

Monday 12/23

Related Verses

Acts 26:18

18 To open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.

Col. 1:13

13 Who delivered us out of the authority of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

Gen. 1:26

26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

Matt. 12:26

26 And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?

1 John 3:4

4 Everyone who practices sin practices lawlessness also, and sin is lawlessness.

Rev. 11:15

15 And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.

Isa. 14:12-15

12 How you have fallen from heaven, O Daystar, son of the dawn! How you have been hewn down to earth, You who made nations fall prostrate!

13 But you, you said in your heart: I will ascend to heaven; Above the stars of God I will exalt my throne. And I will sit upon the mount of assembly In the uttermost parts of the north.

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.

15 But you will be brought down to Sheol, To the uttermost parts of the pit.

Related Reading

In the universe there are two great things: believing unto salvation and submitting to authority. In other words, to trust and obey. The Bible shows us that the definition of sin is lawlessness (1 John 3:4)...To be lawless is to disregard the authority of God, and to disregard the authority of God is sin.

There are two principles in the universe—God’s authority and Satan’s rebellion. We cannot serve God on the one hand, while taking the way of rebellion with a spirit of rebellion on the other hand. Although a rebellious person can preach, Satan will laugh, because the principle of Satan is there in the preaching. Service is ever attendant to authority...We who serve God must gain this basic understanding at some time...Once a man meets God’s authority and is smitten by it, his eyes will be enlightened...He will know who is and who is not lawless. (*CWWN*, vol. 47, “Authority and Submission,” p. 115)

Isaiah 14 reveals that Satan wanted to exalt his throne to be equal with God (v. 13). This means that Satan intends to violate God’s sovereignty, usurp God’s authority, and overthrow God’s throne; he intends to establish his own kingdom in the universe. In Matthew 12 the Lord Jesus spoke of two kingdoms, the kingdom of God [v. 28] and the kingdom of Satan [v. 26]...There are two kingdoms in the universe...One is God’s establishing of His throne for the exercise of His authority, and the other is Satan’s overthrowing of God’s throne for the setting up of his own authority.

The matter of authority is mentioned in the very beginning of the Bible. Genesis 1 shows that God gave man the authority to have dominion over all the living things in the sea, in the air, and on the earth (v. 26). The way Satan stole man away from God was to seduce man to rebel against God, to usurp God’s authority. When man sinned, he did not merely violate a rule; even more, he revolted against God, rebelled against God, and put God’s authority aside, denying God’s authority and rejecting God’s rule. Just as Satan rebelled against God, man also rebelled against God. The first creatures God created were the angels, among whom the archangel led many to rebel. Later, God created man, who also rebelled.

(*CWWL*, 1957, vol. 2, “What the Kingdom Is to the Believers,” pp. 426-427)

God desired that His creatures would accept His authority; however, both kinds of creatures rejected His authority...Nevertheless, God did not call back His authority. God can call back His presence, but He will never call back His system of authority. Wherever God’s authority is, God is given a position of prominence. On the one hand, God maintains His system of authority, and on the other hand, He establishes His kingdom. Although Satan rebelled against God’s authority, and although man daily violates His authority by rebelling against Him, God will not let this rebellion continue. He will establish His own kingdom. The Bible calls the kingdom of God the kingdom of the heavens because rebellion is not limited to just the world (Matt. 4:17; Mark 1:15). The angels in the heavens rebelled as well.

How did the Lord establish God’s kingdom?...Whatever the Lord did on earth was entirely based on submission. He did nothing that opposed God’s authority. Everything was in submission, in perfect cooperation with the authority of God...The church today must also allow God’s authority to have a free way and manifest His kingdom through submission. (*CWWN*, vol. 47, “Authority and Submission,” p. 148)

Further Reading: *CWWN*, vol. 47, “Authority and Submission,” chs. 1, 3, 6, 9—11

Tuesday 12/24

Related Verses

Matt. 6:10

10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.

Matt. 12:28

28 But if I, by the Spirit of God, cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Mark 3:27

27 But no one can enter into the house of the strong man and thoroughly plunder his goods unless he first binds the strong man, and then he will thoroughly plunder his house.

