed from death to life, for...

“By His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.” (1 Corinthians 1:30)

Having been justified by faith there is no longer any condemnation - the requirement of the Law being fulfilled as a believer walks in the Spirit...

“Therefore there is now NO CONDEMNATION for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, WHO do not WALK according to the flesh but ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT. For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.” (Romans 8:1-5)

As the new believer repents, and turns to God, his sins are forgiven. God removes his sins from him and remembers them no more.

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

THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO TO ADD TO THE COMPLETE AND PERFECT REDEMPTION ACCOMPLISHED BY JESUS, OUR KING, AT CALVARY. For...

“A man is justified by faith without the deeds of the Law.” (Romans 3:28)

As we walk in the light, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin so that in the record books of heaven the sins and failures of God’s children are NOT RECORDED; only righteous acts and successes.

In the promise of the NEW COVENANT which every believer has been made part of, God declared that He would remember their sins no more...

“They will not teach again, each man his neighbour and each man his brother, saying, “Know the Lord,” for they will all know Me,

from the least of them to the greatest of them,' declares the Lord, 'for I will forgive their iniquity, and THEIR SIN I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE.'" (Jeremiah 31:34)

Although what Jesus accomplished at Calvary was ACCOMPLISHED FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL MANKIND not all receive the good news by faith. Rejecting it, men remain under bondage to Satan, separated from God.

Although saved, sadly, many Christians also fail to receive the full benefits of what Jesus has accomplished for them, trying to walk by self effort in the Law rather than faith. By walking in the traditions of men and their false teachings that have been developed by generations of nominal believers who did not "see" the Kingdom of God and never entered into it, they do not enter the Kingdom either. Many Christians remain as babes not knowing WHO THEY ARE IN CHRIST AND NOT ACCEPTING WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE FOR THEM.

According to the scripture all those in Christ were crucified with Him, buried with Him, resurrected with Him, glorified with Him, and are seated with Him upon His throne...

"For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin." (Romans 6:6)

Although many accept the fact that Jesus triumphed and that HE IS GLORIFIED AND ENTHRONED IN heaven, they have difficulty in believing that they themselves ARE NOW SEATED WITH HIM IN HEAVENLY PLACES. But scripture is clear...

"Because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions... And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 2:4-6)

And since "all things have been put under His feet" it is true that in Christ all things are under our feet. For...

“God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body.” (Ephesians 1:22-23)

The Church, which is the BODY OF CHRIST, is the object of God’s love, and the purpose of Jesus’ incarnation MAKES US CO-HEIRS WITH HIM, THAT HIS LORDSHIP MIGHT FLOW THROUGH US TO 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... This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. (Ephesians 5:29-32)

We are JOINED to Christ! We are ONE WITH HIM and WITH HIM WE ARE JOINT HEIRS OF GOD THE FATHER...

“Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory.” (Romans 8:17)

In Christ everything that God is and has is ours...

“The world, 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 Corinthians 3:22-23)

In Christ we have been redeemed so that we can reign in life...

“Those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness REIGN IN LIFE through the one man, Jesus Christ! (Romans 5:17)

Satan is no longer to be our master, and the devil should no longer have power over us. Rather, in Christ 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. (see Roman 5:17)

This is the victory that is NOW ours; a victory that during Christ's coming reign upon earth, after He returns with His saints (us), will extend to our rule with Him over all the kingdoms of 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 One; His Kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.” (Daniel 7:27)

This is the triumph of the second Adam.

CHAPTER 16

REIGNING IN LIFE WITH CHRIST

“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.” (Romans 5:17)

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

“Through one act of righteousness there resulted justification to all men.” (Romans 5:18)

Jesus died for the sins of the whole world...

“He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of* the whole world.” (1 John 2:2)

Therefore, for those who RECEIVE the abundance of grace and the gift of RIGHTEOUSNESS by faith, His victory becomes theirs. This is how we reign in life. God made...

“Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the RIGHTEOUSNESS of God in Him.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

It is by KNOWING that we have been made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus that we are able to reign in life. It is by thinking that we are still sinners that we are vulnerable to Satan’s accusations.

KNOWING that we are righteous in Christ is of utmost importance.

Jesus told us to seek first the Kingdom of God and His RIGHTEOUSNESS (see Matthew 6:33) for the provision of the Kingdom to flow unto us.

Our righteousness is granted to us as a gift that we can only receive by faith. Jesus died for the sins of all men and made it possible for those who RECEIVE THE FREE GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS TO REIGN IN LIFE. This is the marvellous gift of salvation but like all gifts it has to be received...

“It is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the GIFT of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.’ (Ephesians 2:8&9)

No works on man’s part have any effect in obtaining salvation.

Nor can we reign in life if we believe that our works - that is works of the flesh - are required to walk in our new life IN CHRIST. It is only IN CHRIST that we can walk in resurrection power. We live by the Spirit so we must walk by the Spirit.

IN CHRIST we are made complete, but we must learn who we are IN HIM so we can appropriate it all by faith.

This is why it is essential to KNOW who we are IN CHRIST.

If Satan can prevent us from KNOWING who we are in Christ and what Jesus has done for us, he can keep us in bondage; bondage to demons, demons of fear, sickness, poverty, inadequacy, or anything else that stops us reigning in life. Satan has NO POWER OVER A CHRISTIAN except that which we consciously or unconsciously allow him to have.

Our knowledge of Christ Jesus therefore brings forth the Kingdom in our lives.

So for us to reign in life it is necessary for us to grow spiritually in a knowledge of our Saviour. Peter said that like newborn babies we are to long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it we may grow in respect to salvation...

“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.” (1 Peter 2:2)

Then, it is as we grow in Christ that we begin to fully appropriate the victory Jesus has already won through His death and resurrection.

John, speaking of our spiritual growth put it this way, speaking of ‘young men’, those believers who have grown from being babes in Christ...

“I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.” (1 John 2:14)

We see that it as we abide in the Word, so as to KNOW who we are in Christ, that we overcome Satan. Therefore we need to KNOW who we are in Christ so Satan cannot deceive us from what is now rightfully ours in Christ Jesus.

This KNOWING is not acquiring intellectual knowledge or mental agreement to scripture, but having revelation knowledge imparted to our spirits by the Holy Spirit.

The whole world lies in the power of the evil one, (see 1 John 5:19) but Jesus encouraged His disciples saying...

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

We must learn that Jesus has overcome the world so IN CHRIST we have the victory and that it is BY FAITH that we walk in it...

“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world, *even* our FAITH.” (1 John 5:4)

So it is our thinking has to change. Before we are born again all our thoughts have only been worldly thoughts and of the carnal intellect, so it is essential that we renew our minds. We have to begin to think how God thinks. And it is in the renewing of our minds that we are transformed...

“Do not be conformed to this world, but BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2)

This transformation begins by us presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice. Jesus has to be our Lord, taking first place in everything in our lives, in place of our ‘self’ that has previously ruled us.

When we first believed it was in turning to God in repentance, asking Him to take our lives in exchange for His, that we received His life - if indeed we have not only believed but received.

IN CHRIST we died with Him. Our old ‘self’ was crucified with Him that our body of sin might be done away with; that we would no longer be slaves to sin. (see Romans 6:6) It is when we KNOW that we died with Him that we are able to RECKON ourselves as dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus - because we are. This gives us victory.

RECKONING that we are dead to sin and ALIVE to God - because IN CHRIST we ‘were’ (past tense) crucified with Him upon the cross - we can present ourselves to God as alive from the dead for we ‘were’ (past tense) also raised with Him...

“Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God. (Romans 6:11-13)

In this way Jesus has made it possible for us to present ourselves as instruments of righteousness to God having freed us from sin that we might be slaves of righteousness.

“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.” (Romans 12:1)

Paul urged the church in Rome that because they had become “obedient from the heart” to this teaching, this was why they became **SLAVES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS** and needed to continue in it...

“Having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members *as* slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness *leading to more* lawlessness, so now present your members *as* slaves *of* righteousness, resulting in sanctification.” (Romans 6:18-19)

As long as we have not understood what Jesus has done for us through His death and resurrection, we are vulnerable to the attacks of the evil one.

It is as we believe what Christ has done through His death and resurrection that His victory becomes ours. Without faith it is impossible to please God. So it is that having been freed from sin it is as we become **OBEDIENT FROM OUR HEARTS** and become enslaved to God, that we derive the benefit. This results in our sanctification and the outcome, eternal life. We are called to this walk and our walk is a walk of **FAITH**, for the just will live by faith.

IN CHRIST the power of sin has been broken but we must walk in this reality by faith.

IN CHRIST we became heirs of the Father for we are children of the Kingdom but we must **KNOW IT** and walk in its reality.

This is why we need to **KNOW** that we were raised together with Christ and are seated with Him in heavenly places **FAR ABOVE** all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named. (see Ephesians 1:20-21 and 2:6)

It is from this position that we are able to have victory over Satan for, when God raised Jesus from the dead He put all things in subjection under His feet **AND GAVE HIM AS HEAD OVER ALL THINGS TO THE CHURCH WHICH IS HIS BODY.**” (see Ephesians 1:22-23)

Satan has been defeated by Jesus Christ. In our own strength we are doomed to fail, therefore *it* says...

“God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Submit therefore to God. RESIST THE DEVIL AND HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” (James 4:6-8)

We can see that James exhorts us to first draw near to God for this warfare can only be fought in Him. If we hold to any strength of our own we are doomed to fail.

If we are to reign we have to walk in humility, and learn to humble ourselves; learning this attitude if necessary through humbling experiences.

In the same way we have to learn patience and long-suffering through that which we suffer.

We have to learn to love as God loves, with His impartial unconditional love. We are to love as He first loved us. Jesus tells us to even love our enemies.

So we have to learn compassion and mercy as He has shown us compassion and mercy.

In these ways we are to be renewed in the spirit of *our* mind. We are to PUT ON THE NEW SELF, like putting on a new suit of clothes, which in God has been created in RIGHTEOUSNESS and holiness of the truth...

