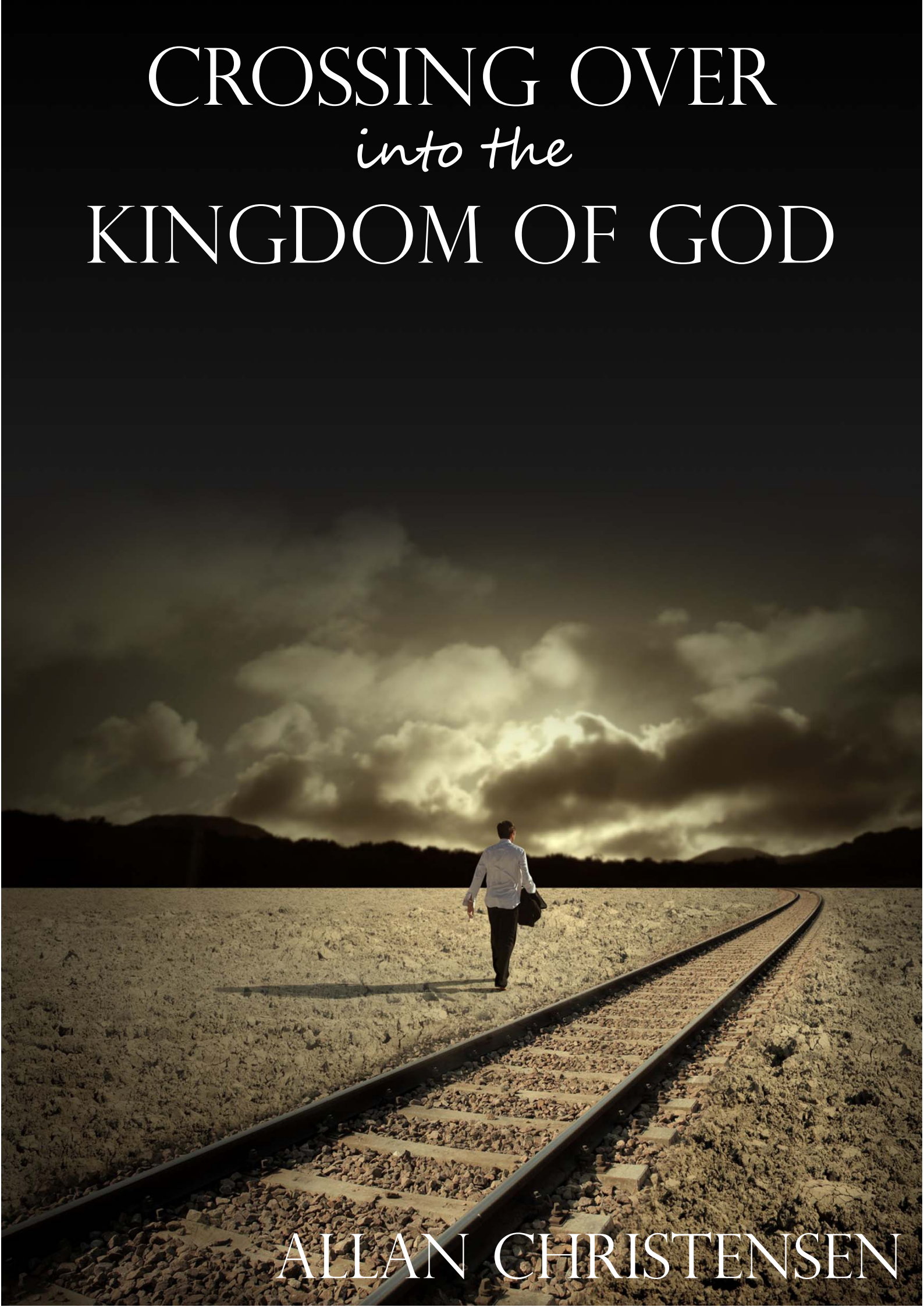


CROSSING OVER  
*into the*  
KINGDOM OF GOD



ALLAN CHRISTENSEN

**CROSSING OVER**

**INTO**

**THE  
KINGDOM**

**ALLAN CHRISTENSEN**



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## INTRODUCTION

The Lord is awakening us as to who we are, and why we are who we are. He has a purpose for each of us to fulfil His purpose on the earth. God wants us to understand that our destiny is to become the manifested sons of the Kingdom.

I believe we are standing in the most significant time in the history of creation. We are in an hour of transition, a time of change. We are entering into a new order in the Kingdom of God. A day is coming -- and it is the next major event in God's program of the ages--when all the glories of the Son of God will be revealed and manifested in the sons of God.

Let us open our hearts that God may speak to us and show us what a son of God really is, so that "greater works" will be performed by that vast family of sons who are now nearing the hour of manifestation. They are this chosen company of people, selected from many ages, who through fires and furnaces of affliction have been brought into the same glorious image of Jesus Christ. These are sons of God, like Him. They are exactly like Him. They are in His image. They are completely sons of God, completely like Him, born of Him, of His mind and will and purpose, their only difference is that He (blessed Jesus) is the eldest in that vast family of sons. They, with Him, are the bridegroom, the last Adam in all his completeness.

A new reality is being formed in the elect of God in this hour which shall spread over all creation. God is creating something new. A new history is beginning. A new world is coming to earth. The earth shall be filled with the glory of God.

God is raising up a people, and through the sons of God He is putting a seed into the earth. We are the new seed for the new age. God's purpose in raising up Christ in us is, that through us, the generations of mankind may be lifted out of the curse of sin and death, lifted toward the revelation of eternal life and glory.

God is calling us to understand the deep things of His Kingdom, to enter into spiritual levels we never before dreamed of or imagined. He is calling us to change our human earthly way of thinking with its limited levels of faith. He wants to convert us into real PEOPLE OF THE KINGDOM, sons of God, who the devil cannot stop or close doors to, a people with the dominion and authority to govern the earth with Christ.

There is a dimension of the revelation of Jesus Christ that transcends the speaking of words, the writing of books, and the preaching of sermons. The unveiling of Jesus Christ is the need of the hour, the purpose of this Day, and the hope of creation! If God does not give a special ministration of the spirit of wisdom, righteousness and power to meet the need of creation, it will not be met. There are no buttons to press that can deliver mankind from the power of sin and death, or solve the complex and frightening problems that exist in the world today. The "name it and claim it" theology which says that Jesus has done it all, and all we need to do now is just believe it, has not and will not produce this manifestation!

The whole earth and all creation are waiting for the glory of the Lord to be revealed in sons. The dealings of God in your life and mine are fraught with divine purpose. There is something far greater ahead of us than walking on streets of gold or flitting about in white night gowns strumming harps! This has been the mentality of the church in general. Thank God there is a heaven, yes there are many heavens, but I want to tell you something. All the dealing of God in us, the cross, the suffering, the processing, the blessing, the glory—are intended to put something of His nature and character into us! And this is not to make us holy enough for heaven, but to enable Him to be made manifest in all the fullness of Himself right here in this dark old world in which we live!

God has purposed that righteousness, glory and power shine forth before the face of all nations! This will be accomplished through those who are being transformed into the likeness of His Son! We are being changed now! A new order is rising in the earth! The Kingdom glory of the Lord shall be revealed from the living, completed temple of His body! His righteousness and life shall fill the earth! His power will shake the nations and all nations shall come and worship before HIM!

The harvest of this age shall be gathered! All things shall be made new! Creation shall be released from the bondage of corruption! Sin and death shall reign no more! God's elect are being prepared for this, even in this hour !!!

## CHAPTER ONE

### THE BEGINNING OF THE KINGDOM

Mankind does not understand the longing that is within it and we may be sure that all the inanimate creation is also blind and in the dark. We have become like babies who sometimes cry for reasons they know not, refusing to be comforted. Our souls often deplore the awful conditions that are in the world—the rebellion, anarchy, delinquency, self-assertion, and war, yet if we could look deeper than the surface, we would understand that all these things actually spring from man's hatred and rebellion against the bondage he is in. In his darkness of bondage he imagines that if he could throw off his restraints he would be happy, that he could have all his wants and could be content. But he does not know that his discontent is far deeper than his outward life. While he seeks liberty from without, he does not know that the inner man is seeking for freedom from the bondage of corruption and all the wretchedness into which the carnal mind has brought him. Man is longing for freedom from the slavery he is in, but, not knowing God, he seeks freedom in rebellion only to find that his new found freedom is even a greater and more hateful bondage than the one from which he escaped. But those to whom Christ the King has revealed Himself know that true freedom is found only when Christ is crowned King in their lives. When He comes into their life, **the snares of the fowler** are broken, tears of sorrow turn to praise, years of sin are washed away by His blood.

According to the good pleasure of His will, and to the praise of His glory, the plans of God focused on the Kingdom from the creation of the world. From age to age God lead mankind, setting the stage for the fullness of time when He would establish his Kingdom in power over the earth. The glory of God was revealed through all His works from the awe-filled moment when the almighty Creator first uttered those omnipotent words, "**Let there be!**" All the works and the institutions of the early ages, however, were to become but chaff and refuse in the light of the transcendent grandeur of Christ's Kingdom.

Ears had heard God's own voice thundering the law from Mount Sinai, but no ears had heard the message of compassion, grace, mercy and power from the lips of heaven's King. Eyes had seen the golden glitter of the temple built by man, but no eye had seen the reign of God's power in the hearts of transformed men. Hearts had dreamed of God's future for men, but human hearts had not the power to imagine the glories God had in store for His future sons on earth.

At the time of Abraham all nations had fallen into idolatry. The knowledge of God was merely a flickering candle in some remote corner of darkness. God was pleased to make Himself known to Abraham and to give him the promise that He would make a great nation of him, even a company of nations. In him and his seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed. To accomplish this purpose God selected the spot in which he and his descendants were to be placed, and no spot on earth could have been better suited for the purpose. God said of it "**This is Jerusalem, I have set her in the centre of the nations, with countries round about her**" (Eze 5:5).

Many map makers in the Middle Ages placed Jerusalem in the centre of their maps with the continents of Europe, Asia, and Africa arranged around this centre like blades of a pinwheel. The land of Canaan—a tract of country situated about midway between the three great divisions of earth—Asia, Africa, and Europe—on the great highway of nations, and in the very path of conquest, commerce and travel, was equally accessible to all parts of the known world.

Just a century before Jesus came the world was intensely localized and subdivided and broken up into separate little nations with their separate religions and customs and laws, with jealousies and suspicions barring communication. But after the setting up of the Roman Empire the conditions changed rapidly. When Jesus came, instead of frontiers and nations, separated and suspicious, He found a levelled world with the fences down. The Roman roads traversed the civilised world, the iron power of the Caesars kept universal peace. Good news could spread easily, **the highway was opened for the King.**

Because of the peace of Rome, travellers could move from one province to another with little concern for anything such as a passport or a visa. The general spirit of peace provided an easy way for the propagation of new ideas across borders.

The penetration of the Jewish religion in all the civilised world of that day set the stage and served as a springboard for the gospel of the Kingdom.

The whole world was intensely pagan, but into that pagan world went the Jew with his worship of the One God. The reading of the Mosaic law was heard in the synagogues every Sabbath, not only by Jews but also by gentile proselytes. So the Jews spread among the nations the worship of God as well as the Messianic Hope. Peoples' minds were being prepared for the coming of the **Messiah**. And come He did in the "fullness of time".

JOHN the BAPTIST performed the word of the Lord as revealed by Isaiah the prophet, which was a ministry in advance of the coming of Christ. At a definite time appointed by God, a man of strange habits and appearance began to preach in a remote desert part of Judea, near the river Jordan. "**Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!**" He thundered. This man was of the priestly tribe, and had been consecrated to God from his infancy by the vow of the Nazirite. He was not clothed in soft raiment, but in a coarse tunic of camel's hair. He was content with the simplest food of dried locusts and honey from the rock, he was no reed shaken by the wind, but, like a gnarled oak, the wind could neither bend nor break him. He was literally the voice of one crying in the wilderness "**Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God**".

