# Kingdom Hascome

And the wolf will dwell with the lamb ... the calf and the young lion and the fatling together ... they will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain



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## **Ruth ELTON**



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All references to God, the Lord Jesus Christ and His Kingdom are in title case. Heaven, when used in reference to God's Kingdom & government is also rendered in title case.

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## Foreword

HIS book is not something I conceived on my own neither is it the result of much personal study on the subject of the Kingdom of God. The thoughts that crystallised into this book came to me by inspiration; it was as though the Holy Spirit was instructing me on what to write and to make known.

I must admit that some of these thoughts surprised even myself, as I had never seen things in that light before now. These insights however brought clarity to certain areas of scripture that I had previously not understood and had not been able to fit together.

I suddenly realised so strongly that when thinking of our glorious future as believers, we should do away with the mindset of leaving this earth and going to heaven; rather we are to think in terms of the Kingdom of Heaven coming to take residence on earth. We are to work towards that and prepare ourselves for our position in the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. Foreword - The Kingdom Has Come

The latter part of this writing, concerning the great celebration to be held all over the world and by all creation, enthrals me anytime I think of it - and it seems to grow in splendour: the worship of the King of kings. May this writing bless you and prepare you for the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven to earth.

Ruth Elton August 2012

#### **CHAPTER ONE**

## Your Kingdom Come

Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. (Matt 6:10)

HIS scripture forms part of what we know as *"The Lord's Prayer"* and it has been prayed by Believers and church-goers of many churches all over the world, for about two thousand years, right up to this day.

This part of the Lord's Prayer is the first request in the prayer taught by the Lord Jesus Christ, the Saviour who had come to do the great work of redeeming man and creation back to what God had originally intended. He, Jesus, is the One who will be the great King of kings in that Kingdom.

"Your Kingdom come (to earth), your will be done <u>on earth</u> as it is in heaven" — so the Lord Jesus taught His disciples to pray. Please take note of my emphasis on the fact that the focus of the Lord's Prayer is to bring back the Kingdom to the earth and

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for things to be conducted on earth the way they are being done in heaven.

After teaching His disciples this great prayer sequence, Jesus the King went on to live His life on earth, doing things that would bring the answer to this prayer into the lives of people on earth at that time. He lived His life teaching, instructing and demonstrating with actions, what Kingdom life was meant to be on earth.

And Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the Kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. (Matt. 4:23)

After a few years of this, He had to go through the sacrifice of redemption, which began at Gethsemane. He then went through the agonies of His trial and judgment onto His death on a cross. He even descended to the deep and dark places of hell before rising again from the dead (Eph. 4:9-10). He rose triumphantly from the dead, met His disciples and taught them for forty days about <u>the Kingdom</u>.

After His suffering, He showed Himself to these men and gave them many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the Kingdom of God. (Acts 1:3)

Teaching them about the Kingdom, the Lord gave them other commandments, concerning how to do the work for the coming of the Kingdom. He told them to *"go and make disciples of all nations*," teaching them to obey everything that He had commanded them — commandments of the Kingdom (Matt. 28:19-20).

We also read His commission in Mark 16:15 — "Go and preach the good news to all creation" — because all creation is part of the Kingdom.

After teaching and instructing them about the work to be done, He ascended up to heaven right from among them; they saw Him go up (Acts 1:9). While they were still looking upwards, obviously in a state of bewilderment, two men stood beside them on earth and told them, *"This same Jesus ... will come back in the same way you have seen Him go"* (Acts 1:11).

The Lord Jesus had also told them that He would send them the Holy Spirit and power, promised by His Father, to do the work; and they are to wait and receive that power to do the work for the Kingdom that was coming and for His return as the King of kings.

So, having seen Jesus go, they returned to Jerusalem, to wait for the promise of the Holy Spirit and the power for preaching the Good News — not only in Judea and Samaria, but even to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

#### THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Gathering in Jerusalem, the disciples prayed and waited till the great Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came down and filled them in a wonderful way with wonderful results - as we read of in the second chapter of the book of the Acts of the Apostles.

This was the beginning of what has been going on till today; the beginning of the operations of the Church of Jesus Christ, His Body working on earth. They were filled with the Holy Spirit from heaven and worked great miracles just as He had told them earlier.

From that time till now, believers have been doing the work of preaching the gospel to the nations; however, the work is still uncompleted. Believers have been praying for the Kingdom to come, but it has not come yet. The Church has been expecting the return of the Lord Jesus the King but He has not come yet. These two great events which were promised and are being prayed for have not come to pass: the Kingdom has not yet come and Jesus the King has not yet come back to this earth.

#### THE COMING OF THE KING

Since the birth of the Church on the Day of Pentecost, the return of the Lord Jesus has been taught often and it is an event that is seriously expected by many believers, including, of course, those who saw Him ascend to heaven.

The Apostle Paul spoke much about this in his writings. In I Thess. 4:13-18, Paul comforted believers who were grieving for some of their brethren who had died. He told them that these deceased saints will come back with the Lord who will come down from heaven, with a loud command, the voice of an archangel and the trumpet call of God; then those still on earth would be caught up to the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so all will be with the Lord forever.

In Matthew 24:30-31, Jesus Himself spoke of His coming and the gathering together of the "elect" or "saints". He said the sign of the Son of man will appear in the sky and all nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of man coming in the clouds with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather His elect from the four winds (the north, south, east, west of the earth), and also from one end of heaven to the other.

From "one end of heaven" to the other refers to those who have passed on and have been in one of the wonderful places beyond.

Paul also speaks of this great event in I Cor. 15:51-52, saying that we are not all going to die, but we shall all be changed in a moment, at the last trumpet, because the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised and we shall be changed; we shall be no more of this world but active citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven. Note that in this I Cor. 15:51-52, Paul speaks of the <u>last</u> trumpet; obviously there were other trumpets before this last trumpet. The simple question that comes to mind is what, where and when is this last trumpet?

#### THELASTTRUMPET

In the Revelation given to him concerning the end-times, the Apostle John was shown angels with seven trumpets (Rev. 8:2). The first six trumpets sounded and brought all kinds of events and troubles on the earth – as Jesus foretold in Matthew 24. And we are seeing many of these taking place in the world today. Then in Rev. 11:15, following the blowing of the seventh trumpet, an announcement is made:

The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: <u>the kingdom of the world has</u> <u>become the Kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He</u> <u>will reign for ever and ever.</u> (Rev. 11:15)

The seventh and last trumpet heralded the coming of the Kingdom of our God onto the earth; and from that time onward, His reign on earth will not cease forever.