“Be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and... put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”(Ephesians 4:23-24)

It is then, as we grow spiritually, walking in the milk of the word we have received, the WORD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, becoming effectual doers and not hearers only, that the Holy Spirit can then give

us ‘solid food’ as we mature, so that by practice, our senses will be trained to discern good and evil. (see Hebrews 5:13-14)

So let us leave childhood and grow into “THE MEASURE OF THE STATURE WHICH BELONGS TO THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST,” (see Ephesians 4:13) that we might reign in life through Him.

CHAPTER 17

THE CHURCH OF THE KINGDOM

We have considered our individual walk in the Spirit but this must also bring forth the corporate expression of Christ's life. Jesus said, "I will build My church and the gates of Hades will not overpower it." (Matthew 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 there 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 darkness from the unseen realm (the gates of Hades) will not overpower them."

The word for 'church' in Greek, is 'ekklesia', and means "called out ones." The true church are Jesus' called out ones.

The church of the Kingdom cannot be designed or built by man.

Born again believers 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 domain of darkness, called out of the world, and called into the Kingdom of Christ.

Having been delivered us from the power and domain of Satan we have been transferred us into the reign of His beloved Son and Jesus, has become our King.

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 He has chosen and called out.

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 up of living persons, those who He has called out. Collectively these people are identified as His church, and described as the body of Christ.

Paul, speaking to the Athenians on Mars Hill within sight of their many temples said...

“The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.” (Acts 17:24)

Stephen, speaking to the Jews who were trying to oppose him explained in his defence...

“The Most High does not dwell in *houses* made by *human* hands; as the prophet says: ‘Heaven is My throne, and the earth is the footstool of My feet; What kind of house will you build for Me?’ says the Lord, ‘Or what place is there for My repose? Was it not My hand which made all these things?’” (Acts 7:48-50)

We who are true believers are the church. The church can meet anywhere. We don’t go to church, the church assembles. The church is not a building, but the church is the body of Christ, made up of its many members.

The church of the Kingdom has no consecrated places, no holy sanctuaries, no holy buildings which ignorant men call “the House of the Lord.” The church is the temple of the Holy Spirit both individually and corporately. **WE ARE THE TEMPLE OF GOD.**

Paul, speaking of the individual believer said...

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

And speaking of the corporate church...

“Do you not know that you are a temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you (plural) are.” (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)

The church of the Kingdom can make 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.

The church of the Kingdom worships God in spirit and in truth. Jesus said...

“Believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem... a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.” (John 4:19-24)

Whenever the members of His church meet in His Name, **THEY SANCTIFY THE PLACE BY THEIR PRESENCE.**

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

There is only one church that Jesus is building, and scripture identifies it only by locality. His church should carry no name but ‘Jesus’. He has

only one church, and all the believers living in one place are His church in that place.

All His people in Rome, or Corinth, or Ephesus were identified as “the church at Rome,” or “the church at Corinth” or “the church at Ephesus.” These are descriptions, not names.

All His people in any locality should be identified and described only by the name of that place, be it a town or a home where they meet. They are to carry no other name but His.

When writing to the church at Corinth Paul identified them...

“To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be His holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours.” (1 Corinthians 1:2)

When writing to the church at Rome Paul sent greetings to...

“Greet Prisca and Aquila... also the church that is in their house.” (Romans 16:3&5)

Although many local churches might be identified, these are all ONE AND THE SAME CHURCH.

If we live in London, we are a member of the church in London. If we live at Earls Court we might be further identified as a member of the church at Earls Court in London.

If we leave London and go to live in Los Angeles, we will then be a member of the church in Los Angeles.

We are still in the same universal church, simply living in another locality, an expression of the one body of Christ there and it is sufficient to be described this way.

Every Christian who is identified by any name except ‘Jesus’, instead of being described by the name of his locality, is committing spiritual

adultery for we should have no name over us except His. All denominations are in error by virtue of bearing a name.

Scripture describes the church of the Kingdom as Jesus' 'body' - the body of Christ.

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...” (Hebrews 12:22-24)

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

The members of this church are to no longer live under the Law because the members of this church walk by the Spirit. They have come to Jesus, who is the Mediator of the New Covenant which is totally different from the Old Covenant, which established the Law through Moses.

This NEW COVENANT produced the church of the Kingdom.

The people of Jesus' church have the Spirit of God within them for God has put His laws into their minds and written them on their hearts. They all know the Lord, from the least to the greatest of them. God has been merciful to forgive their iniquities and He remembers their sins no more.

It is impossible to join the church of the Kingdom as one would join a denomination or organisation. It has no membership cards, no church board, no secretary or treasurer. It has no Pope, no Archbishop, no hierarchy.

The denominations and organisations that men have built are not themselves part of the church of Jesus Christ.

The stones of this spiritual temple of God which is the true church, are unlike bricks which men build together. They are not fixed stones, but living, lively stones that Jesus moves about continually.

They are not dead bricks cemented with immovable mortar and 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, for they are forever being conformed into the image of Christ.

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

The church of the Kingdom has no clergy or laity, and all its members have equal access to God the Father as His beloved children. They are together 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 of one class, a LEVEL BROTHERHOOD.

In the church of the Kingdom there is no special class of people who take care of spiritual affairs while less spiritual ones take care of secular affairs. Everyone in the church, being spiritually alive, are to be led by the Spirit and be involved in discerning God's purposes on the earth, doing what He says.

The church of the Kingdom has no written rules and regulations to be followed by works, but they will be found conforming to the scriptures as the living word that men brought forth by the Holy Spirit, as it is implanted by Him within their hearts.

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 chose to write His laws upon their hearts to be walked in by the Spirit.

Under the New Covenant, by virtue of the cross, 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. (Romans 7:6)

Every person in the church of the Kingdom is a son of God. There is neither male nor female, Jew nor Greek, neither master nor servant, but ALL ARE BRETHREN in Christ...

“So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” (Galatians 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 considered as God’s anointed ones. He may even use children to rebuke those who think too highly of themselves.

The church of the Kingdom has older brethren who teach and train the younger brethren in their formative years. The goal of all instruction is to produce people who love with God’s unconditional love and who live by the Spirit.

In the church of the Kingdom there is NO COMPETITION, no desire for position or status among the brethren. The mature ones will be true servants, and their highest ambition will be to become bond-servants of the others in the church.

The church of the Kingdom is in the world but not of it. It does not withdraw itself into seclusion for fear of contamination by the world.

Instead it goes about boldly everywhere and anywhere that God sends them, to be as salt in the world. It is not merely defensive, but walks in confidence, displaying righteousness and Christ's love; the fragrance of Jesus.

The church individually and corporately are the light of the world, and wherever the light shines the darkness is exposed. Jesus taught...

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16)

Although the unseen rulers and powers are involved in a spiritual battle against the church they will not prevail against the church of the Kingdom.

Although the church is 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.

Instead, the church walks in the love of Christ that He has placed in their hearts. They even love their enemies.

The church may find itself wrestling against spirits that are dominating men; demonic spirits that have no bodies so seek bodies in which to function and so 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 armoury. None of these things are necessary to it, although all of men's 'little kingdoms' - the counterfeit man-made churches - cannot be sustained without them.

The church of the Kingdom does not war according to the flesh, counting on human abilities and resources, but wars according to the Spirit.

Its spiritual 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 carnal and satanic thoughts and evil spirits, in order to prevent men entering the Kingdom of God.

The church of the Kingdom follows and obeys Jesus Christ because it is armed and made capable of punishing all disobedience by its own obedience...

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever our obedience is fulfilled.” (2 Corinthians 10:3-6)

The true church manifests the Kingdom of God. It is a triumphant church...

“Thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.” (2 Corinthians 2:14)

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 marvellous light.” (1 Peter 2:9)

In the church of the Kingdom every believer is a PRIEST and every believer is a SAINT. A saint is a sanctified one, a holy person, separated unto Christ. In the true church there is no mediatorial or clergy-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, and should have no place in the true church. Denominational ‘churches’ propagate a form of Judaistic Christianity. This has no place in the church of the Kingdom.

Christianity based on the pattern of Israel of old is opposed to the Kingdom of God. This is one of the deceptions that prevents many from entering the Kingdom as God desires. Instead of only having Jesus as their Head, their one and only Master, men submit to a mediator in the form of a ‘Pastor’ or ‘Priest’ between them and Jesus, when in reality there should be no such thing.

In looking for a perfect pattern of church in the New Testament we need to take great care, as the early church was still in its infancy, and not yet free of its Jewish traditions.

The church in Corinth already suffered from division and in their midst were those who were drunks and those who were immoral. The early church was far from perfect. Paul wrote of them...

“Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly, mere infants in Christ.” (1 Corinthians 3:1)

They were still babes, and as such they were not spiritual, and so they remained in carnality.

Nevertheless, in God's eyes, they were not lacking in any spiritual gift and were ALL BLAMELESS SAINTS in their standing before Him, because Paul described them as...

“those who had been sanctified in Christ Jesus... not lacking in any gift.” (1 Corinthians 1:2,7&8)

These divisions within the body of Christ continue today, with many remaining as babes in Christ, walking like mere men. Paul rebuked the whole Church in Corinth for their divisions...

“Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, ‘I am of Paul,’ and ‘I am of Apollos,’ and ‘I am of Cephas,’ and ‘I am of Christ.’ Has Christ been divided?” (1 Corinthians 1:12-13a)

How much more would Paul rebuke those today who say, “I am a Baptist,” or “I am a Methodist,” or “I am a Pentecostal,” or whatever name defines their particular denomination, group or sect?

Because so many remain in infancy, never acknowledging the Holy Spirit as their Teacher, they do not grow in the knowledge of Christ. Their minds are not renewed by the Spirit and they retain worldly thinking instead of aspiring to have the mind of Christ. Their minds remain set on the flesh rather than the Spirit and so fellowship in the spirit is lost or greatly impaired.