Some thought John was the Messiah. His fame soon reached the government and the priesthood in Jerusalem. The Jewish authorities sent a deputation of priests to inquire who he was. He told them that he was not the Christ, but was sent to introduce Him. "I came to point Him out to Israel." He was raised up by God to prepare their hearts for the great revelation they were about to receive, to shape their thinking for the new and glorious age about to dawn.

Jesus, in all his teachings, never spoke of the Kingdom of God as previously existing. To Him the Kingdom was something entirely new, first to be realized. Even of John the Baptist He says that he was not in the Kingdom of God, because his whole style of ministry identified him with the preceding dispensation of the law. "**The law and the prophets were until John, but since that time the Kingdom of God is preached and every man presses into it**" (LK.16:16, MT.11:13).

According to Jesus the Kingdom involved such new forces and such unparalleled blessings and realities that all the works and previous moves of God on earth paled by comparison. They were the words of God but not the reign of God. They were the works of God, but not the rule of God. They brought men into contact with God, but not under the dominion of God.

Jesus made a startling declaration, **“Among them that are born of a woman there has not risen a greater than John the Baptist, but he that is least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he” (Mat. 11:11).**

Jesus said that no one that had been born up to that time was greater than John the Baptist. But then He said something more astonishing, He said that even the least of us in this heavenly kingdom is greater than John the Baptist!

What an exalted position He has reserved for the members of His body, the citizens of His Kingdom! This means that even the least of the called-out, the apprehended, the elect, the janitor, the educated or uneducated, the rich or the poor, provided they are born from above, birthed into the spiritual world of God, transformed in nature, renewed in mind, regenerated in heart and invested with the Holy Spirit, are superior even to God’s prophets and John the Baptist and all the other great men that went before them.

In **Matthew 5:19** there is another significant statement. Here we find the story of a man who disobeyed one of the Lord’s commandments and even taught others his disobedience. The Scripture says he will be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven. At first this may not seem very encouraging. Who wants to be least in the Kingdom? But the good thing about it is that this man is still found **in the Kingdom.!** He may be the least perhaps, but nevertheless he is there. And even this one, the very **least** in the Kingdom of Heaven, IS GREATER THAN JOHN THE BAPTIST!! Think of it!!

WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD? It is a goal, a quest set before us toward which we daily press—the goal of entering into a completely different realm, a different civilization, a different form of government, a realm governed by God.

The Kingdom is a heavenly thing, for it is the Kingdom of Heaven, the subject of God’s heavenly counsels. The Old Testament prophesies made known His earthly counsels. They concerned natural men, physical nations, geographical locations, carnal warfare, territorial conquests, literal thrones, outward rituals and ceremonies, national laws, temples of stone and gold and cedar wood, animal sacrifices, etc....

This is of great importance, showing how completely the Kingdom lies beyond the outer world. It has a different origin, it is revealed at a different time, it has a different hope, and it is entered into by a different birth and an entirely different sphere of time.

In Hebrews chapter 11 we are distinctly told that all these great ones **“received not the promise, God having provided some better thing for us, that without us they could not be made perfect.”** The Lord has told us that **“ among them that are born of women there has not arisen a greater than John the Baptist, yet he that is least in the Kingdom is greater than he”**. The Kingdom of heaven is the spiritual realm of which Christ is the Head and King. The true church is the metropolis of the Kingdom, the sons of God are the throne, the centre of order and government in the Kingdom. May the blessed Holy Spirit open the eyes of our understanding that we may see beyond the veil of flesh and into the realm of God.

Beyond the realm of the flesh we walk, not only in a new realm' but in a new mind. It is the mind of Christ. Here in this heavenly realm we begin to think as God thinks, to see as He sees, to comprehend as He comprehends, and desire as He desires. Here we become citizens of a new world, a new country even a heavenly country. Here old things are passing away and all things become new. We cannot have a renewed mind while we live and walk after the desires of the flesh and the carnal mind.

That is where the prosperity doctrine has led millions astray. They have set their affections NOT on the things above, but on possessing the things of the earth. And unbeknown to themselves, while they demand everything that appeals to the natural man, their desires for the treasures of the things of the Spirit begin to fade away.

What a mighty transformation there must be in a man's life, in his nature, in his character, in his understanding, in his goals and objectives, before he can truly say, "I am not of this world, I belong to another King. I am in the midst of the world with all its crookedness and sin and sorrow and limitations, pain and death, but I do not belong to it." We hear of the new birth and think we understand it. Faintly we hear the truths of sonship and imagine we are sons of God. We have seen through a glass dimly, but face to face we will behold all things as they are.

The mists that have hung like shrouds upon the distant majestic peaks are fleeing away before the rising sun of righteousness that we may know as we are known. In the true and eloquent words of another: "Believers of all ages have sold themselves woefully short on the great promises of God." We have been content to say that every believer was born again and needed but to wait until some distant day when he would fly away to heaven either by death or by "rapture." I remember vividly seeing this sign portrayed by a public highway: "Except a man be born again, he cannot go to heaven. That statement, I fear, has been the sum and substance of Christian belief, but we have missed the true meaning of the truth given to Nicodemus so long ago. To be born from above is to be BORN FROM A HIGHER REALM. Spirit is higher than flesh, even though both should grow together in one body. To be born of the flesh is one thing, for there you are born into a natural realm capable only of partaking of natural things. But to be BORN OF THE SPIRIT is to be born into a new and higher realm where the ETERNAL THINGS ARE CLEARLY SEEN before us, even as natural things are seen by the natural man. Without birth from above it is impossible to see the Kingdom of God, for natural man has not been given the power to see spiritual things.

The realm of the new birth is the realm of sonship. It is the realm where Jesus Christ, the Son of God, lived and moved and had His being. Not that He was born again, for He had never sinned and did not need the regeneration of ordinary man. But he lived and moved in the realm of Sonship fully and completely. He lived and moved in the realm of the Kingdom and opened up the way for us to enter in.

As Moses led Israel to Kadesh Barnea where they could actually see the promised land but, through unbelief, turned back to the wilderness, so Jesus led the whole world to a sort of Kadesh Barnea, where the glory of the Kingdom came into full view, only to be lost sight of in a spiritual wilderness in which we have wandered for two thousand years.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, lived in a realm above and beyond ordinary men. While we have lived as sons of men, He lived as the Son of God. While we have been from beneath, He was from above. While our kingdoms have been of the earth, He was not from here. While this is undeniably true to any honest man, yet, praise to the eternal purpose of God, Jesus Christ the Son of God, became the Son of man that we who were born sons of men might become sons of God...

The new birth is nothing less than the birth of a God-being, the birth of a Christ-creature, who becomes **“Christ in you the hope of glory” (Col. 1:27)** There is no new birth outside of the actual birthing of an actual Spirit Being who becomes the “inner man”, the “new me”. It is my spirit quickened by His spirit, God birthing His own divine Life into me and so, making me alive from the **dead, a new creature** on the Celestial Plane.

So many Christians glibly talk about a born again “experience,” or a “change of heart,” being wholly ignorant as to what must transpire to effect this change, to implement this reality. Our Lord said, “you must be born,” not of the flesh, but of the Spirit. Religionists, both then and now, are incapable of grasping this greatest of all truths and its astounding implications. They fail to understand that, as a woman gives birth to a son, bringing an actual child into the world as a living, breathing personality with an individual identity, nature, mind and will, so does God GIVE BIRTH, delivering out of His own loins the offspring of Himself, of His own kind.

**“Therefore since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that THE DIVINE NATURE is like gold or stone, something shaped by art and man’s devising” (Acts 17:29).**

We are of the God species, and we are to grow up into the fullness of His own Divine Being. **(II Peter 1:4) ... “you may be partakers of the DIVINE NATURE” (Romans 12: 10)....“that we may be partakers of His holiness..”**

## CHAPTER TWO

### GOD HAS A PLAN

Jesus was sent on an assignment to break the power of sin, Satan and self. The first Adam conceived sin through self-centeredness, but the last Adam (Christ) broke the power of sin and self. Jesus came to restore the original order by living from His spirit man. Christ was sent on a mission to redeem man so that those who believe could live from their spirit. You are a spiritual person, a spiritual being like your Father. You have power to overcome natural and earthly situations and circumstances, because the greater One dwells in you. Jesus was the first and only begotten Son, but there are going to be many sons. He was the pattern Son whom we have to imitate, so that many sons will be produced in the earth and that His Kingdom will be established.

We have His Life and we must make a choice to believe that He, by His spirit, has come to dwell in us. It will take a renewing of the mind so that He can express Himself through us to a world of darkness. If we make the choice and allow Him, He will dismantle all things that hinder us from attaining the fullness of His life in and through us. We have the unique opportunity to express the totality of Him in our lives. You have the ability within you to reproduce the totality of Christ in this world. In Adam all die, in Christ all live! God is raising up this house within us.

The day is at hand when God will accomplish all that He wants to do to bring about His purpose for His creation. He has a plan to reproduce Himself on the earth, He will establish His Kingdom on planet earth through His sons, He hears the groaning of His creation, waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God.

Multitudes of people are groaning inside, (wanting something). But they do not know that it is the sons of God they are wanting to see revealed to the world.

They are trying new houses, cars, holidays, clothes, but are never fulfilled or satisfied; many Christians are in the same place. But the day will surely come, **“When the kingdoms of this world will become the Kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ, or His anointed ones (Rev 11:15).** These are those who have received the anointing of the Spirit who was upon our glorious Lord and Head. Those who grow up into maturity in Christ Jesus as sons of God will form the corporate body of “His Christ” or His anointed ones.

Some have said, “our church is building the Kingdom.” But nowhere in the Bible does it tell us that we can build the Kingdom. We are told that we can “see” the Kingdom, “enter,” “receive,” “inherit” or “proclaim” the Kingdom, but never build it.

**“It is the Father’s good pleasure to give you the Kingdom,” (Lk 12:32).**

If we could build the Kingdom, then it would be something we bring to life, something we produce, it would be a structure that requires our effort to raise it up. It would be an institution that demands our ingenuity and work to establish. But the Kingdom IS, it is already in existence, it was prepared for us before the foundation of the world **(Mt 25:24).**

When Jesus came He brought and established the Kingdom on the earth.

Men who try to build the Kingdom always fail because they are trying to do something that can’t be done.

The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed and has to grow; there is an increase, not of effort, but of life. You can build a house but you cannot build a tree or a fruit, because things that grow are produced by an inherent internal life and you cannot build them. The increase and manifestation of the Kingdom is not man's doing, but something of life; that's why the Kingdom of God is within you. It is the life of the spirit that brings forth the image and glory of God in the lives and doings of men. Yes, God is looking for an initial commitment to Him, a conversion experience, but He wants far more than that ! He wants there to be a steady growing of the Kingdom within !!

By the blood of Jesus we have been granted the opportunity to enter into the Kingdom of God. This is a holy calling and it involves much separation from our friends, religious realms and everybody and everything that would hinder the upward climb to the hill of the Lord. The flesh will cringe at the aloneness of the walk, the mind will question as to why it must be so, but the spirit within will continue to draw us onward, bearing His reproach. As we do our part, God will gradually change us; **“He who has begun a good work in us will continue until Christ is formed in us.”**

There has to be a transformation in our minds, a renewing of the mind (**Rom 12:2**). No renewing, no transformation. There has to be a renovation in the mind, the old thinking must go for the new to be allowed in. There must be an introduction of new information!

Many people will get offended by the new truth God is introducing. Jesus said “take no offence.” His first message to the world was “repent” (have a change of mind). You can just exist or you can enter into life, it is up to you to CHANGE!!