Matt. 4:17

17 From that time Jesus began to proclaim and to say, Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near.

Matt. 6:33

33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

John 3:3,5

3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Eph. 2:19

19 So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

Related Reading

We may say that a kingdom is a sphere, or a realm, where a person accomplishes something. Sometimes we say that a certain person has his own kingdom. This means that he has a realm, a sphere, where he can work to reach his goal or fulfill his plan. Hence, a kingdom is a realm where a person does what he wants to do. According to the Old Testament, there is a realm called the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is a sphere, a realm, for God to work out His eternal purpose and accomplish His goal. (*Life-study of Mark*, 2nd ed., p. 114)

After creating the heavens, the earth, and billions of items, God created man. According to the book of Genesis, God created man for a twofold purpose. On the positive side, God created man in His image so that man may express Him. On the negative side, God gave man His dominion over all created things. Dominion means “authority in a particular realm or sphere.” *Dominion*, therefore, is related to God’s kingdom...God’s image is for His expression, and God’s dominion is for His kingdom.

Not being able to fulfill His purpose through the first Adam and his descendants, God came through incarnation as the last Adam. As God incarnate, the Lord

Jesus came to establish the kingdom of God, to establish a realm in which God can carry out His purpose through the exercise of His authority. This was the reason the Lord taught His disciples to pray for the coming of the kingdom (Matt. 6:10). This was also the reason the Lord Jesus in His preaching of the gospel told people to repent for the kingdom of God...Those who repent because the kingdom of God has drawn near will be able to participate in the accomplishment of God’s eternal purpose.

Satan’s kingdom is against God’s kingdom, and Satan’s house is against God’s house.

In Mark 3:26 the Lord pointed out that if “Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he is not able to stand but has come to an end.”...The “goods” [in verse 27] are sinners kept in Satan’s house for his kingdom. The Slave-Savior bound Satan, the strong man, and entered into his house to plunder his goods so that the sinners might be brought into the house of God (Eph. 2:19) for the kingdom of God (John 3:5). While the Slave-Savior was doing the gospel service, He was binding the strong man, Satan [Mark 3:27]. The gospel service is a warfare to destroy Satan and his kingdom of darkness.

[While preaching, the Lord] was binding the strong man in order to destroy his kingdom by plundering his house. [His] preaching was a plundering. Satan has captured all sinners and has placed them into his house, which is a prison. Hence, all sinners have become Satan’s captives. But the Lord Jesus, who has the power of the Spirit, has come to preach the gospel. He has come to plunder Satan’s house and to release his captives.

As He was preaching the gospel, the Lord was destroying the kingdom of Satan by the power of the Holy Spirit...The Lord would not do anything by His own power, strength, or energy. On the contrary, He did everything by the Holy Spirit. In particular, by the Holy Spirit He preached the gospel in order to plunder Satan’s house and destroy his kingdom.

Matthew 12:28 indicates that when the Lord Jesus was destroying Satan’s kingdom by preaching the gospel, He was bringing in the kingdom of God...Where the Spirit of God is in power, there the kingdom of God is, and there the demons have no ground. (*Life-study of Mark*, 2nd ed., pp. 114-115, 107-108)

Further Reading: *CWWN*, vol. 59, pp. 98-99, 106, 139, 149, 181, 190, 206, 218-219, 222

Wednesday 12/25**Related Verses****Mark 4:35-41 (39)**

35 And He said to them on that day when evening had fallen, Let us go over to the other side.

36 And leaving the crowd, they took Him along, just as He was, in the boat; and other boats were with Him.

37 And there arose a great windstorm, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already beginning to fill up.

38 And He was in the stern, sleeping on the cushion. And they woke Him and said to Him, Teacher, does it not matter to You that we are perishing?

39 And having awoken, He rebuked the wind and said to the sea, Be silent! Be still! And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

40 And He said to them, Why are you cowardly in this way? How is it that you do not have faith?

41 And they became greatly frightened and said to one another, Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?

Eph. 6:12

12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.

John 12:31

31 Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the ruler of this world be cast out.