We are called, “not to be conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the RENEWING OF OUR MINDS, that we may prove what is the will of God, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” (see Romans 12:2)

Regarding being a level brotherhood, Paul was 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.

We need to understand that although some brothers or sisters may have a particular gifting, they are not by virtue of this set over their brethren.

Those brothers with a God-given gifting, those who are gifts to the church, such as an apostle, a prophet, an evangelist, a shepherd or teacher, are set IN the body, not over it.

“What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave *opportunity* to each one. I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.” (1 Corinthians 3:5-7)

“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, or things present or things to come; all things belong to you, and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.” (1 Corinthians 3:21-23)

We must always remember that the true church is a level brotherhood; a brotherhood of equals.

In Christ each saint is made righteous and holy, yet so many have been denied the “word of righteousness”, which is the milk of the word that they might grow thereby.

Instead, new believers are taught the concepts of man and their man-made traditions, and not pointed to the Teacher, the Holy Spirit who is now in them. So it is, many still think of themselves as sinners and not as saints, and have no comprehension of their standing before God in Christ.

Satan is the creator of the chains that hold many in bondage, and he has cleverly created a form of ‘Judaistic Christianity’ as part of his strategy of deception, to bind and overcome the church so as to prevent her walking in Christ’s victory.

We see in her infancy, the church of the New Testament had yet to receive the revelation that they were no longer under the Law or the

requirements of the Old Covenant. They had to learn that they were set free from their Judaistic past, and to continue to walk in them would be a snare; a deception to prevent them walking in the freedom of Christ and pressing on to maturity.

We see that the church at Jerusalem continued to KEEP THE LAW OF MOSES AND TO OFFER SACRIFICES IN THE JEWISH TEMPLE, not realising that THE OLD COVENANT WAS OBSOLETE.

Several years AFTER the resurrection of Jesus, the Jewish believers in Jerusalem were still struggling to understand the gospel of grace, despite the fact that the twelve apostles were the founding members of the church at Jerusalem.

The things which were ordained by God for Israel of old, are no longer to be part of the church, and clinging to these things stands in the way of a true walk in the Spirit. It is impossible to see the Kingdom, and walk by the Spirit, whilst we cling to buildings that we still call 'temples', or 'houses of God', trying to fulfil the Law by works of the flesh, and in the process still retaining a priesthood to act as our mediators.

CHAPTER 19

THE WAR ON THE SAINTS

“The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.” (1 John 3:8)

From the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, mankind found himself in the domain of Satan. After Adam’s fall, the whole world lay in the power of the evil one. Satan continued to wage war on all mankind until Jesus came to break the power of sin and death and to make the way for man to regain fellowship with God the Father; for man to gain the Kingdom.

“For those who RECEIVE Him, to them He GIVES the right to become children of God, to those who BELIEVE in His Name, who are born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:12-13)

The full victory Jesus won, however, still has to be appropriated by every saint. In salvation our eyes are opened so we can see the Kingdom but we still need to enter!

Jesus came, not only to save us from our sins, but also to give us new life in Himself. This new life, however, that is imparted to us on the day we are born again, has to be fully appropriated by faith for Jesus total victory is manifest in our lives.

Salvation is a free gift. It instantly becomes a present possession. “He that believes on the Son HAS everlasting life.” (John 3:36) In salvation every believer is placed IN CHRIST and is made a king. But like a prince who is born to be king, he has yet to grow in kingliness. Although we have been raised with Christ we have yet to KNOW the power of His resurrection.

IN CHRIST, Christ’s victory is our victory! But we need to KNOW it!

Satan does all he can, therefore, to prevent us KNOWING the reality of our victory IN CHRIST. For 2000 years we have seen this continuing battle against the church, Satan trying to stop us fighting from our place of victory IN CHRIST, trying to prevent the church from entering the Kingdom of God.

Our victory IN CHRIST in this age is a spiritual victory, and the Kingdom reign of God in our lives brings this victory, even when we suffer in the natural. Paul declares...

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?...In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:35,37-39)

Victory is gained by those IN CHRIST who receive a revelation of KNOWING who they are in Him.

Our victory over sin is made complete by us KNOWING our body of sin was dealt with on the cross...

“KNOWING this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.

“Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, KNOWING that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for ALL; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so RECKON yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 6:6-11)

When we KNOW that we have been raised with Christ, and present ourselves to God as alive from the dead, presenting our members as

instruments of righteousness, THEN we are able to be led in triumph IN CHRIST.

So it is, just as Satan opposed Jesus in His earthly walk, he tries to prevent the church from walking in her victory that comes by faith...

“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world, even our FAITH. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.” (1 John 5:4-5)

As this age draws to a close we will see this battle between the Kingdom of God and the Satan reach a climax...

“And the dragon...went off to make war with *those* who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.” (Revelation 12:17)

In this ages final hour it will be given to the beast “to make war with the saints and to overcome them.” (Revelation 13:7) Yet in this battle the saints will still overcome, manifesting the same victory Jesus won in His earthly ministry. In this is...

“the perseverance and faith of the saints.” (Revelation 13:10)

And at that time “all who dwell on the earth will worship the *beast*, everyone whose name has not been written in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.” (Revelation 13:8) As the hearts of men are exposed the good news of the Kingdom of God will be preached by the church, for the “eternal gospel” is to be preached “to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people.” (Revelation 14:6) This brings about the end-time battle and war of the saints, and in the body of Christ...

“the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.” (Revelation 14:12)

In this age the Kingdom of God is to be manifest in and through the church which is the body of Christ, both in their own lives and in the demonstration of its reality to the whole world.

In the coming age, when Jesus returns to the earth with His saints - His church - our rule will be extended to the natural realm as it cannot be now. In the coming age Jesus will reign upon the earth as her King, and we, His church, will reign with Him, bringing forth the reality of the Kingdom of God upon all the nations.

Daniel prophesied of that time...

“...the horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them UNTIL the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was passed in favour of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when THE SAINTS TOOK POSSESSION OF THE KINGDOM.” (Daniel 7:21-22)

This is the war the church is now engaged in, a war that enables them to walk in victory that unfolds in the age to come! A victory that will see all the kingdoms of the earth come under the rule of the saints in Christ. In the coming age the SAINTS RECEIVE THE KINGDOM along with Jesus, and will reign with Him over the whole earth for 1000 years...

“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.” (Daniel 7:27)

Because the war we now fight is spiritual, the war that Satan wages against the Kingdom of God, against God’s sovereignty, His rule and His authority, the BATTLE IS MAINLY INVISIBLE, although it has visible results in our lives.

Satan’s strategy is to attack our minds, a HIDDEN warfare. This battle includes the deceits of the occult, false religions, philosophy, spiritualism, heathen worship, secular humanism, soul power, racism, nationalism, ungodly politics, humanistic education, sickness, and all strategies of the spirit of antichrist to build counterfeits of the true church. Satan endeavours to distract us with theology, doctrinal

arguments and various interpretations of scriptures, and has managed to create man-centred organisations and man-made churches, as well as the more obvious ‘Christian’ cults, to deceive the elect.

Occult practices are usually regarded as our most dangerous enemy, but Satan’s more subtle and hidden method of overpowering the saints is to keep them in chains in the great city of ‘Babylon’.

While men are busy upholding *their* ‘churches’, trying to substantiate their validity and arguing about them, they are still secretly and unknowingly being overcome, for the Kingdom of God is still being denied.

The reality of the spiritual city of Babylon is the outcome of Satan’s concealed war.

Every tradition, every man-made structure, and every Christian organisation which commands a saint’s first loyalty before the Kingdom of God, is Satan’s weapon that he uses to bring paralysis to 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 churches, which are, in reality, ‘little kingdoms’ headed by men and not Jesus.

Within every single church that man has made, the **SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST** secretly holds sway.

ANY ‘CHURCH’ THAT MAKES AGREEMENT ON DOCTRINE THE BASIS OF UNITY IS NOT THE CHURCH OF THE KINGDOM.

ANY ‘CHURCH’ that is built according to a pattern that reflects, promotes, and practices Judaistic Christianity, denies the King, even though it uses Jesus Name.

SPIRITUAL BABYLON IMPRISONS THE SAINTS WITHIN HER WALLS, getting the church to copy the pattern of Israel of old which

rightly had leaders, a hierarchy and a clergy-class of priests, when only certain men could hear the Lord for themselves, all things that should not be so in the church Jesus is building.

ANY 'CHURCH', organisation, or group that gives itself a name is not the church of the Kingdom. To name *our* 'church' effectively places us in Babylon.

ANY LOCAL 'CHURCH' that is named by man, effectively prevents Jesus from being it's head, because its head is the man or men who named it. It is not the church of the Kingdom.

By getting believers to organise, the spirit of antichrist has caused every move of God to be brought to an end, by men organising that which was of God, and so taking from the hands of the Holy Spirit what God had initiated.

In this way the saints remain trapped in Babylon.

This has not prevented God's children within the denominations from increasing in number, however, any less than the Jews who kept their faith and multiplied in their historic Babylonian captivity. But slowly those added to its number are found to be mainly nominal although true believers remain in its midst.

In her captivity the church slowly loses her power, and without Jesus as their only King they lose the ability to REIGN in life.

This war on the saints has at times appeared to have been lost.

It is a matter of history that in her infancy the true church was soon overtaken by the spirits of antichrist that arose among them. The apostle John wrote...

“Just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared. This is how we know it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.” (1 John 2:18-19)

This attack upon the church had progressed so far, even in the time of the apostle John, that we read of him drawing the attention of Gaius to a brother excluding true brethren from their assembly and rejecting truth...