We learn truth, but we are supposed to live that truth. God is in you so you should operate from strength and joy. Don't look for something outside of you, He is in you. **“Have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.” (II Cor 4:7).**

You don't know how powerful God is in you because you invalidate that power with your mind. We have to make some strong decisions for us to change. Often we need correction to make necessary changes, some cannot handle correction that will help them to make the changes that are necessary. When you hate correction, you actually hate yourself because you will continue in the way you are going. You owe it to yourself to change, unless you feel that the place you are in is far as you want to go!!!

Are there more and better things than salvation?? Salvation is just the very beginning of entering into a whole new and rich life, HIS LIFE. The church is supposed to raise up sons and reveal the manifold wisdom of God to the world and the principalities and powers, but it seems that we have failed dismally.

Jesus said, **“You must be born again before you can even see the Kingdom....and you must be born of the Spirit before you can enter the Kingdom.”** What a mighty transformation there must be in a man's life, in his nature, in his character, in his state of being, in his desires, in his attitudes, behaviour, understanding, goals and objectives, before he can say, I am not of this world, I have a new birth, I am born into another Kingdom. I belong to another King. I am in the midst of this world's sin, sickness, crookedness, sorrow, limitations pain and death. **BUT I DO NOT BELONG TO IT!!!**

To be born from above is to be born into another realm, it is the realm where Jesus Christ, the Son of God, lived and moved and had His being. He lived and moved in the realm of the kingdom and opened up the way for us to enter in. And Jesus Christ the Son of God became the son of man that we might become the sons of God. He brought the Kingdom of God to the earth. The Kingdom of God is like a seed that is planted and by the spontaneous process of germination and growth becomes, through the power of an indwelling life becomes the expression and reign of God in the earth. The Kingdom of God is that domain where God's saving, transforming power defeats all opposition, breaks down every wall, changes all that is contrary to God's nature, mind and will and brings men into willing submission to His authority.

God is doing a wonderful work in His elect in this hour! It is a complete work. He is thoroughly changing us from flesh to spirit, from earthly to heavenly, making us the overcomers He has apprehended us to be. It is His plan and purpose to thoroughly cleanse and transform us! As He does this, we are losing our own identity and taking on the identity of our Father, the characteristics of His Holy city, the New Jerusalem, and the new creative identity represented in His new name. When this work is completely accomplished in us, we shall be fully identified with God and the realm of His Spirit.

## CHAPTER THREE

### BIRTHED INTO THE KINGDOM

**“Most assuredly, I say to you unless one is born again he cannot “see” the Kingdom of God.” (John 3: 3).**

The Kingdom of God means many things to many different people, according to their understanding. This is only natural, because of the many figures by which the idea was presented by Jesus, and also because people are at different stages in their progress along the way to the Kingdom. Therefore this means they have attained different degrees of growth as children of God in the family of God. Jesus said one must be born again in order to “see” the Kingdom. Here we find Jesus laying down the preliminary requirement for an understanding of the Kingdom.

But He does not say that upon being born again one would immediately fully see the Kingdom. Spiritual birth is the prerequisite. Understanding the Kingdom spiritually and laying hold of its reality can only follow the new birth, not precede it. Until you are born from above you have neither the ability to see, nor the potential to enter into the Kingdom of God.

First of all then, the Kingdom is not a natural state, for it must be entered following a new spiritual birth. A man can no more bring about his second birth, the birth into the spiritual world, than he could have brought about his first birth, his birth into the physical world. It comes from another world. He is given birth from a higher realm. It is the work of God alone. It is a new order that one enters into under entirely new conditions. It becomes accessible by the experience of a new life, a new identity, a new citizenship, a new spirit, a new nature, a new will, a new attitude, a new ability and a new objective. When men come into the world, they are born outside of the Kingdom of God, and they cannot see into it.

**“Except a man be born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God”.** What does this word “see” mean here? Everyone with spiritual understanding knows that the words “see” and “know” are identical in their spiritual meaning. When I tell a friend something he did not see before, and I am trying to get him to see it, all at once there passes over his face the illumination that indicates understanding. He says, “Oh, now I see it ! “ He does not mean that he actually sees anything with the eye of flesh. He means that he “understands” or “knows” it. So Jesus is telling us that apart from the new birth a man cannot understand, comprehend, or know the Kingdom of God. It is better to know the Kingdom of God by the spirit than to see with physical eyes any “age” or “external government” that might be called the Kingdom of God.

If the Kingdom was external then any drunkard, prostitute, rapist, or atheist could see it. There were many who saw Jesus with their physical eyes, but they never once saw the Son of God. They saw the Christ, but they knew not that He was the Christ. They saw His miracles, but they did not know Him. They even rejected Him, despised Him and hated Him, while they looked upon Him. You could see Jesus Himself in bodily form today, but unless your eyes were opened, as were the eyes of the men of Emmaus, you would not know Him to be the Christ. Millions of people today see God’s Christ, which is His many-membered body on earth, and know Him not!

**“Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us that we should be called children of God, therefore the world does not know us, because they did not know Him”, (1John 3:1).** They see us but they don’t see us—they don’t know us by the spirit. But when you are born of the Spirit you see what other eyes cannot see. You see the unseen and the eternal. You see God and you see the Kingdom of God.

The natural man is dead. He is dumb, deaf and blind to the spiritual world of God. To be blind simply means to have no vision of what God desires. The natural mind is very dark and without understanding. Only the Holy Spirit can awaken it. Human efforts to enlighten men to the deep spiritual things of God will always fail. **ONLY TO CHRIST IS POWER GIVEN TO OPEN THE EYES OF THE BLIND** even as the scales fell from the vision of Saul of Tarsus when Jesus purged them away.

This explains why the Bible remains to a great degree a closed book to the most educated but unconverted or un-anointed men, while it is an open book to many of the most simple and ignorant of believers. This explains why a man may be educated and trained to hold all theological degrees that all the theological seminaries in the world can bestow upon him, and yet be utterly blind to the great spiritual revelations, of infinite depths and eternal glory within the pages of the blessed Book of Books. This explains why carnally minded men who have read the Bible and have studied it through and through, and know the Hebrew and Greek, will yet fail to find the living Christ or the transforming power of the Holy Spirit or the glories of the Kingdom of God. These have not seen the wonderful hope of sonship or the ultimate restoration of all things within its pages. It seems strange that with an open Bible before them they do not see these truths which to us are perfectly clear. But, after all, it is not strange, for these things are mysteries known only to those who know the spiritual walk and have been joined to God’s family by the miracle of the new birth. Jesus said these things were hidden from the wise and the prudent, but they were revealed to babes.

Jesus said, **“the Kingdom of God is within you”** and then He said **“but it is like a mustard seed and has to grow”**. In the opening chapters of the Bible, the garden of Eden reveals the glory of the Kingdom of heaven on earth. It is not the Kingdom IN heaven, it is the Kingdom OF heaven, the Kingdom that originates in and out of a heavenly realm. Our prayer is that the Kingdom will come, so that God’s will is done on earth as it is in heaven. God is now creating a new reality on earth, a people that is heavenly but that walks on earth. They bring heaven down to earth within themselves. They have no desire to leave earth to “go” to heaven. They are not looking for a rapture or death. They are a city that comes down from God out of heaven. **“Behold! The tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with (in) them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with (in) them, and be their God.”**

This new reality is formed in the elect of God in this hour and shall spread over all creation. God is creating something new. A new history is beginning. A new world is coming to earth. The earth shall be filled with the glory of God. God is raising up the Life of Christ in a people and through the sons of God. He is putting a seed into the earth. We are now the light of men and the light of the world. We are now the salt of the earth. We are the new seed for the new age. God’s purpose in raising up Christ in us is that through us the generations of mankind may be lifted up out of the curse of sin and death, toward the revelation of eternal life and glory. Why else did Jesus heal the sick and raise the dead? Why did He exalt the poor, feed the hungry and the oppressed? Why did He touch, with miracle power, the hopeless and possessed? Surely not in order to tell them they would be blessed after death in some far-off heaven somewhere!

He brought the blessings and benefits of the Kingdom of God to men great and small right here on the earth because the Kingdom of God was at hand! There is no other to be sought, for the tabernacle of God is with men. Strange how the churches on earth teach just the opposite! They teach that the tabernacle of God is with man-in-heaven. But the goal of all God's redemptive effort is that He finally will be a God whom men will see on earth, a God who will make earth to be one with heaven, where Jesus is Lord over all men and they, in Him, will live in the Kingdom of heaven.

God has a great purpose in creation. He made the heavens and the earth. He made the world for Himself as a field wherein to unveil Himself and make visible who He is, in all the perfection, wisdom and truth of His Being. Creation has an origin and a purpose, and this origin and purpose was determined by the wisdom and pleasure of the omnipotent Creator. The world around us has a meaning. It is not a world, as materialistic science supposes, which came from nowhere in particular, has no particular aim, where nobody knows where it is going or what the end will be. Against that we can declare, "Hallelujah, our Lord God omnipotent reigns." Creation came from God, it goes back to God. He reigns over it, and it will fulfil His purpose which is altogether and absolutely a glorious purpose. It will bring God a revenue of praise and glory and adoration as no other device could do. Therefore it has a meaning. It is the field of the development of the display of God's wisdom, power and glory, a means by which He makes Himself known and understood; a means by which God is not only known, but by which also a supreme joy and eternal blessedness will be achieved. This is the secret without which creation cannot be understood.

God's purpose in man transcends by far the beauty and glory of creation. The unfolding pattern of God in creating man has never changed. **"And God said "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness, so God created man in His own image..."** In this text it is shown that the fall is not to be man's normal state. Man today, like Adam, may be far from God, yet in his heart, as in the scriptures, a witness will be heard, saying that distance resulted from self-will. He may live in sin and sorrow, but deep in his conscience man knows that such a life is in opposition to the will and purpose of his Creator. Therefore the man in God's image is shown before the fall to confirm the voice that speaks to every human heart, and declare that though all men walk as Adam, sin and death are not a part of God's eternal order, but a mere temporary arrangement in the working out of God's great plan. Man's proper place is seen in Christ, the last Adam, prefigured by the first Adam before he fell. Adam, in the image and glory of God, ruling over all the works of God's hands, is the type of man in Christ, as God ordains him.

By considering the stature, nobility and rulership committed to Adam we get some idea of what sort of beings we are. Man in God's image and likeness! It is interesting to note that the Almighty Creator fashioned and formed everything of nature throughout all the heavens and unto the depths of the earth and then, after completing and ordaining all, He gave us the true estimate of man's greatness and purpose when He said **"Let us make man in our image, and after our likeness, and let them have dominion."** Man is therefore not only the most important creature on earth, but the most important creature anywhere in the universe. Can we not see by this that Adam stood in the midst of the vast creation as the REVELATION OF GOD to it all?

We are never told how long Adam lived in that wonderful garden where the glory of God was revealed through him in dominion and blessing to creation. But that glorious reign of wonder and peace under the direction of a son in the image and likeness of God was but a dim figure of the day when a whole company of sons in God's image would reign in splendour over all

things and in all realms throughout all worlds and all things in heaven and in earth. We would be gathered together into union with God in His life and purpose. Our Lord Jesus Christ is the first and head of this glorious company, and as typified and shadowed by the first man, Adam, He is the connecting link between God and creation.

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN OPENS TO US all the power, resources and abilities of the heavens and puts at our disposal everything God has and is. But there must be a means of expression . There must be a means by which God can translate heavenly things into a language that the world can understand. The Spirit of God may be everywhere and moving everywhere but human, natural eyes cannot see the things of the Spirit. There is no way they can “tune in” to that world. But the world can see the moving of the Spirit IN US! The world sees the moving of the Spirit in men living upon the earth, and the body of Christ is tuned to express, manifest, reveal and interpret God to the world.