#### THE KINGDOM HAS COME!

#### **CHAPTER TWO**

## THE GREAT MAJESTIC APPEARING

They were looking intently up into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky?" This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven. (Acts 1:10-11)

N the scripture passage above, the disciples were told by the angels that this Jesus will come back *"as you have seen him go."* But a more vivid and majestic description of the coming of the King is given in the nineteenth chapter of Revelation where it tells of the coming of the King of kings and Lord of lords:

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice He judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on Him that no one knows but He Himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and His name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following Him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of His mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron sceptre." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On His robe and on His thigh He has this name written: KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. (Rev. 19:11-16)

What an awesome sight this is! He will be riding a white horse in great majesty and following Him are His armies of heaven — as mentioned in Matt. 24:31 and other scriptures we have seen earlier.

He will have great power of eyes and mouth — "a tongue as sharp as a sword" — as never known by man before. He will have a great name, highly revered throughout all the earth, which is a fulfilment of the Lord's Prayer in Matt. 6:9 -"Hallowed be your name." His robes are dipped in blood and on His head are many crowns!

The armies following Him are also riding horses and dressed in white robes of holiness, because they have gone through special preparations with some purging. The King and His armies have come to do battle and establish the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.



Then this earth and all its inhabitants will witness the greatest happenings that have ever taken place on earth since Gen. 1:1. The King of kings and His armies will face the enemy of Gen. 3:1 — the devil and all his armies. In this historic battle, things will take place that have never been seen in any "man-made" war on earth. We read of this in Rev. 19:17-21.

And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great." Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies, gathered together to make war against the Rider on the horse, and His army. But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshipped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulphur. The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh. (Rev. 19:17-21)

Of course, the King of kings and His armies are the conquerors — Hallelujah! The enemy, Satan and all his armies will be defeated. The earthly, human part of Satan's army will be put to death and fiery destruction, together with the devil's angels and all evil spirits (vs. 19-21) but the devil himself will not yet be put to his final destruction.

#### THE DEVIL BOUND FOR 1000 YEARS

In Rev. 20:1-3, we read that an angel, who has the keys of the Abyss, (the bottomless pit) will come down from heaven with a great chain, and will capture the devil, chain him, and lock him up in the Abyss for a thousand years. During this period, the devil will not be free to carry out evil anywhere on earth. How wonderful! The King and His government will take over the whole world and reign.

The Kingdom has come.

#### THE KING ENTHRONED

The LORD swore an oath to David, a sure oath that He will not revoke: One of your own descendants I will place on your throne For the LORD has chosen Zion, He has desired it for His dwelling: This is my resting place for ever and ever; here I will sit enthroned, for I have desired it. (Psa. 132:11,13-14)

When the King returns, the headquarters of His Kingdom on earth will be in Jerusalem, the city chosen and blessed by God. This is the city of King David in the Bible — the city still in

dispute in the world today. When the Kingdom comes, one of David's "sons" by earthly lineage, will be on a great throne there. He is Jesus, "Son of David," King of kings.

When the King of the whole world is enthroned, reigning in Jerusalem, delegations from all over the whole world will come and pay homage to the King of kings.

And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles (Zech. 14:16)

When Jesus the King came to earth the first time, He was born quietly as a baby by the Virgin Mary, in a stable, the backyard of an inn. Though the host of heaven rejoiced, only a few people on earth knew what was really happening. A few shepherds from the fields outside Bethlehem and some kings from some far away eastern country whose hearts were open to God — so God honoured them. However, when the King comes the second time, it will be a glorious and majestic appearing and all of creation will be overawed by the event.

He who was with God in the beginning; He by whom all things were created, will bring back the Kingdom of Heaven to earth, as it once was before the fall of Adam. He will vanquish all evil and all opposition; He will clear them all away and take up His position on the throne in Jerusalem. All mankind will then come and see; they will pay homage to the King enthroned, then will return to their home lands all around the world to live a new life — a life of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

When the Kingdom fully comes, oh what a wonderful place this earth will be! It will again become what God meant it to be in Eden — and much more, for the glory of the latter house is always greater than the former!

And this time around, there is no devil lurking around to spoil things. There will be peace on earth — peace will be established. And all peoples on earth will recognize the King, whether they are Christians in this present world or otherwise.

Very interestingly, I discovered that the Muslim Quran also states that Jesus — Anabi Isa, as they know Him — will come back again. So when He comes, I believe that many Muslims will joyfully accept Him as King and will become His subjects in His Kingdom.

Similarly, I believe some adherents of other religions such as Hindus, Buddhists and so on will also accept Him. What of Atheists who do not believe in any god? When they see the King Jesus in His awesome glory and majestic splendour, (for those of them who have not been captured by the devil and who survived the various plagues of divine judgment) will they not accept Him?



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Unlike His first advent when He gave mankind the option to either accept or reject Him, this time around, all of mankind has no option but to accept Him as the King of all the nations on earth, for He comes this time with a rod of iron! And all who bow their knee in allegiance and swear loyalty to Him will become subjects of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

The Kingdom has come.

#### **CHAPTER THREE**

## The Government under the King

S we have discussed earlier, the King, the sovereign Ruler of the whole earth, will be enthroned in Jerusalem; and from there, He will superintend over the Kingdom government which will cover every country and every tribe in the entire world.

How will He do this? I can imagine that in every tribe, there will be a special place, a special "capital city," where there is a throne for the King. It is likely that from time to time, Jesus the King will visit every country and every tribe. What great times of celebration that will be, when the King comes to sit on the throne prepared for Him in that tribe!

But when the King is not visiting, His throne may be a special place used to accommodate the person who has qualified and been appointed by the King in Jerusalem, to reign as king of that tribe under the King of kings.

The throne will be the throne of His majesty, Jesus Christ the

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King, but there will be those who have qualified to sit on the King's throne, so they will be seated on thrones in different tribes all around the world and so take their part in governance under the King of kings.

<u>I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been</u> <u>given authority to judge.</u> And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. <u>They came to life and reigned with</u> <u>Christ a thousand years.</u> (Rev. 20:4)

#### KINGDOM GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES

This Kingdom government will be made up of those people who have accepted Jesus as Saviour and Lord of their lives on earth, and in their lives on earth, they have been trained and tested, and have qualified for their appointed positions and tasks in the Kingdom government on earth.

In their lives on earth, they had learnt Kingdom laws, and lived by them; they had faced all the temptations of sin and attacks of the devil and did not fall — so they are the overcomer company that we read about in the second and third chapters of the book of Revelation. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on His throne. (Rev. 3:21).

They will sit on the throne of Jesus the King in their various countries or tribes, thereby taking part in the government of the Kingdom, under the King of kings.

They will be "dressed in white" (Rev. 3:5,18; 19:8,14). This seems to be some significant "uniform" of governmental authority and position, earned by their living the Kingdom life, obeying the Kingdom laws and rules while on earth, before the Kingdom materialised on earth.