“I wrote something to the church; but Diotrefes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say. For this reason, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words; and not satisfied with this, he himself does not receive the brethren, either, and he forbids those who desire *to do so* and puts *them* out of the church.” (3 John:9-10)

Just as Jesus foretold, Satan would sow tares among the wheat which would need to remain until the time of harvest, the end of the age. They were left, Jesus said, in case the wheat was uprooted by the removal of the tares. Only at the time of harvest, AT THE END OF THE AGE, would the tares be gathered from among the SONS OF THE KINGDOM. Jesus taught...

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’ But he said, ‘No, unless, while you gather up the tares YOU ALSO UPROOT THE WHEAT WITH THEM. Let both grow together UNTIL THE HARVEST, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.”’ (Matthew 13:24-30)

Jesus’ disciples asked Him to explain the parable of the wheat and tares and He answered them...

“He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the Kingdom, but the tares are

the sons of the wicked *one*. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, **THE HARVEST IS THE END OF THE AGE**, and the reapers are the angels. Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will **GATHER OUT OF HIS KINGDOM** all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. **THEN** the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the **KINGDOM** of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” (Matthew 13:36-43)

Only at the end of the age, therefore, does the true church arise, free of tares. Many misplace the timing of this end-time event but it has already been in progress for some years!

Over the centuries some in the church have broken free from Babylon, albeit temporarily and only among the few, before once again Satan was able to bring bondage to the church as men took from the hands of the Holy Spirit what He was doing. Within each move of God men would begin to organise and so prevent the Holy Spirit from leading. The freedom that each move of God would bring, however, albeit temporary, returned lost truths to the church, many truths bought with the price of the blood of the saints.

These battles have not been in vain.

So it is ‘revelation understanding’ of Truth has been spiritually fought for, precept upon precept, by the true saints throughout the ‘church age.’ These victories will yet enable the true church on whom the end of this age has come to ‘see’ and ‘enter’ into the fulness of the Kingdom.

This **WAR** on the saints has taken place in the invisible realm, and remains undiscerned by many. Satan has used the deceptive spiritual city of Babylon to entrap true sons and hold them in captivity there; a city Satan has created to counterfeit the **CITY OF GOD**.

As the end of this age draws to a close the battle against the true church will intensify. It the last battle of the righteous but one they win!

It is at the end of the age that Jesus foretold there would be the final harvest, a “great multitude which no one could count, from every nation, and tribes, and peoples and tongues,” those who come out of the “great tribulation.” In this end-time battle we find the true church’s greatest victory...

“I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and *all* tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches *were* in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb’... These are the ones who come out of the GREAT TRIBULATION, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” (Revelation 7:9&14)

The ‘great tribulation’ is NOT the ‘wrath of God’ as Satan tries to deceive the saints to think. These descriptions are never used interchangeably in scripture. Satan deceives a weak defenceless church into thinking they will have no hard times, but great tribulation will come as the true church stands up to preach the gospel of the Kingdom. Then, persecution will arise, just as Jesus said it would, and great tribulation results as Satan displays great wrath knowing his time is short...

“Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has *only* a short time.” (Revelation 12:12)

The ‘Revelation’ of Jesus Christ, describes the last years of this age, and it tells of the time that will see the destruction of “Babylon the Great”, the harlot who will be made desolate and naked and be burnt up with fire. This is the prophesied fate of the tares but also the time of the victory of the church of the Kingdom. (see Revelation 17:16 and 18:8)

It takes place before Jesus returns and so we know the separation of tares from among the wheat must therefore begin even earlier.

Part of Satan's secret war on the saints has been to deceive men into building the counterfeit city of Babylon, in which all false Christianity is found. The fate of 'Mystery Babylon' is to be destroyed by the beast and the ten horns who will give their authority to him in this final hour!

“For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose...”

“And the ten horns which you saw upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and BURN HER WITH FIRE.” (Revelation 17:17&16)

Before her judgement, those belonging to God, those who are still trapped in Babylon, are **COMMANDED** by the Lord to “**COME OUT OF HER**”.

“And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, My people, that you be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues.” (Revelation 18:4)

The whole church will then be found together in the spiritual city of God, the heavenly Jerusalem, as they become the focus of the last battle of this age.

The whole church will then be found in the Kingdom of God from where they will overcome.

To him who overcomes blessings await...

“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.” (Revelation 2:26-29).

Jesus promises...

“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.” (Revelation 3:12)

The separation of the Harlot and the Bride is already in progress. It is now time for the true saints to appropriate and walk in the victory Jesus has already won! It is time for the good news of the Kingdom of God to be grasped. It is time for Jesus victory to be made manifest in and by the true church.

“Thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.” (2 Corinthians 2:14)

CHAPTER 20

THE BODY OF CHRIST AND THE KINGDOM

The Body of Christ is a spiritual living organism, not an organisation.

It is nevertheless tangible and visible because it is composed of people who we can see and touch.

Every member of Christ's body is connected directly to Jesus, for He is their Head, and we are ONE SPIRIT with Him and with each other.

We cannot decide whether we want to be a member of the body. It is not a matter of an act of our will. We cannot join it and neither can we leave it by an act of will. It is only by new birth that we become a member of the body of Christ.

We are a member only if the Spirit of Christ dwells in us, and...

“If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.” (Romans 8:9)

The life of the body of Christ has been lost because of the divisions that have separated the members of the body of Christ.

If we look at the denominations and sects and think that the organisations themselves are part of the body of Christ, we are mistaken. Within these denominational ‘churches’ are brothers and sisters who are members of the true body of Christ and some who are not. But the institutions themselves are NOT THE BODY OF CHRIST.

Each institution is in reality a faction commanding loyalty to its own doctrine, organisation, constitution, traditions and beliefs, which it uses to distinguish and SEPARATE itself and its members from others.

These divisions can only exist as long as Christians are not Kingdom minded, and so give their allegiance to the denominations thinking they are giving their allegiance to Jesus.

These visible and paralysing divisions prevent the saints from manifesting the Kingdom of God in their lives and they hinder the true church from reigning corporately upon the earth.

The behaviour of a true child of God, or their ignorance, does not change their RELATIONSHIP to their Father, but it does spoil their fellowship with Him, and it does estrange them from their brethren.

The child born of the will of God remains His child, EVEN IN BABYLON.

So, despite the divisions that exist, God sees the body of Christ as ONE BODY. He says it is ONE BODY and we need to see the body of Christ the way God sees it.

Every saint 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, and they might not be willing to acknowledge each other, but they are still one, because they have ALL been baptised INTO ONE BODY...

“For by one Spirit we were ALL baptised into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were ALL made to drink of one Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:13)

We need to discern the body of Christ. We need to pray for our unity.

Because of our divisions Paul’s exhortations to the early church still apply. We are to seek to walk in a manner worthy of our calling with which we have been called and...

“With all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance to one another in love,” we are to be “diligent to preserve the UNITY OF THE SPIRIT in the bond of peace. *There is ONE BODY and ONE SPIRIT*, just as also you were called in ONE HOPE of your calling.” (Ephesians 4:1-4)

Although the enemy has managed to divide the body...

“God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.” (1 Corinthians 12:18)

...AS REGARDS THEIR FUNCTION. The evangelist is still the evangelist, and the one with a teaching or pastoral gifting is still a teacher or one who helps shepherd the flock. But it is not God who has not placed them in the denominations.

Although we may not yet see the manifestation of ‘one body’, we nevertheless are ‘one’ for we were made one in Christ. So we need to repent of our divisions and seek the unity of the Spirit. Our role is to preserve this unity of the Spirit although our unity of the faith eludes us.

We need to discern that God joins us to PEOPLE but not to denominations or organisations.

We should not try to choose those people to whom we would like to be closely related, but let God decide this.

We must learn to see who God has connected us to.

We can only be closely joined to a small number. Those we are closest to must have access to us and we to them, and there must be ongoing communication as the Lord leads. We have to recognise who these brothers are who the Lord has linked us to, perhaps by having the same revelation of the Holy Spirit, or the practical realities of our life situations. They will be people with whom we have continuing fellowship. Thus the church becomes a corporate reality.

But our “fellowship” is to be with all our brothers in the Lord. It does not only mean attending the same meetings, or even living in the same place. It is possible to do these things and have no real fellowship - no true ‘koinonia’. And in this modern day we can communicate over long distances.

The Greek word, ‘koinonia’, means ‘fellowship’ or ‘communion’, a sharing in the deepest sense with God and with our fellow brothers

and sisters, a sharing of our lives in the New Covenant we are all part of in Christ Jesus.

The apostle John wrote that our fellowship - our 'koinonia' - is only possible if we walk in the Light and abide in the Light. John wrote...

“What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have FELLOWSHIP with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete. This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have FELLOWSHIP with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have FELLOWSHIP with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.” (1 John 1:3-7)

As we walk as Jesus walked we will have true fellowship with one another...

“If there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any FELLOWSHIP of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.” (Philippians 2:1-2)

Man-made church structures and their traditional understandings of church relationships endeavour to create fellowship by formal agreements and promises, but true 'koinonia' only comes from our right relationship with the Lord. In an attempt to create true fellowship it might be discussed, studied in scripture, and preached about, but in practice there is no reality if we do not walk in the Light.

Within 'Babylon' one qualifies for membership of her institutions by agreeing with the doctrinal statement of a particular 'church.' One then remains in good standing by attending meetings, submitting to their hierarchical structures and giving money to perpetuate the system. Money is the life blood of the Harlot.

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 fulfil all these qualifications for 'church membership' and yet NOT BE A MEMBER OF CHRIST'S BODY!

TRUE BODY LIFE only exists when we are joined in 'fellowship' to Jesus and to each other by the BONDS OF THE NEW COVENANT established in the blood of Christ.

Jesus prayed for us, asking His Father...

“Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.

“I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; THAT THEY ALL MAY BE ONE; even as You, Father, *are* in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

“The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, THAT THEY MAY BE ONE, JUST AS WE ARE ONE; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.” (John 17:17-23)

Being IN CHRIST we are brought into the New Covenant relationship with God and one another. We are to both recognise and walk in this God-given unity of the Spirit.