God is now perfecting His sons in wisdom, holiness, knowledge, grace and power and God will set this man before His creation and say, “Here is My image and likeness. In this one is My dominion and My authority.” It will be as though God is saying to His creation that it is not necessary for them to see the Creator, for they will see this man He has made. Was it not this very truth that Jesus spoke to His disciples one day when He said **“Have I been with you such a long time and you do not know Me? He that has seen Me has seen the Father.”** So it will be with all the holy sons of God.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### THE RAPTURE

As the church has been thoroughly indoctrinated on the pre-, mid- or post-tribulation of the rapture of the church, of which there have been many theological debates and arguments, it is important that we look at the following information to find what the Bible actually tells us about this whole subject.

Large numbers of church goers in various denominations hear all about the rapture, often. They are in constant expectation of it. Christ may come tonight and snatch the church away to heaven, the preacher warns in revival meetings, in Sunday Church services and on television. “The trumpet may sound before this meeting is over, or before you wake up in the morning”. Millions of believers wonder with great concern, “When will it happen? Will it be in my life time? Will I be ready?” It is supposed to happen this way: suddenly, just before the world arrives at a period of calamity called the “tribulation,” we are told, Jesus will return invisibly and snatch away—“rapture” — all the born again Christians and take them to heaven, or away up in the clouds somewhere, away from the world’s turmoil, for seven years.

**THE GREAT ESCAPE!** “Looking for that blessed hope, and glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (Tit 2:13). **There is a strange thing happening today, for most Christians are not looking for the “coming” of the Lord, rather, they are expecting the “going” of the saints!!**

It is hard to convince people otherwise, when for years their minds have been set in a contrary direction. The truth is it is not the rapture; it is the appearing of the Lord. The blessed hope is not deliverance from the tribulation, it is **HIS GLORIOUS APPEARING IN HIS PEOPLE**. We are **NOT** looking for a **RAPTURE** to take people out of this old world, but we are looking for Him to appear out of the innermost being of His sons to transform the elect, so they will be able to change the very courses of this world... This is the time of the appearing of Christ in great power and glory.

### THE ORIGIN OF THE RAPTURE

It wasn’t until the early or mid 1800’s that there was any significant group of believers around the world that looked for a “rapture” of the church prior to a seven year tribulation period.

It is a fact that the rapture was not taught by the early church, it was not taught by the church of the first centuries, it was not taught by the reformers, it was **NOT TAUGHT BY ANYONE**, except a couple of Roman Catholic theologians, until about the year 1830!

At the time of the reformation the early Protestants widely held, and were convinced that the Pope was the supreme individual embodiment and personification of the spirit of the Anti-Christ, and the Roman Church the Harlot system of Rev 17...This understanding was responsible for bringing millions of believers out of the Roman

**Catholic religious system...It therefore became expedient for certain Romish theologians to turn the attention of the people away from the Papacy, and this they did by endeavouring a counter-interpretation to that held by the Protestants. This new scheme of prophetic interpretation became known as futurism. Rather than viewing the book of Revelation spiritually and historically, they would consign it all to a brief period of time at the end of the age. It was a Jesuit priest named Ribera who, in the days of the reformation, first taught that all the events in the book of Revelation were to take place literally during the three and a half years reign of the Anti-Christ at the end of the age...Thus Ribera laid the foundation for a system of prophetic interpretation of which the "secret rapture" has now become an integral part...**

**Later, Emmanuel Lacunza, also a Jesuit priest, built on Ribera's teaching and spent much of his life writing a book entitled "The Coming Messiah in Glory and Majesty". Lacunza, however, wrote under the assumed name of "Rabbi Ben Ezra", supposedly a learned Jew who had accepted Christ as his Saviour. With Jesuit cunning he conspired to get his book a hearing in the Protestant world, because they would not even permit it in their homes coming from a Jesuit's pen, but as the earnest work of a converted Jew they would consume it with avid interest! Within the pages of this elaborate forgery Laconza taught the novel notion that Jesus returns not once but twice, and at the first stage of His return He would rapture His church so they would escape the reign of the future Anti-Christ.... His book was first published in Spanish in the year 1812 and soon found its way onto the shelves of the library of the Archbishop of Canterbury in London, England.**

**Now enter the name of Edward Irving. Born in Scotland in 1792, Irving became one of the most eloquent preachers of his time. In 1827 his open air meetings in Scotland drew crowds of 10,000 people. His church in London seated 1,000 people and was packed week after week with a congregation drawn from the most brilliant and influential circles of society...**

**Up until that time the coming of the Lord was understood as a coming of the Lord to His people, and IN His saints (II Thess 1:10), and there was no expectation of His fleshly coming...Irving discovered Laconza's book and was deeply shaken by it, in fact he fell in love with it, translated it into English, and it was published in London in 1828. At this very time Irving heard what he believed was voice from heaven, commanding him to preach the secret rapture of the saints... Then Irving began to hold bible conferences throughout Scotland, emphasising the coming of Jesus to rapture His church. Also about this time there began the emergence of a new movement which came to be known as the Plymouth Brethren....A man by the name of John Nelson Darby was the leading spirit among the Plymouth Brethren from 1830 onward....Darby was from a prosperous Irish family, was educated as a lawyer and, after taking high honours at Dublin University, turned aside to become a minister....**

Irving and Darby were contemporaries, though associated with different spiritual groups. A group of seeking Christians were meeting in the castle of Lady Powerscot for the study of Bible prophecy. The Irvingites came to the meetings obsessed with the ideas of the secret "rapture" and the future Anti-Christ, taken from the Jesuit Lacunza's book. Darby and other Brethren leaders were invited to these meetings and became participators in them. It was there that Darby was introduced to the Jesuit teaching of the secret rapture and the futurist interpretation of prophecy, as well as the famous book by Rabbi Ben-Ezra, or, actually, Jesuit

Priest Emmanuel Laconza! Darby himself was a prolific writer and from that time on a constant stream of propaganda came from his pen. Darby developed and organized futurism into a system of prophetic teaching called "dispensationalism". And the crown jewel in the kingdom of dispensationalism is, of course, the so called SECRET RAPTURE!

The secret rapture teaching was introduced into the United States and Canada in the 1860's and 1870's...Darby himself visited the United States six times. The new teaching was spreading...A Congregational preacher by the name of C.I. Scofield came under the influence of Darby and the Plymouth Brethren. Scofield became a strong promoter of the teaching that had been promoted by Darby, whom he considered "the most profound bible student of modern times". He incorporated this teaching into his SCOFIELD REFERENCE BIBLE. Through this Bible Scofield shrewdly carried the teaching of the secret rapture into the very heart of Evangelism. Some ignorant souls still look at the notes in this bible as the very Word of God itself! The origin of the rapture doctrine which has been brought down to us, was a Roman Catholic invention! The Jesuit priest Ribera influenced the Jesuit priest Laconza, Laconza influenced Irving, Irving influenced Darby, Darby influenced Scofield, Scofield and Darby influenced D.L. Moody and Moody influenced the Pentecostal Movement...The Assemblies of God, which are the largest Pentecostal denomination in the world today, believed what the Moody Bible Institute taught.

Today's Churches are literally filled with carnal, earthly minded Christians who sit back in ease and self-complacency and await a future rapture which will translate them out of the midst of the earth's Great Tribulation at the beginning of the Day of the Lord....In the vast majority of evangelical circles we are taught that any moment Jesus will come and secretly and silently snatch away His elect to a heaven somewhere in the far flung skies—to escape the great tribulation which shall soon visit the earth....**IT IS NOT TRUE.**

"Rapture" is not a biblical word. Let all God's people stop speaking of the "rapture." The word rapture is not in the scripture and is really misleading....We will rid ourselves of much confusion and carnal delusion, if instead of the rapture we speak of being "**caught up in the spirit**" (Acts 8:39) "**Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so the eunuch saw him no more.**" (II Cor. 12:2 & 4) "**I know a man in Christ who, fourteen years ago, whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows such a one, was caught up to the third heaven**" (Rev 4:1) "**After these things I looked and behold a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me saying "Come up here and I will show you things that must take place after this."** (Col 1:13) "**translated into the Kingdom,**" (Eph 2:6) "**Raised up into the heavenly with Christ**".

We often want to refer to the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 24, "**As in the days of Noah, there will be two working in the field, one will be taken and one left, two women will be grinding at the mill, one will be taken and one left.**" As in the days of Noah, the flood came and took THEM away, who? The unrighteous. Who was left? Noah the righteous. The previous owners had been taken. Noah inherited the earth and there were none left to dispute his claim, and he alone was left to inaugurate the new age. To which Jesus adds this significant statement, **SO SHALL THE COMING ( PRESENCE) OF THE SON OF MAN BE...**

This great type points to far more than merely the inhabitants of the world being blown off the map and just you and me and a few other saints remaining. It points to the way of LIFE instead of DEATH. In this hour God's chosen ones are building an ark of obedience and truth, of wisdom and righteousness, that they might LIVE AND NOT DIE. I declare to you that there

are people who shall live and not die!! This is not an outer ark of gopher wood and pith, but an inner ark of the mind of Christ and the ways of God in the SPIRIT. Our hiding place is Christ.

**“Your life is hid with God in Christ” (Col. 3;3)** It is the fearful and the wicked, who seek a geographical hiding place. Some want to leave the earth and fly away to heaven, while others cry for the rocks and the mountains to hide them, and yet others are seeking a hiding place in some natural place, a farm, a desert, a wilderness area ,etc. But it will not work. It will not work because it is natural, physical, carnal, earthly. You cannot escape death that way. You can only escape death by LIFE!! And you can only find life by sowing to the SPIRIT!! It is the life of God in your spirit which will swallow up death, enabling you to escape the things that are coming upon the world... EXCEPT A MAN LOSE HIS LIFE (in God) HE WILL NOT FIND LIFE.....

Since so many Christians are steadfastly looking for Jesus to come for the church, to whisk it away up to heaven somewhere, we need to take a closer look at the Word to see whether we can find this expression, “coming for the saints” anywhere in the Bible. This may come as a shock to some, but the Bible speaks NOWHERE of Jesus “coming for the saints.” Let those who carelessly use this term show us where it is in the pages of God’s inspired Book. Let them search ! It cannot be found! Surely then, a teaching which constantly employs an expression that is foreign to the Word of God should be subject to close examination. I can hear some dear saint saying, “Oh but the Bible does say that Jesus is coming for a church without spot or wrinkle.” No it doesn’t! What it says is that “ **Christ so loved the church and gave himself for it, that He might sanctify it and cleanse it with the washing of the water by the Word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing” (Eph 5:26-27).** It says nothing about taking the church anywhere.

To “present the church to Himself” in a holy blameless condition doesn’t necessitate changing the church’s physical position at all!!! There is no reference to a journey, the description is of a condition. The Lord’s coming “for” His church is nothing more than an invention of ignorant minds, hatched up by men who are reading into their Bibles many fantastic tales which they use to uphold their delusions. The sleeping church can think of little else except a physical ride into the clouds, being whisked away into an ethereal state and experience of their own invention, where they intend to sit around dressed in white nightgowns or something similar, eating-eating-eating what???

But let us forget all this nonsense. Let us come down out of the clouds and get our feet planted firmly on solid ground and leave them there. We are not going anywhere, not for a long while at least. We are not yet ready to go anywhere in fact. This is our proving ground. We are going to stay right here until we graduate! We must grow up spiritually and become proficient at living by the principles of the Kingdom and walking out the mind, nature and will of the Father in our own lives. The church has not even done this yet.

Men gaze steadily into the skies looking for Jesus to come flashing across the heavens to snatch them up and carry them away, but their spirits have never been filled with these enlightening words, “**Who has delivered us from the power of darkness, and has translated us into the Kingdom of His dear Son” (COL.1;13)** Is that not an illuminating statement? While the preachers rant and rave and speculate about a “rapture” and preach about automobiles wrecking, trains derailing and airplanes crashing, while the bodies of the saints soar away through the atmosphere, there are some humble sons of the Most High God

who have eyes to see and have discovered a process NOW TAKING PLACE in every believer who is earnestly pressing on towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Our citizenship in this present age has been revoked and we have obtained a new citizenship in the eternal and undying realm.