Now they will take up the positions they have qualified for in the government, under the King. They will be in touch with Him in Jerusalem at all times, administering His rule all around the world in every nation and tribe.

#### **EVERYNATION, EVERYTRIBE**

This is one reason this Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations (tribes) before the end comes (Matt. 24:14). This is what King Jesus said must be done. The gospel must be preached in every tribe so that in every tribe there will be people who have had the opportunity to believe and to be trained and qualified to take part in the Kingdom government of their own people. So the Church has

the responsibility to see that the gospel is preached to all tribes under heaven.

But it is possible that in some countries or some tribes, the gospel has not been preached well enough, or maybe no one has responded quickly enough to go through the necessary training and to pass the tests to get the qualifications for kingship in their tribes. It may be that even if there is <u>one</u> qualified to be king, there are not enough people of the tribe who have got qualifications to take positions of authority and Kingdom government of that tribe. This is where truly qualified disciples in other countries and in other tribes will take up positions of Kingdom authority on behalf of the King in Jerusalem.

#### **QUALIFIED FOR KINGSHIP**

In this situation, where there are no enough qualified persons in a tribe, the missionaries who left their own countries to go to preach the gospel to that tribe will probably be the ones who will take up the positions of government there, under the King of kings in Jerusalem.

Many of those early missionaries like Hudson Taylor who went to China; David Livingstone who went deep into the then dark Africa; Mary Slessor of Calabar, Nigeria — and many others who came from and went to different parts of the world — will fall into this category. The same for those who have left their homes and families and have gone to another tribe in their own countries to preach the gospel of the Kingdom.

In this, some missionaries have given their whole lives to live and work far away from their homes and some have died without seeing the result they expected; but they have been trained and qualified. Such will take up this position in the Kingdom government over the nation for which they gave their lives.

The Holy Spirit spoke through King David concerning this in Psa. 2:8. David was king of Israel, but the Spirit spoke through him to believers yet to be born. God said, *"Ask of me and I will make the nations* (the heathen) *your inheritance, and the ends of the earth*, (the faraway places) *your possessions."* 

Remember those who have qualified down through the ages and have passed on to rest; remember Noah and the great things he did for creation under God's command; there was Abraham, the friend of God; Isaac, Jacob, and that great man — Moses — who spoke with God face to face (Exo. 33:11) and led a whole nation across the wilderness using a single rod. Think of Joshua and the judges; and then we come to the mighty kings of Israel — David, Solomon, Hezekiah and so on. What about the great prophets like Elijah, Elisha and many more — all looking to the future.

Coming into the New Testament, we have the Apostles: Peter, Paul and others, who ministered in the Ekklesia, the Body of Christ, through her formative years. Since then, there have been so many in the history records as well as some who we have never heard of. There are men like Martin Luther, John & Charles Wesley and others down the centuries.

Coming nearer our own time, evangelists like Billy Graham and T.L. Osborn — just to mention a few out of so many all round the world (but God knows them all), readily come to mind; and they have been trained to take part in Kingdom government when the Kingdom comes.

These persons, some men some women, have lived and qualified to take part in the first Resurrection that Paul was working for, and spoke about in Phil. 3:10-11. Those who have passed on beyond this world will hear the trumpet we are told of in I Cor. 15:52, I Thess. 4:16 and Matt. 24:31. These scriptures tell us that those who have qualified and are still on earth will also hear the trumpet — and so a great company, from earth and from beyond, will join together under the King of kings to set up the government of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

#### **ESTABLISHING THE KINGDOM**

When the Kingdom is established, Kingdom laws will be enacted and will control all that is taking place on earth. All activities will be according to Kingdom laws and ways of living. Everything about life on earth will change; Kingdom laws must be taught and obeyed. At first, this will not be easy for all mankind who have been used to their own way of life.

Sin and its consequent effects must be totally kept under control, but may not be totally removed. Sickness must be kept under control. There will be divine health, but ill-health can result from definitely disobeying Kingdom laws. So many unlawful habits or behaviour which people indulge in at this present life must now be changed.

This will need Kingdom officials to teach, check and supervise the lives and behaviour of all Kingdom citizens and all people, bringing correction when necessary. The children of the time will have to be taught Kingdom rules and behaviour of heaven on earth, under the King of kings.

Good food for good health will have to be taught, including changes in diet. Hygiene and sanitation will be strictly kept and enforced, and will most likely be very much different from what is currently being practiced in the world today.

Agriculture will be perfected, a big subject that started with Adam and has been practiced all round the world, but not with the results that were in the Garden of Eden, will be taught in the Kingdom.



So many ways of living, working, playing and resting will be changed from the inferior ways they have fallen into, to the superior Kingdom ways that God planned for man.

There are so many "subjects" that will need "teachers" and "instructors" — kingdom officials in the government of the Kingdom, to see that the Kingdom is firmly established in the lives of people of the nations of the world.

So the government of the Kingdom is going to be extensive. Those in the government must be perfect in what they have learnt. They will keep all laws themselves and will have authority to enforce them, or take immediate action where there is any disobedience.

#### **CHAPTER FOUR**

### QUALIFYING FOR THE THRONE

ET us again consider those who will be in this Kingdom government under the King; is it not His Body - the Ekklesia? The members of the Body of Christ will take their places under the Head, to rule the world with Him, the world He redeemed by the blood of His sacrifice. The fulfilment, the purpose for which the King was born, for which He lived on this earth, then went through all the sufferings of the cross and death, then rose again triumphant, now His body takes part with Him in the great fulfilment!

What a glorious culmination! What a great privilege for those who have been elected and have qualified to be part of the Body of Christ the King.

#### **CONSIDER YOUR POSITION**

Take note believer, church attendee on earth now, what is your condition? What is your position? What are you going through now? What is your experience?

You are saved, so you are not going to hell — that is the most important, essential and basic fact of your life. But what are you experiencing on earth now to prepare you for a position in the Kingdom? Will you be just one of the mass population in the Kingdom of Heaven on earth? Or are you going through experiences, sometimes troubles and difficulties, thus passing or failing tests to qualify you as an official in the Kingdom that is coming?

The King of kings went through unspeakable trials. The writer of Hebrews noted that He learned obedience by the things He suffered (Heb. 5:8). The kings under Him, the officials, the members of the government under Him, must equally go through trials and tests to qualify for their positions.

Probably, this is what the apostle Paul was preparing for in Phil. 3:7-21. The Kingdom did not come literally in Paul's lifetime, but he was a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven (Phil. 3:20). So in his lifetime, Paul strove to pass the tests that would qualify him to take part in the first resurrection. To Paul, nothing on earth mattered, all was worthless. He considered earthly things as rubbish compared with the position he could qualify for in Christ, the coming King of kings.