No pledge, vow, or extra-covenant promise, should be added to the relationship we already have as brothers by virtue of the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

Except for the marriage covenant between a husband and wife, we should not enter into any other covenant with anyone in some vain endeavour to improve our relationship them. All covenants create spiritual walls in that they exclude those who are not party to them. In

this way 'church memberships' create spiritual walls between the one true body. Rather than bringing unity they create division.

The Lord Jesus Christ commands us to love one another as He has loved us...

“A new commandment I give to you, that you LOVE ONE ANOTHER, EVEN AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 3:34-35)

We are not to substitute formulas and patterns to be copied and walked in by our own efforts, for our love for one another only comes by walking in the Spirit.

Our walk in the Spirit brings about obedience from the heart. Men make oaths when Jesus says...

“Let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ be ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.” (Matthew 5:37)

So we must let Jesus join the members of His body together, as He is the Builder of His Church, placing His “lively stones” where He chooses.

We are lively, living stones, not dead, and not permanently fixed in place as we see in the organisations of men.

True life in the body of Christ flows only from our union with Christ Jesus. It is a spiritual union that transcends every natural relationship between people.

The body of Christ, being made up of believers who are joined to Christ, are joined to each other by and in the Holy Spirit.

JESUS SEES US AS HIS OWN FLESH BECAUSE WE ARE MEMBERS OF HIS BODY. For this reason He nourishes and cherishes us...

“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 reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined 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. (Ephesians 5:28-32)

It is only **THE LIFE OF GOD**, truly functioning in our lives that enables the body of Christ to walk in the will of God.

When a believer has developed a personal love relationship with Jesus, in loving submission to Him, becoming His disciple, then that disciple will love **ALL** other disciples.

It is by love that we **MAINTAIN** the unity of the Spirit Jesus has already given us, the **LOVING SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP TO GOD AND TO EACH OTHER** which is already ours **IN CHRIST...**

“By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35)

Without obedience to the King, we cannot have this Kingdom reality.

Without the Kingdom we cannot experience and enjoy correct relationships within the body of Christ.

Jesus lovingly awaits our 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 *REVERENT* FEAR OF GOD.” (Ephesians 5:15-21)

CHAPTER 21

THE KINGDOM HOW?

The first word of the gospel of the Kingdom is REPENT.

Repentance involves giving up all our own viewpoints and our arguments with God. It involves repenting from dead works.

REPENTANCE IS TURNING FROM SELF TO GOD.

To repent means to change our minds, to change the way we think, and to change the way we live.

Repentance is not just a once-and-for-all thing, but it has to create a CONTINUOUS ATTITUDE which allows God to transform us and to lead us by His Holy Spirit.

This book has been about the need to repent of our man-made attempts to build the church that only Jesus can build. This book has endeavoured to highlight the areas where men's attempts to build are not according to scripture. Repentance is then a necessary step to enable us to enter the Kingdom, and for the Kingdom to become a personal and corporate reality.

Many have been so bound by the traditions of a man-made Judaistic form of Christianity that they struggle to conceive of the proper functioning of Christ's body, or of fellowship outside the existing structures of men's 'churches.'

As we have seen there is to be no fixed organisation or hierarchy, but only the reality of being part of the level brotherhood that the true church should be, to enable every member to walk and be led by the Spirit that allows full fellowship with God and with one another...

“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the Lord of hosts.” (Zechariah 4:6)

As we seek how to 'be' the church corporately it is most important that we don't seek a 'form' or 'pattern' that we begin to follow in place of the Spirit.

We are not that we are to just to come out of Babylon but we are to come out unto Jesus.

It is true that how we walk will comply with scripture, but in this we must make sure it is the Holy Spirit who enables us to interpret the scriptures aright.

The spiritual relationship that God has given us to Himself, and to each other, through Jesus Christ, is everything we need for fellowship and function as His body.

We are to let Jesus truly lead us and as He does we will find a unity that is not found within men's denominations.

Those within man-built denominations find it hard to comprehend a life walked in the Spirit because they are so accustomed to the fixed structure of Babylon. They are afraid of the simplicity and freedom of life in the Spirit. They rather desire that which they can see and touch and so turn from a walk by faith. But we are to walk by faith and not by sight. (see 2 Corinthians 5:7) And we are to walk by the Spirit...

“If we live by the Spirit let us walk by the Spirit.” (Galatians 5:25)

Walking in the Spirit does not prevent us arranging corporate activity but makes sure it has Jesus in the midst.

To achieve this we must hear the voice of the Lord both individually and corporately. We find the will of God in the unity of the whole church.

We need to take great care that we are not caught up in our own ideas.

And we need to take care not to be dominated by any brother.

It is true that we are to assemble ourselves together...

“...not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:25)

We may gather for corporate prayer, praise and worship, BUT this must be led by the Spirit.

We must gather in Jesus Name, acknowledging Him as our Head and seeking to be led by Him. We need to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit, letting Him guide us in all we do. So often our traditions and fixed mindsets can become a hinderance that prevents the Holy Spirit working in our midst.

Jesus is to have preeminence in all things. He is our King, and we need to let Him rule.

We need to take care that nothing stands in the way of this reality. KING JESUS MUST BE CENTRAL IN ALL THINGS. AND THE HOLY SPIRIT MUST BE ACKNOWLEDGED AS HIS ACTIVE AGENT OF THE NEW COVENANT, THE UNIFYING ONE, THE ONE LEADING, THROUGH WHOM JESUS CAN REIGN WITHIN.

As the church has Jesus as her King, her Head, being individually and corporately led by the Spirit, she will show forth the reality of the Kingdom of God.

We need to recognise the dilemma that faced the church of Jerusalem in the first century is still facing so many today.

After Pentecost, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the disciples did not fully understand the reality of New Covenant life in the Spirit. They clung to the temple, the priests, the Law, and their traditions.

So it was that God used the Roman armies under Titus to destroy the temple, and Jerusalem was sacked in A.D. 70.

Today, it is still the Spirit-led life that the church must be careful to seek and walk in. In the same way that a lack of understanding prevented the early church from walking in the Spirit, but instead

clung to its traditions and forms, we are to have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying. The Holy Spirit has at all times to be acknowledged as our Teacher and we must encourage all to walk in this New Covenant reality.

We are to be intent on one purpose, but to do this we must understand the plan and purpose of God and how He is bringing this about. As we approach the end of the age this becomes of ever increasing importance. Understanding what is the Father's will can only be imparted by the Holy Spirit.

In the church of the Kingdom there is no methodology, no formula we follow in place of the Spirit. What has been thought of as being 'normal Christian life' has fallen far short of that which is taught in the scriptures. We are called, therefore, to become Jesus disciples and begin to enter the Kingdom.

Like raising children, no two children are alike, so there is no rigid method that is applicable to every child. In the natural we only learn general principles of 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 practicing of it - by walking in the Spirit - is learned by PROCESS - being doers of the Word, not brought forth by works, but by the Spirit.

Every one of us is made in the image of God and is a UNIQUE, godlike person. When speaking of this Jesus pointed the Jews to Scripture...

“You are gods, and all of you are sons of the Most High.” (John 10:34-36 and Psalm 82:6)

We cannot put God in a box built by ‘our’ theology. Likewise we cannot take God’s sons and put them into a particular mould in order to produce disciples. Such methodology only makes them disciples of men. Each son of the Kingdom is ‘a god’, unique and made in the image of God and must be accepted and recognised as such. None are to be ‘our’ disciples but have to become disciples of the Lord Jesus Himself. Those who help shepherd the flock of God must ensure that Jesus is indeed their Shepherd.

When we are born again, the Holy Spirit is more than able to teach each of us directly by communicating with our own spirits to which He has become united. But He must be acknowledged as our Teacher even when receiving teaching from others, for it is He who witnesses to truth and warns us of error. The apostle John wrote...

“As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.” (1 John 2:27)

Although it is the Holy Spirit within who teaches us, we must discern His voice when He speaks through others.

We are not to be an island and we must submit to one another. Just as we received the word of salvation through others, yet it was the Holy Spirit who spoke to our hearts, so we must be ready for the Lord to use others to bring us truth and revelation. Nevertheless, we are to receive only that which the THE HOLY SPIRIT witnesses to, THAT WHICH PRODUCES LIFE, that which flows from the river of life...

“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)

All the Spirit within bears witness to will agree with scripture, for the scriptures were written by men moved by the Holy Spirit. Jesus IS the “Word of God”...

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.” (John 1:1-2)

...so when the scriptures become alive and are no longer the dead letter, they become to us the ‘Word of God’ which is indeed alive...

“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.” (Hebrews 4:12-13)

We see from this scripture the make up of man. Made in God’s image, we are triune beings, our inner man being our spirit. In addition to our spirit, we have a soul which is the seat of our mind, will and emotions - and we live in a body. Paul speaks of this reality...

“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray to God that your whole SPIRIT and SOUL and BODY be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

Paul also speaks of us being “strengthened with power through His spirit in the INNER MAN,” (see Ephesians 3:16) and of our “INNER MAN being renewed day by day.” (see 2 Corinthians 4:16)

The wonderful reality we receive when we are born again, is that our spirits, our INNER MAN, is once more able to commune with God. We are also separated from our flesh by a circumcision not made with hands, so that the Spirit of God may dwell in our mortal bodies and be joined to our spirits, uncontaminated by the flesh and the sins that we might commit. Paul explained...

“In Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ.” (Colossians 2:11)

Our new life in Christ is therefore a spiritual walk, learning and living out what is pleasing to the Lord, walking in the works He has prepared for us to walk in - by His Spirit...

“For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10)

No longer are we to do things FOR the Lord but walk in those deeds He leads us to do.

