

# Glimpses of the Kingdom

## 5. Obedience

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*“And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear Me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them” (Jer. 32:39).*

**W**E SPEAK ABOUT the peace and righteousness that will prevail in the Kingdom, but the overriding characteristic of that age, never seen since Eden, will surely be harmony with the Creator. This is what the Voice in the wilderness cried about, when the rough places would be made plain, and the King’s highway to Zion would be straight. His law will go forth from the house of the Lord; His will shall be done in earth. Imagine—walking in ways that please Him, knowing His commandments and obeying them, having them written on our hearts! What we always strove for, but never achieved in the days of our mortality, will now be a reality, when we are endued with the Divine nature that ensures true concord with our Maker.

We are instructed by our loving Father for our good, even as He chastens us. Man was given free will, but chose to listen to the serpent’s reasoning rather than to the One Who made him, and was exiled from Paradise. The Scriptures are a record of God’s strivings with man, as He forms a people that will respond to Him, yearning for us to comply with what He has laid down for our eternal welfare.

Noah was the only one to obey in a world that was only evil continually. He received a covering, by way of pitch upon the ark, as Adam had been granted an animal skin. The rainbow signified the pact between the Maker of the universe and the preacher of righteousness, and any of his progeny who would admit their sinfulness and inability to redeem themselves from perishing.

The eight souls saved from, and yet by, water demonstrated the concept of a remnant—only a few would ever believe; the majority would not. In the Kingdom, when righteousness prevails, the faithful will no longer be a minority, set apart, but mortals will be converted and form God’s innumerable family. The good and faithful stewards, who gave their fellow servants their meat in due season, will be made rulers over the Lord’s household.

The deliverance from Egypt was the parable of redemption *par excellence*—God bringing Israel out to bring them in. He would take them to Himself for a people, and would be to them a God. They would be a peculiar treasure unto Him above all people, and the wilderness journeyings were to prove them, whether they would walk in His ways or no. The pillar of cloud and fire gave assurance of His continuing presence and protection, but He suffered them to hunger, to do them good at their latter end.

So it would be with all who would enter into His commonwealth—the exceeding great reward for obedience far surpassing any earthly trial, showing that it was belief and faith that would mark out one of God’s people, not accident of birth. The promise was not of a remnant, but of an entire nation made up of priests, a holy race who would bring pleasure to Him through their worship, reflecting His glory through eternity. Everything man needed to know about his destiny in God’s purpose, and how to achieve it, was carefully delineated in His holy Word, and Joshua was commanded, “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth” (Josh. 1:8). But lasting salvation came through the Word made flesh, the one who was Son of man and Son of God, who would by his death reconcile a wayward creation to his Father. Through his ministrations, we aspire to perfection, returning unto the Shepherd and the Bishop of our souls.

And the Almighty, Who once descended upon Sinai in fire and earthquake, would at last come down from heaven to be with His Son and his multitudinous bride, in the ultimate harmony and unity of thought and purpose when the earth is subdued and cleansed. “I will have respect unto you”, He had promised, “and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish My covenant with you . . . And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be My people” (Lev. 26:9,12). The veil would be done away with, our oneness with God needing no constraints. Truth would be absolute, all commandments redundant. Nothing but blessings, consequent on being right with our Maker at last.