#### **BASIC FACTS**

Let us look at basic and important facts of life. The most important, basic fact is to be sure that you are actually, without any iota of doubt, a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven. If you are not, then you are in a most fearful situation — for it only means that you belong to the kingdom of Satan, the devil. There are only two spiritual kingdoms: the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of the devil. Every person or spirit in the kingdom of the devil is heading for destruction.

Both John the Baptist, the forerunner, and Jesus Christ, the King Himself, made it plain: "*Repent* (change your heart and life) *because the Kingdom of Heaven is coming soon*" (Matt. 3:2; 4:17—Easy-to-read Version). You must have a definite, determined change of heart and life.

In addition to repentance, you must come to fully realise all that Jesus has done to purchase your salvation; you must believe in Him and accept Him, Jesus Christ the Saviour, to become your own Saviour, Lord and King.

They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved-you and your household." (Acts 16:31)

When you sincerely and genuinely believe and receive Jesus as your Saviour, you then become born again. That means you are now born into the Kingdom of Heaven (John 3:5); you become a citizen of the Kingdom of God. That is your most important action in your life for all eternity.

As important as this is however, it is not all that is required of you to reach the ultimate height in the Kingdom. You must

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realize that how you live your life on earth now, as a Kingdom citizen, will determine your position in the Kingdom of Heaven when it comes to earth. If you do not pass the qualifications needed to take part in the Kingdom government, you may just end up to be one of the kingdom population.

#### **TWO RESURRECTIONS**

(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years. (Rev. 20:5-6)

In this passage, we read of two resurrections. The first resurrection is to take part in that wonderful time of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. Those taking part in this first resurrection would have passed all their tests in their lives on earth and so they will sit on thrones, with authority to judge. They will reign with Christ for 1,000 years. *"Blessed and holy are those who two part in the first resurrection"* (vs. 6a).

The second resurrection is for all mankind to stand before the final judgment of the great white throne, which we will look at later. Not all church goers who have died will qualify to return to earth with the King in the first resurrection, to take part in the government of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. - Chapter 4: Qualifying for the Throne

What of all those lukewarm believers who are still on earth when King Jesus brings the Kingdom? That is a serious question to think of. If they have fallen into the devil's trap, and are living a carefree life, if they are not standing firm and resisting the devil and the world, they may be swept away. But if they have stood firm as believers, though not passing the tests for qualifications, they may remain on earth as the mass population of the Kingdom, though not taking part in the Kingdom government.

#### "CHURCHIANITY" TODAY

Jesus told the Apostle Peter, "I will build my Assembly", but He gave Peter and the disciples the keys of the Kingdom, to put to use on earth with the authority of Heaven (Matt. 16:18-19).

Sad to say, it seems like the devil has taken those words of Jesus, "I will build my Assembly", and put them into the mouths of many men and some women, because, today, we see so many people "building churches" but they themselves may not be given entrance into the Kingdom. Consider the statement made by the Lord Jesus below:

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your

name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' (Matt 7:21-23)

This scripture calls for deep and sober reflections on the part of all, particularly those who are workers in the Lord's vineyard. There are so many "prophets" and miracle workers in the world today who have made church work — "<u>Churchchianity</u>" — a profitable business. But it has no place in the Kingdom of Heaven, and those who practice it may not be given entrance into the Kingdom.

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#### **CHAPTER FIVE**

## Parables told by the King

HEN He was on earth, our Lord, Jesus the King, spoke much about the Kingdom. He spoke in plain language and in parables. He told us how to enter the Kingdom, how to live in the Kingdom and how to work for the Kingdom which would be manifest in the future. Let us consider a few of those parables.

#### THETEN VIRGINS (Matt. 25:1-12)

At that time the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. (vs. 1,2)

This is a parable Jesus told concerning the Kingdom. We must understand that all the ten virgins were citizens of the Kingdom. Unbelievers could not have been waiting for the coming of the Bridegroom.

Five of the virgins had been diligent and done all they should to prepare for the Bridegroom. The other five were not prepared;

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they had been careless with their lives, doing whatever they liked, though "believing" and going to church to "get blessed", but they were not serious about working and preparing for the Kingdom.

So when the announcement was made that the Bridegroom was around, the ten virgins all rose up and trimmed their lamps. It was then that the unprepared five discovered the folly of their ways. They then rushed off to do what they should have done before.

But before they returned, the Bridegroom had appeared and the prepared five had gone in with Him to enjoy the celebrations. When the five foolish virgins got back and knocked the door for entrance, they were told those fearful words: *"I do not know you!"* Though "virgins," the door was shut against them because they were unprepared.

#### THE MASTER GIVES TALENTS (Matt. 25:14-30)

Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. (Vs. 14-15)

This was another parable told by Jesus, the King, about a Master going on a journey. Before he left, he gave talents to his

servants to use while he was away. On his return, the master called his servants "to settle accounts with them" (vs. 19).

The servant, to whom the master had given five talents, had gained five more. This pleased the master who commended him and said he would "put him in charge of many things" (vs. 21). The man, to whom the master had given two talents, likewise gained two more and he too received the same commendation and would be "*put in charge of many things*", just as the first servant.

But the third servant, who had been given one talent, had kept that talent safely, never putting it to use. So when it was his turn to render account of his stewardship, he brought the talent back to the Master — intact. This made the Master furious, and subsequently, that servant was cast into outer darkness where there is wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Now, who are these servants who would be put in charge of many things? Could they be the authorities that would be put in charge of various cities under the King when the Kingdom comes? To find out, we have to go to Luke's account of this same parable.

In Luke 19:11-27, the nobleman, who was about to go on a journey, called his ten servants, gave them a mina each, and told them to *"Put this money to work."* The King James Version says "... Occupy till I come." No one is expected to sit down doing

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nothing but to be up and doing, working and putting to use what has been given to them by the King.

But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We don't want this man to be our king.' He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it. (Vs. 14-15)

When the nobleman returned, he had been crowned king and returned to rule. The servants were then called to render an account of their stewardship.

The first one came and said, "Sir, your mina has earned ten more." "Well done, my good servant!" his master replied. "Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities." The second came and said, "Sir, your mina has earned five more." His master answered, "You take charge of five cities." (vs. 16-19)

Here, we discover that the two who were accounted faithful were <u>put in charge of cities according to their capabilities</u>. The one who had gained ten minas was put in charge of ten cities while the servant who gained five minas was likewise put in charges of five cities.

However, the other servant who had nothing to show even though he had his mina kept safe received judgment from the Master.



CHAPTER 5: PARABLES TOLD BY THE KING

These parables that the Lord Jesus took time to tell concern us as believers — not unbelievers. They show how important our work is now for the Kingdom that is coming. They are parables to show and instruct us from the King's teaching, that when He returns, the true citizens of the Kingdom will be put in positions of authority in the coming Kingdom, according to what they have qualified for. If they have no qualification, they will lose a lot.

