

Glimpses of the Kingdom

9. Praise

Liz Robinson

“This people have I formed for Myself; they shall shew forth My praise” (Isa. 43:21).

THE SCRIPTURES are full of the most exquisite poetry and prose devoted to the praise of the Lord and His Son. Consider how our present meagre efforts will be amplified in the Kingdom, when those of us who have slept in Christ will have risen in the dew of our youth, to be reunited with the dear departed! Singing to the Almighty is a satisfying way of expressing our gratitude and joyfulness, and is well-pleasing to the Father. For “Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised”. “Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what He hath done for my soul”! We will not be able to keep it in!

And the Lord Jesus Christ will surely lead our praise, when he sees us, the travail of his soul: “I will declare Thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise Thee”. “Come before His presence with singing . . . Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name”. “All the kings of the earth shall praise Thee, O LORD, when they hear the words of Thy mouth”. By our High Priest we shall still be offering “the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name”.

There is music which seems inherent to the movements and rhythms of the natural world—it is all there, if only we could interpret it, and hear it as it was meant to be heard. When our Lord is here, will these harmonies be channelled and brought into synchronisation with the New Song that will fill the earth with praise? “Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice . . . then shall the trees of the wood sing out at the presence of the LORD”.

Music and praise are everywhere in the Bible. Think of the singers and musicians David appointed, performing psalms and harmonies, no doubt of great complexity. How much more in the Kingdom will we raise our strengthened voices in eternal paens of praise, playing skilfully as

commanded, perhaps with musical instruments not yet invented! None of us will be out of key, or feeble of voice, we can be sure! “I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD”. None of the famous and gifted composers we enjoy today will be able to hold a candle to the enthralling music that will rise from God’s people and the whole of His creation in His New World!

Therefore “the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away”. “For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands”. With our Saviour, we will cry, “in Thy presence is fulness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore”.

“Sing unto the LORD a new song, and His praise from the end of the earth”. “Let the heaven and earth praise Him, the seas, and every thing that moveth therein”. The expression “new song” occurs nine times in Scripture. Perhaps the new song we sing will be in an entirely new language unknown to man at present. But its newness will be in the harmony, speaking of peace and reconciliation, that ultimate great accord between the Creator and all that He has made. Even the earth itself and plant life will join in song with the heavenly choir. Nothing less would be good enough, or right enough, for the Kingdom! Psalm 148 is the great master plan for teaching creation to sing that new song; the Lord will be praised in the dance, too, and by the glorious, eternal orchestra described in Psalm 150, of which all the instruments are recorded individually (as we shall be), and everything that has breath pays homage to the King of Heaven. “This people have I formed for Myself: they shall shew forth My praise”. “And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia; for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth”.