When we are born of the Spirit, as new born babes, we are to “desire the sincere milk of the word,” for this is how we grow spiritually in understanding and a knowledge of our Lord and Saviour. (see 1 Peter 2:2) It is as we grow that we are trained to discern good and evil. (see Hebrews 5:14)

As we learn our Teacher, the Holy Spirit, does not demand from us what we cannot understand. Our spiritual age is known to our Father. Like a human father, God does not expect from a 2 year-old infant what He would require of an older child. At times He will take us by the hand. At other times He allows us to walk in faith, seemingly by ourselves. But He is always there.

As we look to the Holy Spirit, He may teach each of us in different ways yet His purpose is the same; to have each true son grow to maturity.

Along the way God demands the same holiness in all, our sanctification, yet our Heavenly Father extends grace to each of His UNIQUE children, not to condone sin, but to make the way to be cleansed from all unrighteousness if we fall.

Disciples of the Kingdom first practice the teachings of the King in their immediate circumstances. Within their own 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.

As we learn to walk in the Kingdom there is forgiveness if we stumble...

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

Through the study of the scriptures or learning from others, handling accurately the word of truth we learn HOW TO LIVE the New Covenant life, lived in the power the Spirit.

Out of our own obedience to the teachings of Christ, IN THE reality of our IMMEDIATE DAILY RELATIONSHIPS, we learn as Jesus’ disciples.

When a husband and wife SUBMIT to the King and SUBMIT TO EACH OTHER, the Kingdom of God becomes a reality in their home. Their children are trained by their example and taught about the One who they will need to also choose as their Saviour.

In the Kingdom, fathers and mothers are responsible to teach their own children about the Lord. Within the family, discipleship is learned. It is a responsibility of every parent to train their children in the way they should go, according to the proverb...

“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6)

The members of the body of Christ are not to be alone but joined to other disciples. We cannot say to a brother, “I have no need of you.” We are called to operate as a body. A body with Jesus as our Head. So disciples are joined BY THE LORD to other members of the body of Christ and He places the members of His body according to HIS WILL.

We must see, therefore, who God has sent into our lives and who He joins us to.

Those who have aligned themselves exclusively with one denominational church have hindered Jesus in the building of HIS CHURCH. Jesus must now be allowed to build as He desires.

Very often Jesus joins us to those we would never choose! As in all things, we must submit to the Holy Spirit and let Him do the leading.

There are to be no men called “leaders” in the church, but there will at different times be ‘ones leading’, as they are themselves led by our only Leader, the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are to acknowledge the elders in our midst who will help the whole church listen to the Spirit.

God provides elders to teach and guide the younger ones, BUT these should in no way control or act as superiors. No brother should take a title or assume a position over their brethren. No elder brother should take Jesus’ place as Leader, but rather help all to be truly led by Him. Elders are never to carry the title of ‘leader’ but are to be recognised only as the ‘ones leading’ as they in turn are being led by the Lord.

Many bible versions wrongly translate ‘those leading’ with the word ‘leader’. The only place where scripture uses the word ‘leader’ is where it tells us not to be one!

It is true that we are to obey ‘those leading’, BUT not by way of submission to authority but by following the example of those who care for our lives (souls). This obedience is not by virtue of submission to authority but resulting from persuasion, a persuasion of the truth that results in faith. (see the definition of ‘obey’ in Vines dictionary of Bible Words.)

‘Those leading’ will most often be elders. As in any large family there are older brothers who lead the younger by example, passing on to their younger siblings that which they have learnt from their parents. An elder in the true church that is walking in the reality of the Kingdom, will be one who have themselves been taught by the Holy Spirit. Their faith will have been tested through various trials, for the testing of our faith is more precious than gold. In this way we learn to

be an overcomer in life, learning to know God's ways, having 'gone before.' Such as these, the Lord will use to help others.

Those who 'lead' in the Kingdom of God are not 'leaders who hold a position', but 'ones leading' who themselves are being led by the only Leader, who is Christ.

We see that within Babylon, 'leadership' operates by means of positions created by having differing levels of authority. In the body of Christ, Jesus said that no brother should exercise authority over another brother. **THERE IS TO BE NO AUTHORITY BY VIRTUE OF POSITION WITHIN THE BODY OF CHRIST...**

"Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and *their* great men exercise authority over them. **IT IS NOT THIS WAY 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; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:25-28)

In the body of Christ those who 'lead' are like lead sheep who themselves are only following the Shepherd. They are not above the flock but part of it. They exercise no authority except their words might carry authority if coming from the King. Those who are lead sheep are true servants and as such they 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. They are not sheep dogs!

Those who help Jesus shepherd the flock must do this by the Spirit, not by exercising any form of control.

In Babylon, those at the top give orders, which are passed down a descending chain of command, and fear of authority often makes many submit.

In the body of Christ it is not to be this way, but men have built *their* hierarchical structures in disobedience to Jesus' teaching. In the true

church, ALL ARE BROTHERS, part of a level brotherhood. This is what Jesus clearly taught...

“Do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, AND YOU ARE ALL BROTHERS. Do not call *anyone* on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. DO NOT BE CALLED LEADERS; for One is your Leader, *that is*, Christ. But the greatest among you shall be your servant.” (Matthew 23:8-11)

Some denominations, that have sought to be a level brotherhood, have unwittingly denied the function of the Holy Spirit as Teacher and Guide. By so doing, like all other denominations, they seek mental assent and intellectual agreement to interpretations of the scriptures. Our level brotherhood has to have Christ Jesus leading all by His Spirit.

In the denominations, and para-church organisations, built by men, authority is exercised by appealing to the power of ‘office’ and position. Outwith the body of Christ there is nothing wrong with this. Israel of old had such an authority structure. The angelic realm is built on such, and these were ordained by God. But in the true church Jesus said it is NOT to be this way.

Instead we are to be led by the Lord. Our desire must be to submit to our King voluntarily, because of our love for Him. The Lord leads us by His Spirit and He is as gentle as a dove and never dominates or orders us around.

Within Babylon, submission is based not only on the authority that is integral to its structure, but is also based on fear. In the Kingdom all is to be done in LOVE.

Jesus is our perfect example. Jesus did not say, “I am the King, therefore you must keep My commandments.” Jesus said...

“If you love Me, keep My commandments.” (John 14:15)

And Jesus explained...

“You are My friends if you do everything I tell you.” (John 15:14)

Any authority exercised within the body of Christ is that which comes from God by His Spirit. The authority of the apostle Paul was that of the Spirit through His calling in the Lord. If others recognised it, then it was effective. If they refused him, then he would not enforce it. They had to hear the Holy Spirit themselves in what Paul taught and spoke. He could only be an apostle to those who received him as an apostle.

Paul was used by the Lord to help establish the churches in Asia (see Acts 19), yet later they rejected him, (see 2 Timothy 1:15) and so he withdrew gently, as the Holy Spirit will do from our resistance.

Every member of the “body” must, therefore, hear the voice of their Shepherd for themselves. And all can do this because Jesus said...

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” (John 10:27)

Younger disciples may be nurtured and trained by older brothers and sisters but must always be encouraged to hear God for themselves. In this way they can go on to maturity with no limitation coming from those from whom they are taught. A disciple is not greater than his master so Jesus must be the only Master of us all.

So it is, the body of Christ grows as we pass on to faithful men who will in turn pass on to faithful men, each disciple helping others to hear the Lord for themselves and be taught as His disciples. Lessons which may have taken years for a brother to learn can in this way be passed on to others far more quickly than they might have been originally learnt. It is in this way the end-time church will grow quickly, having profited from hard won truths that past saints have learnt and walked in, sometimes at great cost.

Paul told Timothy...

“The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (2 Timothy 2:2)

In Babylon, the clergy are always shepherds and the laity are always sheep, perpetuating the continuing childhood of believers, or continuing submission by their proselytes.

This is why even hierarchical structures that seem beneficial and loving are not right.

In Babylon, a ‘ministry’, even a rightful one, becomes an office, and the office bears authority. In Babylon, one with a pastoral gifting may become a “Pastor”. This should not be so.

In Babylon, men give names to *their* ministries! In the true Church all is done in Jesus’ Name. The true church has no name over it but His.

Spiritual authority in the New Jerusalem is diametrically opposed to worldly authority, that which has been replicated by Babylon, where the members of its ‘churches’ having been subtly deceived into organising and creating hierarchical systems and structures which restrict and preclude the Kingdom of God.

In the New Jerusalem there are NO OFFICES and NO POSITIONS. All ministries are simply FUNCTIONS IN THE BODY OF CHRIST, and it is in the functioning of our God-given ministry that Jesus’ authority is revealed.

In the true church, with no hierarchy, only the anointing from God produces the GIFTS OF THE RISEN CHRIST, the individual functions as described in scripture...

“He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature ^lwhich belongs to the fullness of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-13)

“We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly*: if prophecy, according to the

proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.” (Romans 12:6-8)

“Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to dumb idols. Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, ‘Jesus be cursed,’ and no one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit.

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.

“All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He distributes them to each one, just as He determines. Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.” (1 Corinthians 12:1-12)

In the body of Christ all are fellow priests; holy brethren who should be taught by the Holy Spirit so that *our* differing ideas and varying doctrines are rectified as He leads us into ALL Truth, bringing us to a oneness of mind and purpose.

We are to acknowledge that all who have been born again of the Spirit, and who have become partakers of the New Covenant, are in covenant relationship with one another.

To refuse to share the Lord's Table with any other believer, except one who persists in sinning and refuses correction, so as to keep the leaven of sin from the lump, is **OPPOSED TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD** which works by love.

Any **DENOMINATIONAL TABLE** is not really **THE LORD'S TABLE** at all, and often one shared with unbelievers!

In the church of the Kingdom of God, the children of God are called to function in voluntary submission to each other out of a loving family relationship. All are to desire to serve, rather than be served. All are to recognise the functions of other members of the body of Christ, each one operating under the headship of Christ to the benefit of one another. We each need the gifting of our brother or sister and...

“We are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.” (Ephesians 4:14-16)

Paul, moved by the Holy Spirit wrote, “Until we **ALL** attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of Man, **TO A MATURE MAN**, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:13)

This is the plan of God for the church in this age, not some vain hope. In Jesus it will be fulfilled. Jesus *will* build *His* church.