Those who have the qualifications required will be put in positions of authority, to be "in charge" of things in the government of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. They will be mandated to reign and govern.

#### **PREPARE NOW**

The Kingdom is coming! The important thing for believers on earth now is to prepare for the coming of the Kingdom. Prepare the way, prepare the world, and take part in this work of preparing the people by going or by sending (with financial help) the gospel of the Kingdom to every nation and every tribe. And prepare yourself in order to qualify for a glorious position in the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

## FACING ETERNITY

As great as the 1,000 years of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth is, it is by no means the end but only the beginning of the R. ELTON | THE KINGDOM HAS COME!

fulfilment of what God intended the world to be under the new race of Adam.

After the 1,000 years of being chained in the Abyss, the devil will be loosed again and will be permitted, once more (for the last time), to go round all the nations of the world. He will do his best to win people to himself again and it is amazing that he will still succeed in causing the fall of so many peoples and nations, as many as his power of deception can deceive. He will win many and they will fall under his domination.

When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth – Gog and Magog – to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. (Rev.20:7-8)

Then will come the final battle of all the ages, between the Kingdom of Heaven and the kingdom of hell, between God and Satan. The devil and men from the nations — foolish men that he succeeded in winning to his side — will gather to face the Great Power of the universe! And out of the heaven will come a great fire and devour the masses (vs. 9). The devil himself will then finally meet his destruction: he will be cast into the burning sulphur; there, together with his associates in rebelling against the Creator who masterminded works of iniquity, on earth, will burn forever and ever. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. (Rev. 20:10)

#### THE GREAT WHITE THRONE

The next event, after Satan with his immediate associates has been thrown into the burning lake, is that great resurrection which will allow for all men and all women, of every nation and every tribe to stand before the great white throne of eternal judgment. We see this in Rev. 20:11. Even some people groups who once lived on earth but are now extinct, like the Philistines of Bible times, or the great Inca people of South America, only to mention two, all will be resurrected to face the Throne of judgement.

This means that all those who have died and gone to the devil's waiting place, known as Hades; those who have died and gone to God's resting place of paradise; as well as all living persons on earth at that time — everyone will stand before God's judgment throne.

Books will be brought — God's books. The most important book will be the Book of Life; it will be full of names. And any person whose name, at that time, is not found written in the Book of Life, has no hope — all is now over. That person, or



multitude of persons, will be thrown into the Lake of fire and sulphur to join the devil therein. This is called the second death.

Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:14–15)

Even death and the place of the devil's hell will be thrown into that Lake of fire, to burn forever and ever — this is the permanent end of all evil. All those people whose names have been found in the Book of Life will remain standing before God; and other books will be opened. Every one of those saved for eternal life will still be judged for eternity, according to their works on earth as recorded in God's books.

## AWONDERFUL ETERNITY

Then God, who created the heavens and the earth in the beginning (Gen. 1:1) and who after man's fall did the work of redemption so that man and earth could once again be what He meant them to be, will create again a new heaven and a new earth! He will not create a new man or new woman but those who were in the Kingdom of Heaven on earth, those whose names have been found in the Book of Life will be the ones to live in these new heavens and new earth with God. CHAPTER 5: PARABLES TOLD BY THE KING

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then He said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." (Rev. 21:3-5)

This will be beyond our imagination! God will dwell with men and they will be His people. No more separation; no crying; no pain; no sorrow; death and all its subsidiaries have all gone. The old order has passed away and the Creator has created all things new.

Thus, God and man will have a wonderful eternity together, in the new heavens for God and the new earth for man, and God will be in all, being God, in the heavens and on earth at the same time. This is the wonderful future eternity for God and His creation.

#### BACKTOTIME

But meanwhile, we must face this present time. The wonderful eternity for God and man is for the future; it is over 1,000 years ahead. Let us look at some little details of what we are facing on R. ELTON | THE KINGDOM HAS COME! -

earth before that wonderful eternity: the answer to the prayer we were taught — "Thy Kingdom come". This is what is coming and this we must prepare for. This is what we shall see in the next chapter.

#### **CHAPTER SIX**

## THE KINGDOM HAS COME: CHANGE!

HE King and His government will come and take over the whole world and establish the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. At this time, there is no devil to roam about; he is totally bound for those 1,000 years. But the colossal mess the devil has made of man and the earth in all the years that has passed since the first creation will have to be "cleared up". So many things will have to be changed and put right.

John the Baptist said, "Change... because the Kingdom of heaven is coming!" (Matt. 3:2) Now it has come with power and authority; so there must be change.

When Jesus the King raised the daughter of Jarius from death which had taken her, she stood up and walked but Jesus told her parents to feed her (Matt. 5:22-43).

After healing the man by the pool of Bethesda, who had been there for 38 years, Jesus told the man to get up and walk; but He



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also instructed him to pick up his mat and clear it away (John 5:1-9).

In John chapter 11, we read of how Jesus called the dead man, Lazarus, back to life after four days in the tomb — how wonderful! But Lazarus was still bound up with burial clothes. Jesus did not miraculously loose those clothes; He told the family and friends to do that job.

Will it not be so, when miraculously the Kingdom of Heaven has come to earth which has been so messed up by man and the devil? What a mess there will be to clear up all around the world.

It will be the qualified officials of the Kingdom of Heaven who will take up this task. The wrong must go; the right will stand; and Kingdom officials will see things put right — it is a big work to be done.

## **TEACH KINGDOM LIVING**

At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. (Matt. 24:30)

In this scripture, those who mourn are unbelievers, noncitizens of the Kingdom of Heaven. What will they know of Kingdom ways and Kingdom laws that must now be kept? In many parts of the world, there are remote places where uncivilized people are living; villages in the mountains of Afghanistan, villages in the jungles of Africa, tribes in South America, places in India, China and so on. We have seen that of every tribe there will be all least one believer, but it is doubtful if the gospel of the Kingdom has been preached in every village.

When the King comes, that miraculous world-wide event, every person in every village, (every eye, according to Rev. 1:7) will see Him. Many will mourn that they have not known Him before but on seeing Him, will accept Him as king.

Those people who have sold themselves to perpetrate the works of the devil would have been wiped out during the seven plagues of judgement and the heavenly invasion that ushers in the return of King Jesus to establish His throne in Jerusalem; the rest of the human population who witness the bodily return of the King in His glory will instantly accept the King by confessing Him as Lord and bowing their knees in allegiance. This will make them to be citizens of the Kingdom; but they will know nothing of the ways of the Kingdom and its laws; and they will have to be taught.