Related Reading

Mark 4 is a wonderful chapter concerned with the seed, the gene, of the kingdom and its full development...Perhaps you are wondering how the last part of chapter 4 fits in with 4:1-34, in which we have the parables of the kingdom.

First, Mark 4 speaks concerning the kingdom of God. Then immediately after the record of the kingdom, there is a record of rebellion. Verse 37 says that a great

The Kingdom as the Subduing of Rebellion and as the Transfiguration of the Lord Jesus

windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat. This is a picture of rebellion.

In this chapter we first have the kingdom and then the subduing of rebellion. From God's point of view, the kingdom is the development of God Himself as the seed of life. But from the point of view of God's enemy, the kingdom is the subduing of rebellion. (*Life-study of Mark*, 2nd ed., pp. 147-148)

Satan has not only a house but also a kingdom [Mark 3:23-25]. His house is a house of sin (1 John 3:8, 10), and his kingdom is a kingdom of darkness (Col. 1:13). Sinners belong both to Satan's house and to his kingdom. The demons belong to his kingdom and possess people for his kingdom. Satan is the ruler of this world (John 12:31) and the ruler of the authority of the air (Eph. 2:2). He has his authority (Acts 26:18) and his angels (Matt. 25:41), who are his subordinates as rulers, authorities, and world-rulers of this darkness (Eph. 6:12). Hence, Satan has his kingdom, the authority of darkness (Col. 1:13).

Immediately after the Slave-Savior spoke a strong word on the kingdom of God, He said to His disciples, "Let us go over to the other side..." [Mark 4:35]. The rebel, Satan, then used his angels in the air and his demons in the water to stir up rebellion. Because of this "there arose a great windstorm, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already beginning to fill up" (v. 37). This storm made it very difficult for the boat carrying the Lord and His disciples to cross the sea.

While the disciples were following Him, the Slave-Savior, as a man with divine authority, controlled the storm that threatened them [v. 39].

The Slave-Savior rebuked the wind and commanded the sea to be still because in the wind were the fallen angels of Satan (Eph. 6:12), and in the sea were the demons (Matt. 8:32). The fallen angels in the air and the demons in the water collaborated to frustrate the Slave-Savior from going to the other side of the sea because they knew that He would cast out the demons there (Mark 5:1-20).

The Lord knew that the storm was instigated by these angels and demons in order to frustrate Him from going to the other side of the sea to cast out the legion of demons. When the Lord cast out those demons, that was the coming of the kingdom.

Now we can see that in chapter 4 the Lord spoke concerning the kingdom, and in chapter 5 He carried out the kingdom through the casting out of demons. Between the word concerning the kingdom and the carrying out of the kingdom, there is the incident of the stormy sea. After the Lord rebuked the wind and spoke to the sea, the wind ceased and there was a great calm, for the rebellion of the evil angels in the air and the demons in the water was subdued. Therefore, in 4:35-41 we see the kingdom as the power to subdue rebellion.

The sequence in this chapter is significant. Immediately after the unveiling of the kingdom, we have the subduing of rebellion. This is for the carrying out of the kingdom of God. (*Life-study of Mark*, 2nd ed., pp. 106-107, 148-149)

Further Reading: *Life-study of Mark*, msgs. 5, 12—13, 16—17, 19, 25, 64, 66; *CWWL*, 1959, vol. 3, "Ten Lines in the Bible," chs. 6, 10

Thursday 12/26

Related Verses**Mark 9:1-2, 3-4**

1 And He said to them, Truly I say to you, there are some of those standing here who shall by no means taste death until they see the kingdom of God having come in power.

2 And after six days Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John, and brought them up alone into a high mountain privately. And He was transfigured before them,

3 And His garments became sparkling, exceedingly white, such as no fuller on earth could whiten them.

4 And Elijah with Moses appeared to them, and they were conversing with Jesus.

Mark 4:26-29

26 And He said, So is the kingdom of God: as if a man cast seed on the earth,

27 And sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and lengthens -- how, he does not know.

28 The earth bears fruit by itself: first a blade, then an ear, then full grain in the ear.

29 But when the fruit is ripe, immediately he sends forth the sickle, because the harvest has come.

Related Reading

The transfiguration of the Lord Jesus was the coming of the kingdom. This proves that the kingdom is not a material realm...The kingdom is a person transfigured.