For this reason Paul wrote, saying, "Your citizenship is now in heaven." We were citizens of another land, a dark land of fear, limitation, sorrow sin and death. We were of a different speech and culture, but we crossed over. We changed our citizenship and our allegiance from one domain to another. We have renounced our existence in the earth realm in favour of a new life in the heaven realm. We have renounced our allegiance to this present world system, its customs, life-style, thought processes, wisdom, knowledge, ways and religion, to become partakers of a new and heavenly citizenship, speakers of a new language, revelators of its beauty and its customs, culture and life-style, partakers of its higher inspiration, its wisdom and knowledge, and manifestors of its truth, and the glory of its endless life.

If all you can see is sorrow and trouble, pain and distress, sin and evil, crime and violence, lust and greed, wrath and judgement, Anti-Christ and tribulation, then you are still living in the wrong country!! "WOE to the INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH!" **"Our citizenship is in heaven from which we eagerly wait for our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ. Who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able to even subdue all things to Himself."** (Phil 3:20-21).

## CHAPTER FIVE

### POSSESSING THE LAND

The power to reach for higher things than what ordinary living calls for, is within every man; his thoughts are the seeds he plants, his thoughts and desires will be the crop he reaps. The greatest seed he can plant is the thought that he can reach any height. Desire is the flame that will fulfil anything. Intensify your desires until they burn as a fire within you. Intense desire cuts the pattern in the spiritual realm and gathers the material substance to complete the pattern, in order to make it a reality. Mere wants and likes are seldom realised. When the intensity of the desire has been tested by the patience, endurance and earnestness of the individual, it will be granted.

**Our thinking can control our destinies, for by proper thinking we can go free from fears, doubts, dislikes, hates, confusion, worry and disagreements etc.** “Whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, pure, lovely and of a good report, if there is any virtue, meditate, think on these things” (Phil 4:8) “Set your mind (think) on the things above not on things on the earth” (Col 3:2).

**The natural mind is the mind which channels the condition of the human heart. It is not the same mind that understands how to drive a car, to prepare a meal, or to lust after someone of the opposite sex, that also understands the mysteries of the Kingdom of heaven. Not at all!!**

**The promise is sure,** “Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean... a new heart also I will give you, and a new spirit will I put within you, and I will take away the stony ( Spiritually unresponsive) heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a (soft, pliable, responsive) heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you shall keep My judgements, and do them” (Eze 36: 25-27).

**The new creation of which the Spirit speaks is blessed not only with a new heart and a new spirit but with a NEW MIND as well. For, Paul says,** “Who has known the mind of the Lord? But WE HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST” (1Cor 2:16). **There is by regeneration within ourselves, beyond the realm of our conscious knowledge, a divine life, the child of God’s Spirit, ever unwearied, ever growing and maturing, to gain control of our whole being, and transform us into the image of God.**

**I want you to know where everything is – everything is right there where you are – WITHIN YOU!!**

**On the positive side—God is in you, Christ is in you your hope of glory, the word of Christ dwells in you by faith, your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, the glory of God has come upon you and is arising upon you FROM WITHIN , the wonderful mind of Christ is in your mind and the Kingdom of God is within you.**

**On the negative side—the spirit of Anti-Christ is in you, the man of sin sits in the temple of God which is your body. “ Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God showing himself that he is God.” (II Thess 2:4).**

**The beast rages in the ravenous emotions of your soul, the image of the beast is seen in you by your outer actions, the nature of the great whore that sits upon many waters (peoples) is in you and the ancient serpent, the devil, and Satan, is within you. The spirit that now works in the sons of disobedience. (Eph 2:2).**

We have tasted some of the fruit of the promised land, as did the children of Israel. But we can't even think of leaving the place we know and feel secure in, and to go marching in to conquer the whole land, the Kingdom. The mindset of most Christians is "this is as far as I go, Bible study, prayer meetings, Sunday service, I am secure". But are we going to settle for a mere down payment of our inheritance, or are we going to rise up out of this wilderness and follow our "Joshua" across the Jordan to lay hold of, enter into and possess fully all the glorious inheritance of the land God has given us, "THE KINGDOM"?

There is a rising up of a new generation that has heard the trumpet call. Moses, God's servant is dead, the old church order ministry is passing away. A new people is preparing to follow their heavenly "Joshua" into the fullness of the glory and the power of the Kingdom of God. God has promised that the land is ours if only we will hear His voice and obey. The only real enemies are fear and unbelief. The thing that kept Israel out of their land was a heart of unbelief. But God has promised **"Be strong and of a good courage, and He will strengthen your heart."**

Those who spied out the land of Canaan, said on the one hand the land was exceptionally good, but on the other hand it was impossible to enter. How often will the wily devil of unbelief say the same thing to us about entering the Kingdom? "Don't talk about overcoming the enemy, or about walking in the nature of God, and don't talk about coming into perfection, nobody can be perfect in this world, don't talk about conquering death, every body dies." "There is no way you can become a manifested son of God, don't think you can imitate Jesus, nobody can measure up to Him." All this is an evil report bringing about an evil heart of unbelief.

We must ask the Lord to deliver us from the evil heart of unbelief. We should take our stand with Joshua and Caleb, who had a different spirit, and proclaim by the faith of the Son of God within us that we are able rise up and take the land in our own lives. We must have faith in that resurrection power within ourselves.

The Lord has promised it, but we must possess it. He has given the victory to us but we must experience it. It is our portion, and we have to take it. The fullness of the Kingdom is not presently in our possession, but He will enable us to possess it.

How do we possess the Kingdom? **"The violent take it by force" (Mt 11:12)**  
**Matthew says**, "since the days of John the Baptist, the Kingdom of God suffers violence."  
**Luke says**, "since the days of John the Baptist the Kingdom is preached and men press into it." **Each writer expresses in his own words the thought given by Jesus. The backdrop of this is the conquest of Canaan, the Old Testament type of our possessing our inheritance in Christ.**

When Israel went in to possess their inheritance, they suffered violence, and they pressed their way into the land and violently took it by force. That's the picture the Holy Spirit has drawn of what it means to take the Kingdom.

Violence can only happen where an adversary is located. Surely in God's eternal Kingdom there is no violence. Jesus taught **"thy Kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."** Today we know the **"Kingdom of God is within us" (Lk 17:21)**. This shows us that the Kingdom can only suffer violence within the believer, where both the Spirit of God and the spirit of the adversary function, where the spirit and the flesh war against one another, and where the mind of Christ and the carnal mind both exert themselves to control.

The violence He is talking about is the violence that is done to self, the fleshly nature, the carnal mind and the human will which all war against the Life of God and prevent one from entering the Kingdom, We must be violent in our own land, with self, with obstacles without and within in order to possess the promised Kingdom. Never forget it is possible, and God expects us to inherit the Kingdom, while we live on the earth. To possess the kingdom within ourselves is going to take a mighty effort. We must **"Strive to enter through the narrow gate" (Lk13:24)**. The spirit of the world, the spirit of your own natural mind, resists you. You have to **"fight the good fight of faith, lay hold of eternal life."**

The Kingdom of heaven is not for the well meaning, but for the DESPERATE. In a violent sense, we must fight our way through every adversary and possess the land of Christ within our own personal world.

Possessing the Kingdom is no Sunday school picnic. It will mean RESISTENCE, OPPOSITION, CONTENTION, CONFLICT, STRUGGLE, CONFRONTATION, ASSAULT, ATTACK FIGHTING, WARFARE ( II Cor 10:3-6). To possess the Kingdom is something that demands effort and which will take every bit of mind, heart and spirit that a man can muster.

Paul said **"I press ( weigh heavily upon, squeeze, enforce, urge,) toward the mark of the upward call of God."** But the **King** who leads the battle is right within us, to enable us to do the things, which, by ourselves, we could never have done. The last contest for dominion of the earth is heating up. The supremacy of God's Kingdom over every other kingdom and power is now being asserted, without earthly weapons of war, but with the spiritual weapons of prayer, faith and the POWER OF GOD. **"The kingdoms of this world are becoming the Kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ." (Rev 11:15).**

**"The whole creation is groaning, waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God." (Rom 8:22).** The sons of God are destined (to possess) INHERIT all things.

**"God has, in these last days, spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds (Heb 1:2). "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him that we also might be glorified together" (Rom 8:16-17).**

We are crossing over to take over, we have come out of the wilderness, that old church order, we are taking over, possessing the land in our lives. It is time for us possess our inheritance and walk as the Pattern Son walked, only doing what the Father told Him to do, and only saying what the Father told Him to say.

## CHAPTER SIX

### THE KINGDOM WITHIN

**“The Kingdom of God does not come with observation, nor will they say, “See here!” or “See there!” For indeed the Kingdom of God is within you.”( Lk 17:20-21).**

The place to fight sin and lawlessness and corruption is in human hearts. All other victories will only be temporary unless we gain the triumph here of our King. The human heart is the real stronghold of lawlessness, rebellion and evil. If it is subdued and cleansed, and the King rules there, the other victories are easy. Forms of evil, strange, terrible and glaring, have prevailed in the world since Cain and Abel. Legislation has been designed by all nations and societies to suppress iniquity, but evil has become more sophisticated and survived every program to curb or eradicate it. Men have promoted education to reform the habits and propensities of men, but beneath the veneer of culture, vulgar passions still possess the heart. Men have even tried to cast the devil out, to exorcise the unclean spirit, but sin only finds new refinements and assumes different forms. In despair of final victory men have come to believe that sin cannot be destroyed.

The Kingdom of God is the rule and reign over all. The foundation of this Kingdom is in the human heart. The world has not yet witnessed anything like the total and absolute government of God, except in the life of Jesus. But there has been an increase of His Kingdom from generation to generation and from age to age. A new order is now coming forth in the earth! The hour of the completion of the body of Christ that has been forming in the earth for the past two millenniums is now at hand. The age of the reigning of Christ in and through the manifested sons of God is now ready to be revealed.

The reign of Christ in our lives is being confirmed as our Father changes us, renews our minds, increases our vision, strengthens our faith, and transforms our natures. When He removed all the old religious traditions and doctrines and ideas that were not of Him, our Father was preparing us for the pure and holy and righteous reign of God in us and through us. In this new day the love of God and the power of God shall prevail. The elect of God who are beholding the face of the Lord and being changed into His likeness are the highest expression of the Kingdom of God on earth. To them shall be given the Kingdom and dominion over all things that they may reign in love, mercy, goodness, power and righteousness, not forcing men to obey, but imparting to all men the transforming grace of God in the power and demonstration of the Holy Ghost without measure.

If every man's heart were pure all the evils and weaknesses and wrongs of society would disappear over night. No further movements, legislation, programs or enforcement would be necessary anywhere. Crime would disappear. Murders would cease. Violence would be heard of no more in the land. Gangs would disband themselves. All streets would be safe twenty-four hours a day. Wars would suddenly come to an end. Oppression and bigotry would no longer raise their shameful standards. This one simple reality - Christ ruling as King in the human heart - brings to earth the power and glory of the Kingdom of God!! Nothing else is needed. And nothing else will do!!

There would never be a broken home, a heartbroken wife or husband, or deserted and destitute children if the nature of God was written on all men's hearts. There would be no evil or trouble anywhere on earth if the nature of God was written on all men's hearts giving them a heart in the likeness of His own and a mind like the mind of Christ. From the redeemed and transformed heart the nature of God flows forth as a river of life. We still have those among us who want to proclaim the letter of the law of Sinai's mount - but all of those will change their tune if they stand with the Lamb of God at Calvary's hill.