So, when the Kingdom of Heaven is being established on earth, the Kingdom government officials, who have been previously prepared, will be sent out to teach all the laws and rules, then supervise the practice and keeping of those laws.

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Kingdom government personnel will be posted to cities, towns, villages, even hamlets, all over the world, to teach the people of the world the ways and rules of Kingdom living — Kingdom life.

God's mass "Kingdom Army" will go into the vast population of the world, to places where there was previously some other "gods" like Bhuda, or some tribal pagan god, to Islamic territories where they had heard of Anabi Isa; but knew nothing of this majestic King Jesus and His kingdom; to some so-called "Christian countries" where many people have been "going to church" but not following Kingdom ways in their lives; to lands now in super "civilization", where they are educated above believing in spirits or God.

To every place will come a superior person, a representative of the King of kings with the Kingdom officials for that place, to put into practice the ways and teachings of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. It will be as if everything will change to a new divine direction.

## **CHANGETO KINGDOM LIFE**

This was your house and family, now practices in this house and family must change. This was your work — for many, that work will be no more because it was not in accordance with the life of the Kingdom. This was your personal, sinful way of life; it will now have to change. Personal, physical disabilities will change. There will be so much change because so many things taking place in the world today are against Kingdom laws and practices; and the Kingdom has now come.

### **KINGDOMFOOD**

Food is an important thing in life; food will change. In the Garden of Eden, there was plenty of food and Adam was to care for it. Now it will be back to the way things were in Eden. That will make farming to become a very important vocation and many will go into farming, but what and how they "farm" will change.

In some countries especially in Europe, "farming" for many, means caring for animals: cows, pigs, sheep etc to produce meat, milk and other dairy products. In the Kingdom, surely there will be persons whose work is with animals, but meat the flesh of animals — will probably not be eaten. Meat was not eaten in Eden and when the Kingdom of Heaven comes, "*the calf and the lion will live together and a little child will lead them.*" (Isaiah 11:6).

As a matter of fact, the lion, which is definitely a meat-eater at the present time, will *"eat straw like the ox"* for they will *"neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain"* (Isaiah 11:7-9). If this is true of carnivores (flesh-eating animals), what of mankind? R. ELTON | THE KINGDOM HAS COME!

Some vegetation never known before will now be discovered as good food for man. Food will still be grown and most likely cooked, but there will be some better vegetables and better crops.

The King, while on earth some two thousand years ago, cursed a fig tree because it did not produce for Him the food He looked for. When the Kingdom comes, man will still look to vegetation to produce food, but will have authority over them.

Farmers will be important for food needed by man; they will plant and harvest like Adam and will have dominion like Adam. The trees and all plants must produce as they should under man's supervision, otherwise, they will be judged as Jesus judged that fig tree. If there is no rain, the farmers will have the authority to call the clouds to bring rain; there will be no drought. Farms will flourish; food will be plentiful; famine will be a thing of the past.

## **BACKTO EDEN**

Every man will sit under his own vine and under his own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken. (Micah 4:4)

From this scripture, we can see that every man will have his own house and every house will have a garden, most likely a small farm that can provide food for that household and can also serve as a place of leisure and peaceful relaxation. In the Garden of Eden, there was peace, comfort and plenty of food for all. Vegetation was available for man and animals. Animals were at peace with man and with one another.

This Edenic experience of perfect peace and harmony will be restored during the reign of the King. Let us look at the wonderful picture in Isaiah 11:6-9.

The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. (Isa. 11:6-9)

Can you imagine the wolf, the lamb, the leopard, the goat, the calf, the lion, the bear and the little child — all happy together! Presently, there is great hostility between man and wild animals such that if they are seen around, they will be hunted and killed by man, because if left to live, they will kill man!

But when the Kingdom comes, even the cobra and viper, known as deadly snakes now, will be creatures a little child can play with (Isaiah 11:8).

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Animals and humans will be friends together; they will not harm or destroy under the holy Kingdom government, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea (Isa. 11:9, Hab. 2:14).

Note that the <u>earth</u> will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord. This implies that nature and the whole of creation will experience this glorious change.

When King Jesus was on earth, nature, creatures and the elements, recognized Him and obeyed Him. He calmed the storm; He walked on the water, He rode on a young untrained donkey — to mention just a few incidents in which creation recognized the King.

Again, and more so, creation will know when the King comes to <u>reign</u> and His government is established all over the world.

Nature's atmosphere will change. There will be an end to drought, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes and other natural disasters. Instead, there will be warm sunshine, peaceful breeze and gentle rain for the earth and crops. The earth and man with it will enjoy peace, abundance and the beauty and goodness of God's creation.

## SIN AND SICKNESS

Under the 1,000 years of Kingdom government, sin will not yet be totally rooted out but it will be kept under strict control.

Similarly, sickness of the human body will not yet be finished off, but it will be under control. Many sicknesses come from disobeying Kingdom laws; an example is the law of sanitation, as seen in Deut. 23:12-14.

Designate a place outside the camp where you can go to relieve yourself. As part of your equipment have something to dig with, and when you relieve yourself, dig a hole and cover up your excrement. For the Lord your God moves about in your camp to protect you and to deliver your enemies to you. Your camp must be holy, so that he will not see among you anything indecent and turn away from you.

In the world today, these sanitation laws are not strictly kept as they should be and this is what causes so many germs to breed and spread, resulting in serious epidemics and the loss of many lives. So, when these laws are enforced, it will prevent such spreading; the germs will be dealt with and the disease wiped out.

Other disease from viruses will be under control, such as AIDS, which is spread mostly by wrong doing, behaviours against the law. When the law is strictly obeyed, the spread of the disease will be stopped, then the cure will be produced to heal victims and to kill the original virus.

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Once, tuberculosis, TB, killed many people in all parts of the world and there was no cure for it. But now a medical cure for TB has been discovered, and with care, it can be cured. Once, smallpox killed thousands and no treatment was known. Now medical science, (God's knowledge given to man) with care and obedience have wiped out smallpox.

So it will be for other deadly diseases, such as cancer and diabetes. God will show the way for them to be cleared from the earth. Then His laws will be kept and there will be sound health. This is the will of God in the Kingdom of Heaven.

## **KINGDOM PEACE**

He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. (Micah 4:3)

This will be an era of global peace. There will be no more need for nuclear bombs and all modern weapons. Implements of war will then be recycled to produce agricultural machinery, to enhance cultivation and care of fruitful trees. Mankind on earth will live in peace, for —

The Kingdom of Heaven has come!

The Prince of peace has become the King of kings. The

— Chapter 6: The Kingdom has Come: Change!

Kingdom government, with its authorities and departments, has been established. The qualified Kingdom citizens are in their positions and are supervising the activities of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

The Kingdom has come!

