

Glimpses of the Kingdom

8. Health and immortality (2)

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“They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles” (Isa. 40:31). As we are—flesh and blood—we cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. Yet we shall be changed in the

AS LONG AGO as Moses’ time, it was promised that God would take away all sickness from His people. What a time it will be when we are whole, when we are strong, when we are erect, with all pain and weakness a thing of the past! We will be planted by rivers of waters, to bring forth fruit; our leaves shall not wither; there will be no ageing or diminishing of our faculties; whatsoever we do shall prosper; and everything will be well blessed by God. The eyes of the blind will be opened, the ears of the deaf will be unstopped, the lame man will leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing.

Healing will be available for all from the wondrous Tree, whose leaf is for medicine—no more need for doctors once the great Physician is in the earth again! Perhaps the saints will be involved in bringing health to the nations, as the disciples of Jesus were granted to be able to lay their hands on the sick that they would recover.

“His flesh shall be fresher than a child’s: he shall return to the days of his youth”, prophesied Elihu (Job 33:25). God gives power to the faint; and to him that has no might He increases strength. “Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: but they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint”; “They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for He that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall He guide them”.

This is a marvellous picture not only of strength but also of health and vigour. No stopping for rest or refreshment; the saints will be involved in ceaseless activity and industry. Rejuvenation brings beauty, and the Lord Jesus Christ, having been “curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth”, will have received the dew of his youth from the womb of the morning. May we too be granted that comeliness that befits the Bride.

twinkling of an eye, being clothed upon with incorruption and immortality. By eating with his disciples after his resurrection, the Lord Jesus Christ demonstrated that he was still a being of flesh and bones. He could be touched and handled. Surely, therefore, although we will be incapable of dying or decaying, we will be corporeal. We will bear the image of the heavenly, our bodies having been fashioned anew by the Lord of life himself. The risen Christ was manifested to his own in another form, so that they failed to recognise him. Such is the difference between these earthly tabernacles in which we now dwell and the body we shall be granted by our Saviour—a body which will last us for all eternity.

Will we be able to fly in the Kingdom? Angels are said to fly, and the seraphim in Isaiah’s vision had wings. However, our resurrected Lord was able to appear in the midst of his disciples and to disappear again. This may mean that the saints will be able to move throughout the earth by some force within their own control. Perhaps ‘mounting up with wings as eagles’ is a poetic way of expressing this, and this is what Isaiah saw—flying as clouds, and as doves to the windows.

Will we eat and drink? Jesus partook of fish and a honeycomb to demonstrate that he was alive; the angels who visited Abraham ate what he placed before them. However, since only a mortal body needs food to provide energy, doubtless the immortalised saints will not need material food, but will be nourished by the Spirit Word and energised by the presence of the new King.

It was said to Jesus, “Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God” (Lk. 14:15); but our Lord taught that only those who were bidden would taste of his supper. There will be food to look forward to in God’s New World, but it will be a fellowship meal, with each other and with the mortals—a happy continuance of the feast of joy and gladness that we will have enjoyed at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.