

# Glimpses of the Kingdom

## 10. Peace and rest

Liz Robinson

*“For he that is entered into His rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from His” (Heb. 4:10).*

THE THIRD blessing the Creator conferred was on the seventh day, the sabbath. God’s ‘rest’ from the work of Creation indicated that there would be a time of fulfilment, completion and refreshing in the Kingdom to come—not a mere cessation of activity, but a time to look back and reflect; to cease from striving; to see an end to the long, agonising war between flesh and spirit. For the mortal population that fight will go on; but for the saints there will have come the sabbath rest promised to the people of God: a time of reward, vindication and consummation of all the Promises and all our hopes; the blessed calm after the great day of wrath; the final reconciliation between the progeny of Abraham, Jews and Gentiles; the glorious coming together of the Bridegroom and his longing Bride; and, ultimately, the harmony of our Maker dwelling amongst His people.

God did not *need* to rest and be refreshed on that seventh day; He was demonstrating, for all mankind, the sabbath rest to look forward to. Yet His people would have to *labour* to enter into that rest, actively, not passively. It would be achieved only by diligently observing the Divine statutes. Wisdom was promised, but only those who hearkened unto her would dwell safely and be quiet from fear of evil. Therefore let our hearts keep her commandments: for length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add unto us.

Had not the angels prophesied peace on earth when they hailed the birth of the Son who would be the salvation of all men of goodwill? The Lord said that he came to bring dissent between members of the same family, and fire upon the earth, not peace such as the world knew it. The peace he promised us was rest unto our souls, the comforting knowledge that the Saviour would not break our bruised reed or quench our smoking flax, the abiding hope of being redeemed from the power of the grave, the freedom that only truth can afford, a peace unrelated to adversity

or affliction. Let us mark this perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace. Only the

second advent of the King of Peace can convert violent men’s hearts so that they beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Abraham was promised the Land, David the throne, but Moses was told, “My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee *rest*” (Ex. 33:14)—the Almighty, a very present help, was with him, as with Joshua, whithersoever he went, and would not forsake him. Moses had been shown God’s glory, but God’s continuing presence was also an assurance of that future age, that exceeding great reward, that everlasting inheritance, when the whole earth would be subdued, and *full* of glory. Rest after labour; freedom after servitude; peace after warfare; a Land after wanderings; deliverance from the shadow of death; a still, small voice after the earthquake and fire; a place which the Lord God had chosen, to cause His Name to dwell there. And the heir of the world prays, “I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for Thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety” (Ps. 4:8). The great Shepherd-King has gathered all his sheep, the blessed of their Father, securely within the fold, and the Bishop of their souls is with them. “When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet” (Prov. 3:24).

Absolute peace is assured in the Kingdom because the Ruler of God’s New World has true dominion, and knows all men’s hearts. “And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever. And My people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting-places” (Isa. 32:17,18). The Shepherd-King will feed them with a good pasture; there shall they lie down in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel. They shall dwell safely, and none shall make them afraid.