#### **CHAPTER SEVEN**

# THE GREAT CELEBRATION

INALLY, in looking at the events that will ensue when the Kingdom comes, we cannot but consider what is surely going to be a great annual celebration. There will be special times, a special occasion, a great celebration of worship, worshipping the King, now enthroned and reigning over the whole world.

Every day and in every house, everybody will worship the King. Probably every week, there will still be the Sabbath that God ordained at man's beginning in Gen. 2:2-3. It is referred to throughout the bible; it is for rest, relaxation and worship. Probably every month (every "moon"), there will be some gathering of people together for Kingdom activities and to worship the King.

But once a year there will be the great annual event — a celebration looked forward to, prepared for, and even enjoyed so much more than any festival we have on earth now; it is the Great Feast of Fulfilment. At that time, when the Kingdom has

come, everything is going to be as God meant it to be, a Man has dominion, and all creation will bow in worship of the King of kings, now on His throne on earth.

### **FEASTS FULFILLED**

Long ago in the days of Moses, God ordained certain feasts for Israel. These feasts had their significance. They reminded the nation of Israel of something and they looked forward to that.

There was the Feast of the Passover when all Israel remembered the sacrifice of the lamb, the power of its blood, and their coming out of the bondage of Egypt.

This Passover feast looked forward to the future, the time when Jesus, the Lamb of God, would be the final sacrifice, shedding His blood to redeem creation.

The Feast of the Passover included the Feast of unleavened bread, which Jesus celebrated before His sacrifice, giving us, till now, our feast of communion with bread and wine, to remember what He had done for us (Matt. 26:17-19; 26-29). The great Passover feast has been fulfilled, though we still remember it.

There was the Feast of Weeks, or first fruits, which became known as Pentecost, when there were great gatherings that we read of in the book of Acts. It was then God sent the Holy Spirit to fill His people, the Ekklesia, the Body of Christ — to

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work on earth. This has been fulfilled and we celebrate and enjoy the results till today.

## THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

But there was one great feast given to Moses, celebrated by the Jews in the days of Jesus and till now, which Jesus the King did not take part in when He was an earth, though His disciples expected Him to. He said that the right time for His celebration of this feast had not yet come (John 7:1-6). This feast was the Feast of Tabernacles.

The Feast of Tabernacles is a feast of great celebration and a climax of all feasts. It is the feast of harvest, when you have gathered in all that you have laboured for, and now you enjoy the results (Deut. 16:13-15).

Tabernacles was a seven-day feast, when all people were to be joyful; men, women, sons, daughters, visitors, servants, and even bereaved widows or orphans — all were to rejoice for seven days. It is the great feast of fulfilment.

Every household was to make leaf shelters outside their houses, and live in them. It would be beautiful and comfortable in the freshness of the leaves. No sun would burn them; at that time, there would be no rain to wet them, no snow or frost to make them cold; insects would not bite them, nor would they fear any snake. Everybody would be in harmony with nature, enjoying

**CHAPTER 7: THE GREAT CELEBRATION** 

the scent and beauty of flowers and knowing fellowship with any animal that came along. It would be like the Garden of Eden before the Fall.

The great Feast of Tabernacles has not yet been fulfilled; it is still to come. But when the whole world is under the sovereignty of the King of kings in Jerusalem, surely that will be the time for its celebration, and the whole world will take part.

We read of it in Zech. 14:9-16. We read that "the LORD will be King all over the earth" (Zech 14:9). Then verse 16: "the survivors from all the nations that were against Jerusalem (or the church) will go up year after year to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.

#### PRESENT DAY CELEBRATION

Nowadays, people from all over the world go on religious "pilgrimages." It is recognised as a big thing, a big event and achievement in someone's life.

People, mostly Christians, do the pilgrimage to Jerusalem; they visit what are termed "holy" or historical places. Photographs are taken of the pilgrims in special places; they buy all kinds of things to bring home as gifts or souvenirs to remember things they have seen in Jerusalem; then they place "J.P" after their names!



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Every year, hundreds of thousands of Moslems from all over the world go on pilgrimage to Mecca. They take part in ceremonies and rites, then take on the title of Alhaji or Hajia as an appellation to their names.

Both of these pilgrimages, and those of other religions in the world, concern hills, rivers, buildings and ceremonies but when the King of the whole earth is in Jerusalem, the great annual pilgrimages people will do will no longer concern sites, places or ceremonies of tradition, but to see, pay homage and worship a Man on a throne, the King of kings.

Apart from pilgrimages, people from all over the world now travel to take part in great events, like Olympic games, sports, or government celebrations of political significance, even important marriages or funerals; masses come and provision has to be made. But this great feast, when the Kingdom of Heaven is established, will be the greatest annual mass gathering of humanity that the world has ever known.

If it was now, in the time of human government, such crowds would be disastrous! What space would contain them? People would be crushed. How about getting enough food and water for this mammoth population? What of accommodation and other conveniences — just to mention a little of the logistical implication of such a huge gathering. But this great celebration, when all creation will worship the King enthroned on earth, will be a heavenly event and the trained authorities of the Kingdom of heaven will have everything under control, executing the plan of the great celebration with order and peace and joy.

#### THE HEAVENLY CELEBRATION

What a great gathering it will be! It is certainly the greatest mass gathering of all humanity to take place on earth! It is an event looked forward to by the whole world!

"Christmas" celebrations will likely be done away with, as well as "New Year" festivities. What is now to be celebrated globally is the Feast of Tabernacles — the Feast of Fulfilment, when the whole world will rejoice for what the Saviour, now King, has accomplished.

In this Kingdom dispensation, "Religion" has passed away! Religion is a system of worshipping God. Christians have their system; Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and others all have different systems that define and regulate how man should behave in worshipping God. All religions have temples, altars, places and rites.

But when the Kingdom of Heaven has come and every eye has seen the King, everyone will worship Him in His way only. Everybody on earth at that time, like it or not, during that 1,000 years of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth, will

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acknowledge and worship Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

## **EXCITED PREPARATIONS**

All mankind around the whole world will look forward to this great "feast." People will come from every country, every city, every town, every village, every hamlet, and maybe from every family.

Not all people can attend though; only representatives. I can imagine the "competition" that will ensue every year within families, tribes and ethnic nationalities in order to choose the representatives to go to the Feast!

Those chosen will prepare — oh what preparation! How they will travel, we can't say now; but it is certain there will be a means of transport in the Kingdom superior to all we know now.

Scientists are now discovering many new things never known in the past. All these new things are not man's inventions as they may seem; they are God allowing man to discover what He has created. These are just the beginning of what is coming when the Kingdom of Heaven is established on earth.

