

Glimpses of the Kingdom

1. Introduction: “Thy kingdom come”

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“Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off” (Isa. 33:17).

TO THINK and talk about the Kingdom is something which we can never do enough. When we consider how much of our day is taken up by the mundane, we need a counterbalance. We pray constantly for the Kingdom to come, and read the well-known Scriptural passages, but the briers and the thorns tend to choke our desire for it; the temptations and the cares of this world become more vivid and real to us than a few beautiful thoughts of where our future lies. We are often too busy delving in the earth, labouring for the meat that perisheth, to look up and see our redemption on the horizon.

We know the Kingdom is most assuredly coming, but it does not always have that precedence in our lives that it should, if we are truly to be ready for the Master’s call. So it is essential to help one another, to focus our thoughts on the treasures of the Word concerning the Kingdom and that shining hope that is the anchor of our souls.

Instead of just tacking “Thy kingdom come” onto the end of our prayers, let us ensure that vital need intrudes into all of our daily life. The Kingdom should be real to us, more real than the holiday we are planning. It ought not to be vague or insubstantial, but we need to work to give it form and colour. It should be as all-consuming, as detailed, and as imminent, as a forthcoming wedding, planned and eagerly anticipated by the bride-to-be. She thinks about it, and daydreams about it, every spare moment of the day; thoughts which assume priority, which crowd out all the irrelevant and the humdrum. She is constantly dwelling upon her husband-to-be, delighting in getting to know him, mourning his delay in coming, planning how she can please him, finding joy in thoughts of how things will be when they are together and what their future will be.

We find that God’s Word has amply provided us with all the evidence we need, when combined with faith, to be able to *see* the King in all his beauty and to *behold* the Land that is “very far off”, but not so far off now as when Isaiah wrote those words! It is not just the well-known prophe-

cies about the Kingdom; there are all the other little hints and foretastes, which are such a delight to discover in so many books of the Bible. Think more about the Kingdom when you do your daily readings, and you will be surprised.

As we read, let us also consider how we can keep our vision of the Kingdom bright in our lives. Think for instance about writing out favourite verses, one each on seven postcards, and displaying a different one each day in your home. Let us exchange ideas such as this for keeping our great hope to the forefront of our thoughts. Talk about it, write to your friends about it, make it a daily exercise, as often as we pray “Thy kingdom come”. Expanding the vistas of our minds to flesh out the image, to particularise the dream, will bring abundant rewards.

This is the start of a series of Kingdom meditations in which we explore some of the Scriptural blueprints that suggest so powerfully what it will be like, that we might comprehend with all the saints what is “the breadth, and length, and depth, and height” of the love of Christ and his Father. It is hoped it will be a four-dimensional spiritual experience, moving over a strange and lovely landscape with the mind’s eye, to see the light, to sense the order and harmony, to feel the power and energy of the New Creation to come. May we have our eyes open to perceive spiritual truths out of God’s pages, to study the beauty and delight of the treasure we have unearthed from the field.

The Lord wants us to know what the future holds; He is a revealer of secrets, He has written to us excellent things in counsels and knowledge that He might make us know the certainty of the words of truth, that our trust might be in Him. We must build up our faith, without which it is impossible to please Him, by dwelling upon the promises, having seen them afar off, and been persuaded of them, and embraced them, holding fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end. May what follows in future issues give enlightenment, courage and consolation to any heart that needs it, to the glory of our Father in heaven, Whose truths these are.