For there they find God removing His law from the external tablets of stone, to write them upon the fleshly tablets of the hearts of new born men, who no longer keep the law and cringe in fear, because the spirit of that law has become their nature, the law of life within them. Here lies the wonderful significance of the great truth Jesus proclaimed when He said **“The Kingdom comes not with observation (outward show), neither shall they say, look here or, look there for, behold, the Kingdom of God is within you” (Lk 17:20-21).**

The ministry of Jesus and the early church is the proto type of the Kingdom of God. As the sons of God, destined to bring deliverance to the whole of creation, dare we follow in the footsteps of His holy wisdom? The heart of any social, economic or political system lies in the hearts of individual men and women. New social structures and systems, new laws, new judicial systems, new political systems, new economic systems can never solve the world's problems as long as the heart of man remains selfish. Only when men pass over by conversion from self-centeredness to God-centeredness can the Kingdom of God become a reality on earth.

All of our external problems like race, nationalism, war, crime, poverty, oppression, sickness, death, all of these are but the external symptoms of an internal deep-seated disease, the sin of self-centeredness. The only strategy that will be victorious in the war against social and other problems is an offensive directed not at a nation or its institutions, but against the human heart! The point of attack is the state of being of man himself. The objective of the attack is the conversion and transformation of man until the law of God written in his heart.

If every policeman in Australia were a godly, Spirit-filled evangelist, more would be accomplished for law and order than by all the guns and jails in the whole world. If every soldier in the world were a missionary filled with the spirit of wisdom and power from God, more would be accomplished for world peace and the betterment of society than all the wars of history have achieved. I tell you the truth. Think of it! What incredible wisdom Jesus revealed that day when He proclaimed the principle of the Kingdom—Behold, **THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS WITHIN YOU!**

Jesus said to His disciples **“It better for Me to go away, for if I go away the Comforter will come to you,”** ( then you will do the works I have done and greater works). And by going away and returning in Spirit, He would be nearer man though apparently being further. He was subjected to geography, locality space and time. But by going away in glorification He was able to return in mighty Spirit power, the incorruptible river of God's divine and eternal life, to flow and flow and flow, age after age, unceasingly, unlimitedly and untiringly into humanity as LIFE. My soul rejoices that He went away! And He has come again. The King of glory has come to His temple of living stones and is crowned in the throne room of the hearts of redeemed men, new creation men, the sons and daughters of the Most High God!

Should Jesus be crowned in the flesh, it would no more bring the Kingdom of God to earth than crowning any of the other kings of the world. We are to crown the Lord, the Spirit, as King in every place of our being, outer and inner.

The word “kingdom” is derived from the two terms “king” and “dominion” = KING’S DOMINION. It exists wherever the dominion of the Christ rules and holds sway over the hearts of men. Christ is the great King right now, ruling all things for the well-being of His subjects bringing absolute perfection and completion to His plans which He ordained before the foundation of the world. He is establishing His Kingship in all its power within His elect on the earth. God’s elect are the seat of His Kingdom in the earth at this present time.

Though He has all power in heaven and in the earth, He is not ruling anywhere in the measure He is ruling in the hearts of His beloved sons and daughters who are being called to His Kingdom and His glory. He shall yet arise in power and in glory from that throne in His completed and perfected body, the manifested sons of God, and reveal Himself as the great conquering King. And he will initiate the mightiest of all campaigns, bringing deliverance to the whole creation, reconciling all things unto Himself. Then shall all know the glory of His Kingdom as every tongue confesses and every knee bows, and in that day declare that JESUS CHRIST IS LORD. At the triumph of His Kingdom sin, sickness sorrow, pain and death all flee away to be remembered no more in the consciousness of creation.

Yes –the Kingdom of God is within you. Do you yearn to see the muck of television and the and mire of movies cleaned up, politics made honest and honourable, sexual relationships sanctified, the divorce rate reduced to zero, education employed as an instrument to glorify God and a thousand other glaring ills of society cured? There is only one way. The rule of God in the hearts of men will transform all its relations. THE NEW ORDER OF GOD works from the inside outward for the renewal and transformation of every department of earthly existence. When all areas have been brought under the control of God’s nature reproduced in men, the Kingdom of God has come into the earth.

The principle is as clear as it is certain, the KINGDOM OF GOD IS WITHIN **YOU!!** When God reigns in a man’s life, all of the relations of his life are brought within the sphere of the Kingdom. Your home should be a Kingdom home, with Christ influencing and controlling all its relationships and activities. Your business should be a Kingdom business, not conducted by the spirit and standards of the world, but by the spirit of divine love and righteousness. Your school should be a Kingdom school. Your church should be a Kingdom church, for the Kingdom is greater than the church. Your city should be a Kingdom city. Your state should be a Kingdom state. Your government should be a Kingdom government.

The outer, natural world must be brought under the dominion of the inner, spiritual world. If heaven doesn’t come to earth then the Lord’s prayer is never answered, **“Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.”** Indeed, that is what is happening to us right now as our bodies and souls are brought under the dominion of the life of the indwelling spirit. Out of the dominion of the spirit our souls are being saved and even this mortal shall put on immortality and this corruptible shall put on incorruption. The Holy Spirit is turning us inward. As we turn from the outer to seek the reality of the Christ within, we discover that our goal in life is not to make money, accumulate things, or fulfil earthly ambitions and pleasures.

If that is our goal however, then we need to get our priorities right. You see, the world WITHIN, the world that you are, there is no money and there no things. There is no need for money and there is no need for things. The only need for money and things is in the world on the outside.

But if we go and seek the things on the outside then we have left the Kingdom. Take no thought saying what shall we eat? or what shall we drink? or what shall we wear? For after all these things the Gentiles (prosperity people) seek. “ **But seek FIRST the kingdom of God and His righteousness....” (Mat 6:31-33).**

The Kingdom of God is within you. The world of the Kingdom is that inner world of the spirit. There are two dimensions of “you” –the outer you and the inner you. Paul refers to these as the “outward man” and the “inward man.” “**Though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.**” (II Cor 4:16).

The Kingdom of God brings a new way of thinking and living that seems contrary to logic. It breaks in. It startles. It overwhelms. It opens up an area to which we can hardly stretch our minds and spirits to take it in. It is a new, vibrant, mysterious, revolutionary, dynamic, powerful life style. Men and women can experience the Kingdom of God in their lives. Anyone in this world who is willing to put on the mind of Christ and be joined in union with God can live in its power and glory everyday. There lies buried within you the greatest of all treasures—the Kingdom of God.

Discover that Kingdom today, draw from its wealth, suck from its life, receive from its power and you will become a new creation, transformed into the image of God. All that is true in God lies within that Kingdom, for it is the image of God created in man from the beginning, now buried deep beneath the debris of the carnal mind and the fleshly life. It is there and it is yours for the taking. Only the earth, the earthiness of your own outer self, your own soulish emotions, your own carnal consciousness, needs to be removed before the image of God may be seen. It is still there within you, no matter how weak, sinful or undone you may feel, or how miserably you may have failed!!!

Just as it takes time to learn to work in a new computer program, it also takes time to learn to walk in the new program God has set up in your life. Technically He has turned you around from working in the program that leads in the direction of death and showed you the new one which is His life program. But we are so used to functioning in the old one that it takes time to adjust to the new. It's not necessary to get all out of shape when you feel you are not totally functioning in the way God wants you to. None of us learns to overnight. Each of us finds we revert to the old sin and death program from time to time. The important thing is not to let it discourage you. It's a slow but steady learning process that will continue all your life. THAT'S WHAT REDEMPTION IS ALL ABOUT!!!!

## CHAPTER SEVEN

### COMING IN RESURRECTION POWER

**“For our citizenship is in heaven, from where also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall transform our vile body, that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself.” (Phil 3:20-21)**

**Meditate!**

There has been a general misunderstanding of the Word of God throughout Christendom concerning the coming of the Lord, for it is clear, as we consider the scriptures on the subject of the Lord's coming, that is first and foremost a SPIRITUAL manifestation of Himself to, and THROUGH His people. Paul therefore associates the coming of the Lord with a mighty revelation of the life, glory and power of God IN the saints..... **“And to give you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus can be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels....when He shall come to be glorified IN HIS SAINTS, and be admired IN ALL THEM that believe in that day.” (II Thess 1:7&10)**

Obviously, this revelation of Christ IN and THROUGH His body (the church) is the coming of the Lord, and signals the full expression of the totality of His Life and victory IN His saints.

God's purpose in man's redemption is not just to deliver us from the penalty of our sins, but to re-create us, to make a new creature of us, a new kind of man in the image of Him who created us. We must put off the image of the earthy and put on the image of the heavenly, we must be changed from the natural, earthly living creatures we are to be recreated as spiritual, heavenly ones. This is not an option, it is a must, it is necessary if we are to inherit the kingdom.

The scriptures declare **“And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.”** What an amazing purpose this is! To be changed from what we were created naturally, to be transformed, to be changed, to be transfigured into the image of the heavenly....It staggers the imagination to ponder and contemplate such a change, but change we must if we are to inherit the promises!!!

**“While beholding as in a mirror, the glory of the Lord, we are being changed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord” (II Cor 3:18). Meditate!**

By His resurrection Jesus opened up to man again the spiritual realm, that realm where the first Adam lived ,( he was on the earth and in the spirit realm) until he sinned. After He was transfigured Jesus was in the spirit realm while on the earth.... **“Where I am there you may be also” ( Jn 14:4) ....**

JESUS is the excellent example of living and walking in the realm of the Kingdom of heaven. He came to earth and walked among men in their realm. But at the same time He walked in the heavenly realm. He was a spiritual and a heavenly man, among men. He had dominion over them. Never had man lived as this man lived. Never had man spoken as this man spoke. Never did man do the mighty works that He did. He lived on earth, but He came from a higher

world and lived by the laws of that higher world. And He made that heavenly world available to you and me. That is what Jesus was talking about when He went about preaching the kingdom of God and declaring **“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of heaven is at hand, repent and believe the good news!”** The word translated “repent” here, in the Greek, is MANONIA, meaning to change your mind, or more accurately, have a different mind.

After His transfiguration, Jesus was walking in the spirit while still on the earth.... You see the spirit realm is not somewhere up there, it is here, but we cannot see it while we are still living in the flesh. If God chose to lift the veil off our spiritual eyes, we would see the wonders of the heavenlies, just as Gehazi saw the chariots of fire when, at the request of Elisha, God opened his eyes that he might see into the spirit realm. Gehazi saw chariots of fire all around him, they didn't come down from heaven, they were there all the time. Likewise Abraham was sitting outside his tent when suddenly he saw the Lord and the angels, they didn't come down from heaven, they were there all the time.

After His resurrection Jesus appeared to His disciples, spoke with them, then vanished. He did not fly off to heaven, He simply stepped back into the realm of the spirit, which is not far from any of us. When we have died to our self-nature and He, by His Spirit, fully dwells within us, we will be as He was, on the earth and in the spirit.

**“When He appears ( in us) we know we will be like Him for we will see Him as He is, (and as He is so are we in this world). (1Jn 3:2, 4 & 17).** Our Father is calling us into sonship at this hour, so that the Kingdom of God will come on the earth, and His will be done on the earth as it is in heaven.

The spiritual world is a world with which we become familiar as we walk in the Spirit of God and experience more and more our union with the Father. It is a world so wonderfully real that, once we have our eyes opened to that celestial realm, the natural world will become insignificant to us.... It follows of necessity that man's being, which is unsuited to the spiritual world, must be changed by the power of God... just as a bird would need a mighty change to be able to live under water, or a fish to live in the air.

The Lord promises a much greater change to those who are predestined to be manifested as sons of God with power. Paul has written, **“As we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.” (1Cor 15:49)** He also explains how this change is to take place.. **“ While beholding as in a mirror, the glory of the Lord we are being changed into the same image from glory to glory , by the Spirit of the Lord (II Cor 3:18).**

**“And be not conformed to this world but be transformed (transfigured) by the renewing of your mind”.** Paul is saying that we must be transformed (metamorphosed) into the image of the heavenly. God will metamorphose even our vile bodies. “Metamorphoo” simply means “to change into another form”. Metamorphosis is a change which takes place from WITHIN. We are not transformed by external forces acting upon us, but by the breaking forth of a new inner life from within, the very life of Jesus Christ!!!