So the delegations will prepare themselves and travel by superior Kingdom means of transport to the great celebration of worshipping the King. **CHAPTER 7: THE GREAT CELEBRATION** 

Those staying at home will also prepare. Their towns will be cleared and probably "decorated" for the event because it is worldwide for everybody! Every compound, every home and every person will prepare for it.

No doubt there will be special clothes to wear for the great occasion! Probably, a special food will be prepared for the feast. Food is eaten and enjoyed on earth, and this is the Kingdom of Heaven on earth! Will the special foods all be prepared on earth or will some special "manna" come down from heaven? These are possibilities to think about but we are told of the hidden manna in Revelation chapter 2:

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it. (Rev.2:17)

#### **CHAPTER EIGHT**

# The Dawn of Worship

HEN the Day will dawn! Imagine it! Far in the east, the first rays of the rising sun, sweeping along at the speed of light. People will be awakened with thrills in their hearts, with songs of joy: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psa. 118:24)

People will rise with songs of praise and the sound will move, rising from country to country; maybe it will be heard coming nearer and nearer till we all wake up and join in!

The time will come when light has dawned everywhere and maybe for the hours of the Feast, no darkness can return!

## THE WORSHIP OF ALL CREATION

Then at God's appointed time, the hour will come for that great world-wide praise and worship. Every other activity will stop. All creation: human, animal, vegetation and even the elements — weather, water bodies and the earth crust — all will be caught up in the spirit to worship the King. CHAPTER 8: THE DAWN OF WORSHIP

Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; (Ps.98:7-8)

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands (Psa. 100:1—KJV)

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it; let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy; (Psa. 96:11-12)

These scriptures talk of creation literally worshipping the Creator. The flowers will shine with some glory we have not seen yet; the birds will sing and animals will somehow lift up their heads with strange new sounds. Indeed, creation will literally join in worshipping the King in His glory and majesty.

All creation will celebrate that the Kingdom has come, the King is enthroned. Psa. 97:1 says, "*The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice...*" (NKJV). Every man, every woman, every child of every language — every living soul will take part in singing, dancing and giving the King worship. A great swirl of worship will go round the whole world.

#### **SOVEREIGN MAJESTY INCARNATE**

In all this, no doubt the birth of the King long ago, born in a stable to lie in a manger will not be forgotten. His crucifixion in

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shame on a cross will be remembered; that was when He redeemed creation now worshipping Him. His overcoming all the powers of hell and His triumphant resurrection from the dead will not be forgotten. But because of all these great events of the past, creation and people will now celebrate not a myth, not just a story they have been told or read of, but a powerful reality — His great Majesty, Jesus the King, enthroned and reigning on earth; the King of kings.

With Kingdom television in operation, all people round the world will see the King on His throne; they will see the thousands and millions, bowing down in worship to the King. With this, there will be the sound of music, not just keyboards, guitars or harps (though these may be there) but also the sound of some superior heavenly musical instruments of the Kingdom of Heaven. Every voice of every creature will blend in harmony in this song of worship; a song of heavenly ecstasy.

## ALL CREATURES ADORE THE CREATOR

In this wonderful heavenly atmosphere on earth, all people on earth will be filled with the experience not known to all before. Moses knew it when he spent 40 days on the mountain with God. Peter, James and John knew it when they beheld Jesus the King in glory on the Mount of transfiguration. Some disciples knew it in the book of Acts, and some disciples since that time right up to this day. CHAPTER 8: THE DAWN OF WORSHIP

The feeling will be of being uplifted and melted by wonder and glory, as they gaze upon Jesus the Saviour who has loved them. They will feel "lost" in wonder, love and praise as they fall facedown in adoration before the King of kings.

The sound will rise from all the earth, "The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea" (Hab. 2:14). The sound will rise from all on earth to the heavens, the stars, and all will join in echoing round the universe; the angels in heaven will join in the worship of the Creator, the King of the universe now enthroned on earth.

His name will be lifted high. The enthralling sound of JESUS, the King of kings and the Lord of lords will fill the earth and the very heavens. This is the glorious fulfilment of all the prophecies written down since ancient times. We sing of it in the hymn:

Let the song go round the earth Jesus Christ is King! With the story of His worth Let the whole world ring! Him creation all adore, Evermore and evermore.

Then will be the fulfilment of what the Apostle Paul spoke of in Phil. 2:9-11:

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Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The promise of the angels to the disciples in Acts 1:11, thus is fulfilled.

Jesus, the King has come back.

The prayer taught long ago, and prayed by thousands of people, for more than two thousand years, finally, has been answered.

The Kingdom has come.

Amen. Halleluyah.

## The Coming Kingdom Outreach (Inc.) P.O. Box 113, Ilesha, Osun State, Nigeria

The Coming Kingdom Outreach (Inc.), formerly World Christian Crusade, started in 1953 by Late Pa S.G. Elton is chaired by Mama Ruth Elton and exists to: "Disciple the Nations for the coming Kingdom" through the various initiatives:

- Embark on Christian evangelistic missions, crusades, revivals, retreats, conventions, conferences and meetings throughout Nigeria and in any part of the world.
- Recruit, train and send out individuals as missionaries to villages, towns and cities in and outside Nigeria.
- Establish, operate and run Christian churches in and outside Nigeria for the effective spiritual growth and discipleship of Christian converts
- Establish operate and run bible schools to train individuals as evangelists, pastors, church workers etc.
- Serve as training centre for health workers, agriculture workers, artisans in various fields
- Publish and distribute Christian literature and other media resources.

#### OTHER BOOKS OF MAMA RUTH ELTON

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An essential feature of the Kingdom age is the great celebration to be held all over the world and by all creation — the worship of the King of kings. May this book inspire you to prepare well for the coming of this Kingdom of everlasting joy and peace.

#### **RUTH ELTON**

HE has been in Nigeria since 1937 when she came with her missionary parents, Pst. & Mrs. S.G. Elton. Since 1959, Ruth has been on the mission field evangelising and planting Gospel Assemblies in many places where there was no church or gospel witness.

She worked for many years - mostly in Okene, Kogi state. She also labored much in Koton Karfe, Kogi State, in the tribes of Ebirra Okene, Egbura Koto, Gwari, Bassa Kwomu, Ganagana (in the middle belt) as well as among the Yorubas - labouring mainly in places of her greatest concern: the remaining unreached people groups. God has also used her in training so many people for missions.

Mama Ruth is now based in Ilesha, Osun State. She is presently the Chairperson of Coming Kingdom Outreach (Inc.), formerly World Christian Crusade - which her late father, Pastor S.G. Elton, started in 1953.

The Coming Kingdom Outreach has as its motto, "Disciple the nations for the coming Kingdom" and - among other things - recruits, trains and sends out missionaries to villages, towns and cities.

Mama Ruth Elton has written other books including, "Your Citizenship" and "The Gospel of the Kingdom".