CHAPTER 22

THE END OF THE CHURCH AGE - THE FINAL HARVEST

Let us be in no doubt, King Jesus is seated on His throne, and will reign until HE has put all His enemies under His feet.

As this age draws to a close, evil is multiplying and increasingly we see men seeking to be their own means of salvation whilst denying the existence of God. This is not new.

Throughout history, as men have erred, we see the judgements of God as men have tried to build a city for themselves in place of the city of God, men trying to build a tower so as to reach the heavens! In the days of the sons of Noah men said...

“Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *will reach* into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.” (Genesis 11:4)

So the city of Babylon was first built, and men can still be found trying to build its spiritual counterpart today in which the counterfeit form of Christianity is found.

So we see that the Lord is shaking the earth and removing those things which can be shaken, just as He said He would, in order that HIS KINGDOM, which cannot be shaken, may remain...

“See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned *them* on earth, much less *will we escape* who turn away from Him who *warns* from heaven. And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, ‘Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven.’ This *expression*, ‘Yet once more,’ denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we receive a KINGDOM WHICH CANNOT BE SHAKEN, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable

service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire.” (Hebrews 12:25-29)

In the shaking that is coming upon the world men will be able to RECEIVE HIS KINGDOM by way of escape.

The message of the Kingdom remains unchanged. GOD CALLS ALL MEN EVERYWHERE TO REPENT.

God’s desire is still for “all men to be saved.” He...

“...desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all.” (1 Timothy 2:3b-6a)

Opposing this, Satan has done all he can to spoil the church which Jesus came to build, but the strategies of Satan will not prevail.

Although, at the very beginning of the church age, we read that the spirit of antichrist went out from AMONG THEM, (see 1 John 2:19) and that it was from AMONG the elders at Ephesus that savage wolves arose, not sparing the flock, but speaking perverse things drew disciples after themselves, (see Acts 20:29-30) it will not be so at the end of this age. The true church will yet have victory over the spirits of antichrist, AS WELL AS THE ANTICHRIST HIMSELF.

For two thousand years tares sown AMONG the wheat have been seen in that which should have been made up of only the SONS OF THE KINGDOM. The result has been a mixture!

But as the end of the age draws near Jesus said that the tares would be removed from AMONG the wheat and THEN the sons of the Kingdom would shine forth as the “sun in the Kingdom of their Father.” (see Matthew 13:24-30 and Matthew 13:36-43) This is the prophesied victory for the church, a victory not just for a remnant, but for ALL the church...

“Until ALL have attained to a mature man and a unity of the faith.” (see Ephesians 4:13)

Although it has always been the purpose of God for true sons to go on to perfection in every generation, it is only AT THE END OF THIS CHURCH AGE, as the tares are removed from among the wheat, that the true church will no longer be hindered by stumbling blocks and those who commit lawlessness. THEN the righteous will shine brightly, the whole church being led by the Spirit, with ALL being true disciples of Jesus, their Lord and King.

Jesus *WILL BE* King, and He alone *will* direct His Body.

So, THE SPIRIT and the Bride say “COME.”

Will we respond by abandoning spiritual Babylon and stop encouraging and financing its perpetuation?

Will we renounce the sectarian churches and give our loyalty only to the LORD JESUS CHRIST?

Will we come out UNTO the Lord Jesus Christ and be separate?

The call of the Spirit has always been the same...

“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what concord has Christ with Belial? or what part has he that believes with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For YOU ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD; as God has said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Wherefore COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM, and be separate, says the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” (2 Corinthians 6:14-18)

Submission to the King requires us to reject the Babylonian system of clergy and laity and reject any authority that tries to coerce, control or prevent God’s children from being led by the Holy Spirit.

All denominational church structures, synods, executive councils and every hierarchy, as visible manifestations of the city of Babylon, must be rejected and renounced in favour of the King and His Kingdom.

As those who are truly God's children repent of their harlotry and gather UNTO HIM alone, so His Kingdom will be built in their hearts and lives in the foreordained plan and purpose of God, that Jesus "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." (see Ephesians 5:27)

God's purpose for mankind in this age is to bring forth the true church, which is the body of Christ, to maturity in preparation for them to reign with Him in the age to come.

Satan has done all he can to oppose this plan and purpose of God, involving the body of Christ in a spiritual war that affects every disciple of the Kingdom.

As those disciples of the Kingdom have understood and believed that Jesus reigns over all spiritual forces, the Kingdom of God has become a reality in those to whom the gospel of the Kingdom has been preached. This victory Jesus has won must be made manifest in all of His saints that make up the end-time church.

The true church, having been raised with Christ FAR ABOVE ALL AUTHORITY AND POWER AND DOMINION AND EVERY NAME THAT IS NAMED... and knowing GOD HAS PUT ALL THINGS UNDER JESUS FEET AND GIVEN HIM AS HEAD OVER ALL THINGS TO THE CHURCH WHICH IS HIS BODY," (see Ephesians 1:20-23) will manifest and proclaim this victory.

The submission of demons to the authority of true believers is evidence that the Kingdom of God is already come. Just as when Jesus said...

"If it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you." (Matthew 12:28)

And just as Jesus told His first disciples to heal the sick...

“Heal the sick... and tell them, ‘The Kingdom of God has come near to you.’” (Luke 10:9)

...so the church is called to the same ministry.

In Christ the believer has authority to CAST OUT DEMONS. He has authority to bring forth the victory Jesus has won by virtue of ALL THE KING’S ENEMIES BEING PUT UNDER *HIS* FEET.

So, the end-time church will minister as Jesus ministered and overcome just as Jesus overcame the evil one.

Our victory in this age is spiritual, just as it was in Jesus’ ministry, and so the church, even when persecuted, will overcome, because...

“The SALVATION and the POWER and the KINGDOM of God and the AUTHORITY of His Christ will come...” and the church “will overcome the accuser of the brethren because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony and because they will NOT LOVE THEIR LIVES, EVEN UNTO DEATH.” (Revelation 12:10-11)

Even in death we have the victory because Jesus’ has overcome death. It no longer holds a sting. The future for the Triumphant Church in this age is that...

“...in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet, the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall all be changed.” (1 Corinthians 15:52-53)

But first there is the good news of the Kingdom to proclaim and demonstrate. A demonstration in which we are called to love and to bless those who persecute us, and as a result...

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.” (Matthew 5:10)

The domain of darkness will be OVERCOME by the true church displaying JESUS' UNCONDITIONAL LOVE. The light of the true church will be seen in the world's darkest hour before Jesus returns; a time of GREAT TRIBULATION caused by Satan knowing he only has a short time left; a time of distress, Daniel prophesied, "such as never occurred since there was a nation." (Daniel 12:1)

It will be the churches finest hour for this is when...

"Those who have insight - *the church* - will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness - *the church* - like the stars for ever and ever." (Daniel 12:3)

Coming is this wonderful manifestation of the Kingdom of God upon the earth in the true sons of the Kingdom.

And to those who OVERCOME Jesus promises that...

"He who overcomes and he who keeps *JESUS* deeds, to him *Jesus* will give authority over the nations and he shall rule (with Jesus) with a rod of iron." (Revelation 2:26-27)

Through the end-time church will come the offer of God's mercy before the wrath of God is poured out on this last evil generation of this age. Through the church, laying down their lives in love, the good news of the KINGDOM will be preached to all the world as a witness to all the nations. A great harvest will be reaped; a great multitude from every nation, and all tribes, and peoples, and tongues.

For the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. On a day that only the Father knows Jesus will come for His Bride.

Then the wrath of God will be poured out upon the earth in preparation for Jesus return to the earth with His glorified saints of ages past.

God's wrath, foretold by the Old Testament prophets, is the great and awesome 'Day of the Lord'. (see Zephaniah 1:14-18) Let us not be

deceived, the wrath of God is not the great tribulation and the great tribulation is not the wrath of God.

Then in the coming age we will see...

The stone that struck the statue became a great mountain (the Kingdom of God) and FILLED THE WHOLE EARTH.” (Daniel 2:35b)

The coming age will see Jesus come to the earth as Her King, and with Him will come His Bride, clothed “in fine linen, bright and clean: for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.” (see Revelation 19:8) The church will have been clothed in immortality. Then...

“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.” (Daniel 2:44)

On the earth...

“The mountain of the house of the Lord will be established as the chief of the mountains; And all the nations will stream to it. And many people will come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us concerning His ways, and that we may walk in His paths.’ For the law will go forth from Zion, and the WORD OF THE LORD FROM JERUSALEM. (Isaiah 2:2-3)

So it is, the true church is being prepared to reign with Christ upon the earth, a preparation that begins in this age as His Kingdom - His reign - is manifest in and through His church as they appropriate the victory Jesus won through His death and resurrection; a victory that is manifest as we walk by the Spirit and are led by the Spirit. As we enter the Kingdom and bow before Jesus as our King.

In their preparation, the true church has a ministry to declare and show forth, the reality of the Kingdom of God, that others may come in.

This gospel of the KINGDOM is to be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations.

This is their call...

“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.” (Revelation 22:17)

APPENDIX

A DREAM OF TWO HARLOTS

While preparing the final chapter of his book entitled ‘The King and His Kingdom’ Peter Whyte had an unusual dream to which the Lord gave him an interpretation.

Peter dreamed of being tempted by two different harlots. One who was young and innocent looking and appeared to be almost like a daughter. He met her in the course of his normal business; the secretary of a company he called on. She drew affection with no sexual overtones. The other was middle aged, hard and no longer attractive, and she was openly prepared to sell herself to any for the highest price she could get.

When Peter awoke he 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 their bible studies, beautiful services, their preaching, 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 where there 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.”