Too many of the Lord's people sit with folded hands, waiting for some change in the sweet bye and bye, when God clearly shows that this process of change has already begun. This is what must take place in us, we must be changed from what we started out to be, into a creature vastly different in form and nature. The natural man is a creature of the earth, and his primary concern is with the satisfaction of his natural appetites (**“they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh”**) and the things of the spirit mean very little to him. It is imperative that we have our minds renewed...

All our lives we have been subjected to the bondage of corruption and death which is rooted in the CARNAL MIND.....**“to be carnally minded is DEATH” (Rom 8: 6)**. That is God's definition of death, and according to inspiration, death is IN THE MIND!!! “It's all in the mind” they say. Though it may be spoken in jest, it is a divine truth.

In the same chapter a further truth is introduced, showing that the transformation of the body begins with the renewing of the mind, for says the Apostle **“to be SPIRITUALLY MINDED is life and peace...(Rom 8:6)**. Life also is in the mind!! **“If the spirit of Him who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also give LIFE to your MORTAL BODIES BY HIS SPIRIT THAT DWELLS IN YOU.”(Rom 8:11)**.

If ever a reason was given for a change of mind, a change of thinking, a raising of consciousness, this must be it!!!... **“Be ye transformed (metamorphosed) by the renewing of your mind.”** It is the termination of our old way of thinking, of the carnal consciousness of sin and death and the activation of a new way of thinking---the spiritual consciousness of LIFE IN CHRIST that brings the change, works the change, and completes the change until our transformation into the heavenly is consummated in spirit soul and body. **“For if you live according to the flesh you will die! But if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body you WILL LIVE”!! (Rom 8:13)**.

We have embraced many theories about how this would be accomplished, but in one majestic sweep of inspiration Paul puts aside all theories to tell us that we shall be transformed BY THE RENEWING OF OUR MIND.

“Mind” means thought, intellect, reason, sense, thinking principle...Thought is thinking, The renewing of the mind means the renovation, reconstruction, re-programming of our thought patterns and processes. From the very beginnings of our childhood we have been indoctrinated with the lie that we must expect to die. Death became an accepted mind set, and until Christ came declaring **“I have come that you might have LIFE”**, death reigned. Christ has defeated death. As the old carnal and human mind is always thinking thoughts of sin and death, it leaves us mortal, corruptible and unchanged. The new mind however is the mind of Christ. The mind of Christ encompasses the intellect, the thought patterns, the thinking principles of Him who has conquered both sin and death and abides forever in the life and immortality of the celestial..... **“THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS HAS MADE ME FREE FROM THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH” (Rom 8: 2)**.

Few believe that the spiritual body can be put on here and now, even as we stand upon the earth. Do you? We have to believe that it is possible for us to be changed, transformed, transfigured in our whole man here in this life..... And since we cannot, by any natural process, perform this for ourselves, we must be willing and ready to come under the deep mysterious process of letting the mind of Christ cancel out the carnal mind, of letting the law of life nullify the law of sin and death in the secret chambers of our consciousness.

The secret is to DESIRE to receive your inheritance, which is to become a SON OF GOD WHILE ON THE EARTH. When desire comes it is a tree of LIFE.... The mystery is **“CHRIST IN YOU THE HOPE OF GLORY”**.

God is going to dismantle all things that would hinder us from attaining His Life in us. **“He who has begun a good work in us will continue till Christ is formed in us”**.

The elect of God have been passing through all the dealings and workings of God, particularly during the past few years, in order that Christ may be fully formed within us as LIFE. We must know Him as LIFE within ourselves before there can be a flowing out of that LIFE from our being.

We learn to know the majesty of His power within by our own experience, so that God may have a people through whom He can manifest Himself without INHIBITION, without LIMITATION, without any HINDERING OF THE FULL FLOW OF HIMSELF, so that it will be the FULL MANIFESTATION OF HIS LOVE, GRACE, WISDOM, POWER, LIFE, SALVATION, AND DELIVERANCE TO ALL HUMANITY, that is a people no longer just seeking God's works, wonderful though His works are, but conscious of God Himself. A river of life, these people no longer proclaim mere doctrines, creeds, rituals, experiences, programs or works, but the Lord Himself as LIFE and LIGHT and LOVE, GOD manifest in the flesh.

God is looking forth unto an hour of the expression and revelation of Himself through His sons. This is the revelation of Jesus Christ through man. In those blessed days ahead of the manifestation of the sons of God the present "in part" realm of the church age will pass away. For, in the light of HIS FULLNESS, it will appear like a sounding brass and a clanging cymbal and have nothing to offer. The old-order church system will be swallowed up in the outflowing of the fullness of God in His sons. And in that day people will find themselves moving into salvation, then moving on into the infilling of the Spirit, and on into the glory of the Lord in all its majesty, as easily as a man is converted today, because the Person of Christ is coming into focus, and He Himself is coming into expression through His chosen ones. The peoples' bodies will even be changed to be fashioned like unto His glorious body (**Phil 3:21**) as the sons of God go forth to deliver CREATION from the bondage of corruption!

There is a dimension of the revelation of Jesus Christ that transcends the speaking of words, the writing of books, the preaching of sermons, and the manifestation of gifts and works. The revelation of Jesus is the need of the hour! Only a present intervention of the Divine mind and will, only a present intrusion of the Divine Power and Glory, only a present interjection of the Divine Spirit of Life will be able to deliver creation. If God does not give a special ministration of the Spirit of wisdom and power to meet the need of the world, it will not be met. After two thousand years of church order it has not been met.! There are no buttons to press that can solve the complex and frightening problems that exist in the world today!! The further we move in God the more helpless we are to ourselves, for our nothingness is magnified in the Light of His Glory.

The hour for the unveiling of God's glory is at hand. May God grant to each of His apprehended ones the understanding that from this time on God is not interested in what He has done for you. From now on it must be "**When Christ who is our life shall appear...**" If there is a mind in us, it must be the mind of Christ, not our religious mind that has been cultivated through the years. From now on it must not be your mind stayed on God, it must be **His mind in you.!**

What we have witnessed and testified to for years was a work of God, His salvation in us, His peace in us, His victory in us, how we had become a product of the work of God. But God's purpose is not that we shall be a testimony of the work of God, rather that there shall come a revelation of Himself, and that the revelation will be Christ. This is what the Holy Spirit means by "**the revelation of Jesus Christ**"!! It will not be a revelation of His grace, or His goodness, or His works, or His anything, but the unveiling of the Person of God in His sons!!

## CHAPTER EIGHT

### THE INCREASE OF THE KINGDOM

The sons of God do not have to be afraid of the passage of time, because time is on our side. History is working out our objectives which are according to God's plan of the ages. Nearly four millennia ago God appeared to Abraham with the promise that through him and his seed all the families of the earth would be blessed. Abraham was only one man in the midst of a pagan world of false gods and superstitious religion. How could such a promise be realised? Must he form an organization, design a strategy and begin to enlist workers to help bring the objective to pass? Not at all! He stood by faith in the God who promised and staggered not in unbelief. He did nothing more than that. He understood that this was God's strange work, not man's.

Centuries passed monotonously and uneventfully until the day God appeared to Moses in the burning bush at the back side of the desert. Swiftly events were set in motion which brought Abraham's multiplied family out of Egypt and formed them into a nation at the foot of Mt Sinai. Forty years later God gave them their homeland in Canaan, according to His promise to their father Abraham, and eventually they became a power to be reckoned with among the nations. Then fifteen hundred years of history passed until the angel Gabriel was sent to a young virgin in Nazareth to announce **"behold, you shall conceive in your womb, and bring forth a son, and you shall call His name Jesus. He shall be great, and be called the son of the Highest, and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David. And He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of His Kingdom there shall be no end"** (Lk 1:31-33).

Jesus came into the world at the time of the Roman empire. He was crucified on a Roman cross, pierced with a Roman spear. But, praise God! He burst the bands of death, shattered the might of Rome, and arose the conquering Christ. And not only that, He ascended victor over sin and all powers of darkness, having brought to nought the prince of this world, having brought in eternal redemption and everlasting hope for a lost world and reconciled all things back to Himself. He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on High and poured out on the first few citizens of His Kingdom the gift of the Holy Ghost. The Kingdom of God was birthed, and gathered from Jew and Gentile alike a vast multitude into its bosom. What a flood of light and glory and power fell upon the world through the ministry of the humble followers of the Lamb!

What glorious days they were! How God blessed His people! Mighty signs and wonders were performed as God confirmed His word with signs following. The word of God anointed by the Holy Spirit, swept the world like a bush fire. It encircled the mountains and crossed the oceans. It made kings to tremble and tyrants to fear. It was said of those early Christians that they turned the world upside down...so powerful was their message and spirit! The knowledge of the glory of the Lord covered the earth as the waters covered the sea. Paganism fell. The mighty Roman empire shut up its pagan temples, sheathed its persecuting sword and sat down as a disciple at the feet of Christ and His apostles. Jesus had said "I will build My church" and build it He did!

Now two thousand years have gone by and nothing new has happened! But ....can you not see the progression? God appeared at first to one man, Abraham. It is plain to see that out of Abraham came a nation. Out of that nation came the Christ. Out of Christ has come the church. And now, out of the church, is being birthed the manchild, the manifested sons of God, destined to rule all nations with a rod of iron. The ministry and rule of sonship is ready to be released upon the nations of the earth.

We are on the threshold of amazing events! The Lord God of the universe is about to sovereignly inject Himself once more into the world of mankind. The sons of God are now standing in the wings. Every day brings us closer to the realization of the glory of the Lord covering the entire world, changing and transforming the nations, all people, all cultures and all things. The nations will love and serve the one true God and Father, and will cease to make war. The earth itself will be changed, restored to the condition it was originally in Eden. All nations will be released from the bondage of corruption, sin, sickness, sorrow and death. It is a wonderful thing that we have been called and chosen at this junction of history to enter into the Kingdom. The prophets prophesied this Day and I do not doubt that some of us will see the power and the glory of it with our own eyes in our life time.

The coming age will be the one that will see the fullness of God in operation through His sons, the demonstration of the mighty power of the Kingdom of God. We don't await a mansion over the hilltop, or a cabin in the corner of glory land, or white night gowns, or harps, or palm branches, or dangling feet in some celestial stream. There is a job to be done! A battle to be fought! A victory to be won! An enemy to be conquered! A glory to be secured! "And there shall be no more death." This is God's will for humanity UPON THIS EARTH, not in some far off heaven somewhere. And this is what our call to sonship is all about! If only the saints of God could have an open vision that would enable them to understand the glory of God's purpose on earth, and His election in man. The writer of Hebrews spoke of those who have "**tasted the heavenly gift, and are made partakers of the Holy Ghost and have tasted of the good word of God, and THE POWERS OF THE AGE TO COME**" (Heb 6:4-5).

Jesus said concerning the mighty miracles which He did, "**Greater works than these you shall do!**" But have the followers of Jesus so far really done any greater works than He did? The book of Acts does not record them. Neither do the Epistles. Nor does church history. In the hundred years following the restoration to the church of the baptism in the Holy Spirit, in the fifty years or more following the restoration of the five fold ministry, the gifts of the Spirit and the prophetic flow, have we seen any works performed greater than raising the dead, cleansing lepers, walking on water, calming storms, turning water into wine?? We know we haven't!!

According to Hebrews 6:5 all the signs, wonders, gifts, miracles, and glory we have experienced are simply a taste, a small sampling of THE MIGHTY WORKS OF THE COMING AGE, GREATER WORKS THAN JESUS DID 2,000 YEARS AGO!! We have seen only the first-fruits of what God will do through Christ's body upon this earth.

