

Glimpses of the Kingdom

11. Energy

Liz Robinson

“Awake up, my glory; awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early” (Ps. 57:8).

ALTHOUGH REST and peace will prevail in the Kingdom, logically there must be a massive programme of work to carry out during that time. The supernatural gifts conferred upon the disciples were a foretaste of the age to come, the first-fruits of the Spirit; the full harvest is yet to come in the Kingdom, when there will be a greater outpouring to equip saints for their reign as godly rulers.

In a sense, our fleshly work will have been completed by then. But with mortal nations remaining, and the earth devastated, there will be a stupendous schedule of reclamation and reformation to be undertaken in those post-judgement days. Jesus, our yokefellow, promised us rest from our earthly burden of toil and care, but the noble virtue of labouring for others will find a glorious vindication in the Millennium to come.

This massive, worldwide rebuilding plan will be undertaken beneath the eye of our great Master Builder himself, foreshadowed as he is by Bezaleel and Aholiab, who together diligently carried out their appointed tasks in the sanctuary of old, according to the master plan. God’s purpose requires that this building work should continue even in the balmy atmosphere of the Kingdom, for it will not be finally complete while sin still exists, and until God is all in all.

The Almighty Himself is characterised by energy, as the total creative, sustaining and healing Force of the universe. How many times in Jeremiah do we read of the Lord rising up early and sending prophets to Israel? It is a vivid picture of God vigorously reaching out to His people. Even when the earth is still and at rest, God goes on working, while His Word is full of dynamism, springing up into everlasting life in the believer.

When the work was carried out on the tabernacle, every wise-hearted man came to make all that the Lord had commanded—a tremendous human effort. Those who contributed used their talents willingly in the service of the Lord. What

fellowship they enjoyed, working shoulder to shoulder, sharing their skills and ‘best practices’! Their labours were ratified and blessed by the appearance of the glory of the Lord, as ours surely will be.

Just as members of the early Church were blessed with differing gifts, according to the grace that was given to them, whether prophesying, ministering, teaching, exhorting or ruling, so will we employ our various talents in the new order. Although we will be strengthened and vitalised beyond measure in our immortal forms, we may still have our own individual experiences and skills to be put to good use in our dealings with the mortal population. In the Kingdom we will have been prepared unto every good work by our experiences now, vessels unto honour, sanctified and meet for the Master’s use.

When the apostles were sent forth to preach, Christ told them he would be working with them. We too will have the inestimable privilege of being fellow-workers with God. The lively stones that Paul described will still be developing God’s spiritual habitation; but, as before, it is ultimately the Lord Who builds the house for His Name.

Think of the Bride and Bridegroom, eagerly working together in the Kingdom, and enjoying the tasks they share. “Come, my beloved . . . Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine flourish, whether the tender grape appear, and the pomegranates bud forth” (Song 7:11,12). The new King and his Queen rise up early, sallying forth into the midst of their people, inspecting the spiritual growth of the New Age. The vine has many branches after the purging, and the Tree of Life bears a multitudinous crop. The Bride has worked diligently in the days of her preparation, and at last is given of the fruit of her hands, while her own works praise her in the gates.

Such is the supremely active role reserved for the saints to share, carrying out the commandments of the Almighty perfectly, as now the angels do, and continuing to labour until the time that the great work is finally concluded and God’s glory fills the earth as the waters cover the sea.