Peter then received these scriptures:

“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 Sheol. 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 vigour to others, and your years TO THE CRUEL ONE (Satan); lest strangers be filled with your strength, AND YOUR HARD-EARNED GOODS (perhaps in tithes, offerings and misplaced time) 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.” (Proverbs 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.” (Revelation 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.” (Revelation 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.” (Revelation 18:20-24)

TOMMY HICKS VISION

It was on 25th July 1961 that Tommy Hicks received a prophetic vision of the body of Christ and the end-time ministry of the church. Tommy Hicks was well known evangelist at that time, used by the Lord in most amazing ways. Tommy Hick’s went home to be with the Lord many years ago. I personally knew a brother, a personal friend his, who remembered Tommy sharing this vision publicly. This is a transcript of Tommy Hicks telling of this vision and revelation. It is a vision of the end of the age, of the churches finest hour culminating in Jesus coming back for His bride before God pours His wrath out upon the earth. This vision concurs with scripture :-

My message begins, July 25th, about 2.30 in the morning, at Winnipeg, Canada. I had hardly fallen asleep when the vision and the revelation that God gave to me came before me. The vision came three times, exactly in detail, the morning of July 25th, 1961. I was so stirred and so moved by the revelation, that this has changed my complete outlook upon the body of Christ, and upon the last end-time ministry. The greatest thing that the church of Jesus Christ - that has ever been given to the church - lies straight ahead. It is so hard to help

men and women to realise and understand the thing that God is trying to give to His people in the end-time.

As the vision appeared to me, after I was asleep, I suddenly found myself at a great high distance. Where I was, I do not know, but as I was looking down upon the earth - suddenly the whole earth came into view - every nation, every kindred, every tongue came before my sight. From the east and from the west; from the north and the south; and I recognised every country, and many cities that I had been in. And I was almost in fear and trembling as I beheld the sight before me. And at that moment, as the earth came into view, it began to lightning and thunder. As the lightning flashed over the face of the earth, my eyes went downwards. I was facing the north. Suddenly I beheld what looked like a giant - and as I stared and looked at it, I was almost bewildered by the sight. It was so gigantic and so great in stature; his feet seemed to reach to the North Pole and his head to the south; its arms were stretched from sea to sea. I could not even begin to understand whether this was a mountain or whether this be a giant. But as I watched it, I suddenly beheld this great giant, I could see it was struggling for life, to even live. But his body was covered with debris from head to foot; and at times this great giant would move its body and act as though it would even rise up at times. And when it did, thousands of little creatures seemed to run away - hideous looking creatures would run away from this giant - and when he would become calm, they would come back.

All of a sudden this great giant lifted his hand toward the heavens, and then it lifted its other hand; and when it did, these creatures by the thousands seemed to flee way from this giant and go into the darkness, and into the night.

Slowly this great giant began to rise - and as he did, his head and hands went into the clouds. As he arose to his feet he seemed to have cleansed himself from the debris and filth that was upon him, and he began to raise his hands into the heavens as though praising the Lord. And as he raised his hands it was even unto the clouds.

Suddenly, every cloud became silver. The most beautiful silver that I have ever known. As I watched this phenomena, it was so great, I could not even begin to understand what it all meant. I was so stirred as I watched it and cried unto the Lord, and I said, “Oh, Lord, what is the meaning of this?” And it felt as if I was actually in the Spirit and I could feel the presence of the Lord, even as I was asleep.

And from the clouds, suddenly, there came great drops of liquid light raining down upon the mighty giant, and slowly, slowly, this giant began to melt; began to sink, as it were, into the very earth itself. And as he melted, his whole form seemed to have melted upon the face of the earth. And this great rain began to come down; liquid drops of light, as it were, began to flood the very earth itself. And as I watched this giant that seemed to melt, suddenly it became millions of people over the face of the earth. As I beheld the sight before me, people stood up all over the world. They were lifting their hands and they were praising the Lord.

At that very moment there came a great thunder that seemed to roar from the heavens. I turned my eyes toward the heavens and suddenly I saw a figure in white - glistening white - the most glorious thing I have ever seen in all my life. I did not see the face, but somehow I knew that it was the Lord Jesus Christ. And as He stretched forth His hand - as He did - He would stretch forth His hand upon the peoples and the nations of the world, men and women. As He pointed towards them, this liquid light seemed to flow from His hand into this person and a mighty anointing of God came upon them. And those people began to go forth in the Name of the Lord.

I do not know how long I watched. It seemed it went into days and weeks and months, and I beheld Christ as He continued to stretch forth His hand. But there was a tragedy. There were many people, as He stretched forth His hand, that refused the anointing of God, and the call of God. I saw men and women that I knew, people that I felt that certainly they would receive the call of God, but as He stretched forth His hand toward this one, and toward that one, they simply bowed their heads and began to back away. And to each of those who seemed

to bow down and back away, they seemed to go into darkness. Blackness seemed to swallow them everywhere.

I was bewildered as I watched it. But these people that He had anointed - hundreds of thousands of people all over the world - in Africa, Asia, Russia, China, America - all over the world - the anointing of God was upon these people as they went forth in the Name of the Lord. I saw these men and women as they went forth. They were ditch diggers; they were washerwomen; they were rich men; they were poor men. I saw people who were bound with paralysis and sickness, and blindness and deafness. As the Lord stretched forth His hand to give them the anointing, they became well; they became healed, and they went forth.

And this is the miracle of it. This is the glorious miracle of it; those people would stretch forth their hand exactly as the Lord did, and it seemed that there was this same liquid fire that seemed to be in their hand; as they stretched forth their hand they said, "According to my word, be thou made whole."

As these people continued in this mighty end-time ministry, I did not fully realise what it was. And I looked to the Lord and said, "What is the meaning of this?" And He said, "This is that, that I will do in the last days. I will restore all that the cankerworm, the palmerworm, the caterpillar - I will restore all that they have destroyed. 'This, My people in the end-time, shall go forth; as a mighty army they will sweep over the face of the earth.'"

As I was at a great height, I watched these people as they were going to and fro over the face of the earth. Suddenly there was a man in Africa, and in a moment he was transported in the Spirit of God, and perhaps he was in Russia, or China, or America, or some other place, and vice versa; all over the world these people went. And they came through fire and through pestilence and through famine. Neither fire nor persecution - nothing seemed to stop them.

Angry mobs came to them with swords and with guns, and like Jesus, they passed through the multitude and they could not find them. But

they went forth in the Name of the Lord, and everywhere they stretched forth their hand the sick were healed, the blind eyes were opened. There was no long prayer.

And one of the things that seemed - after I had reviewed the vision so many times in my mind; and I thought about it so many times - I never saw a church, and I never saw or heard a denomination; but these people were going in the Name of the Lord of hosts. Hallelujah!

As they marched forward, everything they did as the ministry of Christ, in the end-time. These people were ministering to the multitudes over the face of the earth. Tens of thousands, even millions, seemed to come to the Lord Jesus Christ as these people stood forth and gave the message of the Kingdom - of a coming Kingdom - in this last hour. It was so glorious.

God is going to give to the world a demonstration in this last hour such as the world has never known. These men and women are of all walks of life. Degrees will mean nothing. I saw these workers as they were going forth over the face of the earth. When one would seem to stumble and fall another would come and pick them up. There was no big 'I' and little 'You', but every mountain was brought low and every valley was exalted, and they seemed to have one thing in common; there was divine love that seemed to flow forth from these people as they went together, as they worked together, as they lived together. It was the most glorious thing that I have ever known. Jesus Christ was the theme of their life.

As I watched from the very heaven itself, there were times when great deluges of this liquid light seemed to fall upon great congregations. And that congregation would lift their hands and seemingly praise God for hours and even days as the Spirit of God came upon them. God said, "I will pour My Spirit upon all flesh," and that is exactly the thing that God was doing; and to every man and to every woman that received this power and the anointing of God; the miracles of God - there was no ending to it. And then again, as these people were going about the face of the earth, a great persecution seemed to come from every end of the earth.

Suddenly, there was another loud clap of thunder that seemed to resound around the world, and I heard, again, the voice. The voice seemed to speak, “Now this is My people, this is My beloved bride.” And when the voice spoke, I looked upon the earth and I could see the lakes and the mountains. The graves were opened and people from all over the world; the saints of all ages seemed to be rising. As they rose from the graves, suddenly, all these people came from every direction, and they seemed to be forming again, this gigantic body. As the dead in Christ seemed to be rising first, I could hardly comprehend it. It was so marvellous; it was far beyond anything I could ever dream or think of.

But, as the body suddenly began to form and take shape again, it took shape again in the form of this mighty giant. But this time it was different. It was arrayed in the most beautiful, gorgeous white. Its garments were without spot or wrinkle as the body began to form. And the people of all ages seemed to be gathering into this body, and slowly, slowly, as it began to form up into the heavens, suddenly from the heavens above, the Lord Jesus came - became the Head. And I heard another clap of thunder that said, “This is My beloved Bride in who I have waited. She will come forth, even tried by fire. This is she that I have loved from the beginning of time.”

As I watched, my eyes suddenly turned to the far north and I saw - seemingly destruction - men and women in anguish and crying out, and buildings in destruction. Then I heard again the fourth voice that said, “Now is My wrath being poured forth upon the face of the earth.” From the ends of the whole world the wrath of God seemed to be poured out and it seemed that there were great vials of God’s wrath being poured out upon the face of the earth. I can remember it as though it happened a moment ago. I shook and trembled as I beheld the awful sight of seeing cities, and whole nations, going down to destruction. I could hear the weeping and the wailing. I could hear people crying. They seemed to cry as they went into caves, but the caves and the mountains opened up. They leaped into water, but the water would not drown them. There was nothing that seemingly could

destroy them. They were wanting to take their life but they could not take it.

Then again, I turned my eyes unto the body, arrayed in the beautiful white garment. Slowly, slowly, it began to rise from the earth. As it did, I awoke. I had seen the end-time ministry; the last hour. Again on July 27, at 2.20 in the morning, the same revelation; the same vision, came exactly as it did before.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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