Have we seen hospitals emptied, the dead raised incorruptible, natures changed, nations turned to God, the crucial problems of poverty, crime, violence, war, corruption and the environment solved, the whole world system transformed? Not yet. But even "**greater works than these shall you see**" as the glorious mind of Christ rules and reigns over the earth through the manifested sons of God bringing THE INCREASE OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD! The fullness of what we, so far, have had just a taste will be the normal works on behalf of humanity in that new age of the Kingdom. The next dispensation is to be as different and much more glorious as every succeeding dispensation has been to the one proceeding it.

Those who are now being transformed by the Spirit and gathered into God's Christ are the new creation (II Cor 5:17). How little we knew when we started this wonderful journey into God what glories He had prepared for those who love Him. God's purpose is not merely to make the members of the body of Christ a new creation, but to make ALL THINGS NEW.

The sons of God are now being raised up in to the heavenlies and made one in Christ, as was the divine intention from the moment of creation's first dawning " **that in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth, even in Him**" (Eph. 1;10). I believe Paul gives the clearest insight into this supernatural mystery when he writes: " **In my opinion whatever we may have to go through now, is less than nothing compared with the magnificent future God has in store for us. The whole creation is on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of the sons of God coming into their own. The world of creation can not as yet see reality, not because it chooses to be blind, but because in God's purpose it has been so limited --- yet it has been given hope. And the hope is that in the end the whole of created life will be rescued from the tyranny of change and decay, and have its share in that magnificent liberty which can only belong to the children of God!**" (Rom. 8:18-21, Phillips)

What a glorious liberty! What a wonderful purpose! What a wonderful hope! Ultimately the whole creation will be raised up into this same spiritual, heavenly, divine and incorruptible realm that God is now bringing His sons into. God's plans are as big as the universe! But this shouldn't seem strange since God created all the stars and planets and all who inhabit them. So, shouldn't the vast universe fit into God's Kingdom purpose? " **For thus says the Lord that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it; He has established it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited; I am the Lord and there is none else**" (Isa 45:18)

God has raised His firstborn Son, Jesus, to an exalted position above all things, including the universe. He has made Him Head over all things to the church, and the whole truth is, God has made Him Head also over all principalities and power (Col 2:10).

He has given Him all power in the heavens and on the earth. He has given Him a name that is above every name anywhere. As far as position and honour and glory and authority is concerned, Jesus is higher than all else in the universe, and all things have been made subject to Him and gathered into Him. He and His government of sons will reign until everything in the universe is brought into subjection to Him and resonates with His life. When this is accomplished, Jesus will deliver the Kingdom up to the Father so that God may BE ALL AND IN ALL (1Cor 15:24-28). Everything in all realms, from the depths of the bottomless to the heights above all heavens, will find their one head in Christ.

"**And this is in harmony with God's merciful purpose for the government of the world when the times are ripe for it , the purpose which He has cherished in His own mind of restoring the whole creation to find its one Head in Christ: yes, things in heaven and things on earth, to find their one Head in Him**" (Eph 1:9-10, Weymouth).

It should be clear to every enlightened mind that God is in the process of making an entirely new creation, or making all things new, not a mere natural creation, nor yet a purely spiritual one, but a spiritual—physical one. And Jesus the firstborn of this new creation order is a GOD-MAN upon the throne of universal power!

## CHAPTER NINE

### THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

In this chapter we shall consider the meaning, magnitude and magnificence of the realm of the Kingdom of heaven. The gospel of the Kingdom is not the good news that we shall go to some far-off heaven somewhere and live forever in an external paradise. As extraordinarily marvellous as that would be, God has something far, far better for us than this!

Going to a place called heaven is not what Jesus had in mind when He proclaimed the Kingdom of heaven. The religious tradition concerning “going to heaven” is so strong in Christians that it distorts people’s ability to perceive and understand what is written in the Word of God. When we emphasise the concept of going to heaven to live forever, the gospel of the Kingdom of heaven becomes incoherent. Preachers are always making the foolish statement “except a man be born again he cannot get to heaven.” **THAT’S NOT WHAT JESUS SAID!** It is an absurd perversion of the Word of our Lord. Jesus wasn’t talking about going anywhere—He plainly said unless a man is born again by the Spirit of God he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.

Why do men play with the Word of God? Why do they twist, change, mix-quote, mix-represent and distort the good news of the Kingdom? It is the incredible darkness of the carnal mind and the ignorant foolishness of religion that does this! I tell you today that the gospel of the Kingdom of God has absolutely nothing to do with dying and doing to heaven—it has everything to do with the rule of God coming into this earth. **Redemption is not a change of location, it is a transformation of the state of being.** The Father’s desire is not that we leave the world behind someday to “fly away” to our mansion in the sky. His desire is that we leave the world behind right now and press forward each day deeper and deeper into the depths of the Kingdom of heaven on earth.

**“And I John saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away. And He that sat upon the throne said, I make all things new” (Rev 21:2-5).** The beloved disciple John, saw the city descending down from God to earth. He did not see us going out into space somewhere. God is going to perfect His elect right here upon the earth, with a divine life that comes out of God from heaven, and they are going to reign upon the earth. **“Suddenly there came from heaven the sound of a rushing mighty wind.....and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost.”** Behold the tabernacle of God is with men! And He shall dwell with them! God is coming to dwell with mankind! That is the power and the glory of the Kingdom of heaven on earth.

Yet millions of Christians vainly imagine that they are going to a city up in the sky to live there with Jesus forever and ever. Multitudes believe that somehow they will escape the “great tribulation” by being “raptured”, snatched up to heaven. The testimony of scripture is just the opposite of man’s childish superstitions. God has always come down to man. Long ago in Eden the Lord came down and walked and talked with Adam.

In another account we find that the Lord appeared on the plains of Mamre and walked and talked with our father Abraham. God came down in flaming fire and smoke before the face of the whole assembled nation of Israel and gave them His law. God instructed Moses to build the tabernacle in the wilderness so that He could have a dwelling place in the midst of our Israelite forefathers. Many centuries later “the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.” John saw the city descending from God, and indeed it is descending from God.

The principles of the Kingdom of God, righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost are coming down out of heaven. When the nature and the character of our heavenly Father are being formed in us and His precious mind rules our hearts, the Holy City is descending to earth. With every victory over sin and sickness, over limitation, darkness and death, the Holy City is descending to earth. It will continue descending with the development of the body of Christ into its full stature. **“Thy Kingdom come Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.”**

According to the beloved John everything on earth IS going to be transformed. He speaks of a new heaven and a new earth. He speaks of all things made new. At present heaven and earth are quite separate states of existence, but in the new City of God, which John beheld in spirit, they are no longer two, but one.

The world is to be won for God, there will be a transformed society of men on earth, and in the end earth will become heaven. Death will be abolished, and sin and sorrow will flee away. When John used the language of Isaiah about the city needing no light from the sun, he meant it even in a grander way. God in Christ is to be the light of every man’s life, all the nations are to walk in that light, and love and brotherhood be all in all. But he boldly departs from the Old Testament dream of the Jerusalem Temple. He says that God Himself will be the Temple, and men shall worship Him in spirit and in truth.

Looking back upon the desecration and destruction which had befallen the Temple which once was the pride and the glory of Israel, he says in effect: Well let it go! At best it was only a beautiful symbol for a still more beautiful reality. Nothing is lost by the ruin of that which was built by hands. God Himself is our Temple, God in Christ! We need no other! The whole earth is full of His glory, and in Him we live and move and have our being. By destroying the outward it throws us back upon the inward, it removes the local and temporary to fix our gaze upon the universal and eternal.

The Kingdom of heaven is the Kingdom from or out of heaven. Where is heaven? What is heaven? Is it a place? Is it a planet? Is it a galaxy? Is it beyond the stars? Is it a condition of life? Is it a different dimension of living? If our very Father is in heaven, then we ought to know something about heaven, for it is the source of our life, the realm of our origin. We know this because the Father who begot us dwells in heaven, therefore we are out of heaven and from heaven.

By saying God is in heaven, Jesus does not mean to localize or locate God. He is not telling us of a place where God is and where God lives apart from any other place in the universe. If that were the case, then there would be no God anywhere outside of that place called heaven. Those who think of heaven as a place, usually think of God being very distant. Somehow we have gotten the idea that heaven is a long way off. This error has crept into many songs sung by the church world. For instance “When we all get to heaven” and “Won’t it be wonderful there” and the Hymn “There is a happy land far, far, away.”

And even in the old Hymn “The old Rugged Cross” we sing, “HE will call me some day to that home far away....” How did we get that conception? Certainly not from Jesus or the apostles!

When Jesus was talking to Nicodemus, He said, **“No man has ascended up to heaven, but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of man who is in heaven” (John 3:13)** This means that Jesus claimed that, while He was sitting and talking with this rabbi, He Himself was actually in heaven. This of course means that heaven is here now.

The easiest way to understand heaven is to realize that it is where God lives. The question follows, where is God? Is He on a planet, light years away? Or is He everywhere, omnipresent? The Psalmist David posed this question **“where shall I go from Your presence.....?” (Ps 139:7-10)**. Is there some point out in the universe where you can draw a line and say “God comes to this point, beyond here God does not exist. If you cross this line you will leave the presence of God” ?

The scriptures testify that God is before all things, He fills all things, and He is greater than all things. Therefore it is abundantly clear that wherever there are things, there you will find God. Is there any place where there are no things? If there is, man has never found it.

Since God created all things in Himself, and fills all things with Himself, it is an absolute certainty that to find the end of creation would be to discover the limit of God. God is limitless, infinite, boundless, unending and inexhaustible. The creation is coexistent with the Creator, therefore there is no end to the cosmos for there is no end to God...

The wonderful attribute of OMNIPRESENCE is one of the foremost parts of God's glory. God's omnipresence (that is to say, God's presence everywhere) is rooted in the fact that He upholds all things and fills all things and is higher than all the heavens. That is the testimony of scripture. God's presence is with all His creatures of all kinds, and in all places of His dominion. Give strength then, to your understanding, and give wings to your imagination, and give holy fear to your heart, as you try to ponder upon these great matters **“which eye has not seen, nor ear heard. Neither have entered into the heart of man...but God has revealed them unto us by His Spirit.”**

When you try to do it, you cannot limit the presence of God to any one place on earth, or in heaven. Now the Almighty Father is wholly and continually with everyone of us in all completeness, and in all the totality of His Godhead.

In the early 1600's the Christian mystic, Jacob Boehme, wrote “If You want to know about heaven and what heaven is and where it is, you do not need to cast your thoughts many thousands of miles away, for that place, that heaven thousands of miles away, is not your heaven. The true heaven is not a created place but an uncreated place, and it is not found in a particular place but everywhere, even in the very place where you are standing and going. For when your spirit within you is able to penetrate through and beyond your own flesh and life, and is able to catch hold of the innermost moving of God, then you are clearly in heaven. And if your eyes were opened, you should see God everywhere in His Heaven, for Heaven is found everywhere. For instance, when Stephen saw Heaven open and the Lord Jesus at the right hand of God, his spirit did not suddenly transport itself into outer space, but rather Stephen's spirit had moved inward, within, into the innermost place where heaven is found everywhere, for God fills all things. There is only one Heart, one Being, one Will, one God, All in all.

Heaven is not a place, not a geographical location—it is a sphere or realm of reality. It is a dimension of life. It is a level of God consciousness. It is as omnipresent as God is omnipresent.

Heaven is the realm in which God is known by the spirit and it is the realm in which God can be touched in the Spirit. Heaven is everywhere, it is closer to you than the air you breathe, and even closer than the blood that courses through your veins.

Heaven therefore, can only be entered BY THAT WHICH IS SPIRIT. That is why Jesus spoke of heavenly things to Nicodemus and said **“Except a man be born again, except a man be born from above, except a man be born of the Spirit, he can neither see nor enter into the Kingdom of God”**.