We need to consider this understanding of the kingdom as the transfiguration of the Lord Jesus in the light of our experience...Just as the seed received by the soil is a seed that has not yet been transfigured, so in our experience the Christ we received was a Christ not transfigured. The transfiguration of a seed requires the growth of that seed into a mature plant and the blossoming of that plant...In a similar way, the Lord Jesus we received needs to grow in us until He blossoms from within us. (*Life-study of Mark*, 2nd ed., p. 550)

We are the soil, and the Lord Jesus is the seed of the kingdom...We all can testify strongly that we have received the Lord and that He is in us. But has the Lord been transfigured in you? If the Lord who is in you has not yet been transfigured, others will not be able to see the kingdom of God in you. Since we have not yet experienced this kind of transfiguration, we need the Lord to grow in us until He blossoms. That blossoming will be the transfiguration of the Lord Jesus in us in a practical way. Such a transfiguration is the kingdom of God.

When the Lord Jesus is transfigured in us in a practical way in our daily living, that transfiguration becomes the kingdom of God ruling everything in our life. This kingdom rules us and also gives us the full enjoyment of God.

For years I was familiar with the story of the Lord's transfiguration without realizing that this transfiguration should be something experiential and practical to us in our daily living. We all have the Lord Jesus within us, but He has not yet been transfigured in us. Hence, we need Him to grow in us until by transfiguration He

blossoms into the expression of the kingdom of God in our experience.

In Mark 1:15 the Lord Jesus said, “The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has drawn near.” Then in the parable of the seed, the Lord said, “So is the kingdom of God: as if a man cast seed on the earth” (4:26). Later, in 9:1, the Lord told His disciples that some standing there would not taste death until they saw the kingdom of God having come in power. Immediately after speaking this word concerning the kingdom, the Lord Jesus was transfigured on the mountaintop before Peter, James, and John...This is a strong indication that the kingdom of God is actually the transfiguration of the Lord Jesus.

Among many genuine Christians there is the lack of the kingdom of God today. The reason is that among these Christians there is the lack of the transfiguration of Christ. The Christ who lives in so many believers is still a seed; He has not yet been transfigured. This may also be our situation. Yes, we have the Lord Jesus living within us, but we may not have given Him the opportunity to be transfigured in us. Therefore, with us there may be only the seed of the kingdom but not the appearing of the kingdom.

On the day of the Lord’s transfiguration on the mountaintop, there was the coming, the appearing, of the kingdom. From this we see that in order to have the appearing of the kingdom from within us, we need to experience the Lord’s being transfigured within us.

Today such a transfiguration produces the church life, which is the kingdom of God. (*Life-study of Mark*, 2nd ed., pp. 550-552)

Further Reading: *CWWL*, 1957, vol. 2, “What the Kingdom Is to the Believers,” chs. 2—6, 8; *CWWL*, 1972, vol. 2, “The Kingdom,” ch. 2

Friday 12/27

Related Verses

Mark 8:35-36, 37-38

35 For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever will lose his soul-life for My sake and the gospel's shall save it.

36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul-life?

37 For what could a man give in exchange for his soul-life?

38 For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man also will be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.

Matt. 16:25-27

25 For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it.

26 For what shall a man be profited if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul-life? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul-life?

27 For the Son of Man is to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will repay each man according to his doings.

Rom. 14:17

17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Related Reading

In Matthew 16:18 the Lord Jesus said, “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church...” How can the church be built up in a practical way? The answer is found in verses 21 through 26...Unless Christ had been crucified and resurrected, He could not build up the church...Verse 21 says, “From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised.” This verse indicates that the way to build up the church is through death and resurrection...Resurrection is a form of transfiguration. Through death and resurrection Christ has entered into a realm of transfiguration. The church exists in this realm of transfiguration. It cannot exist in the natural life or with fleshly people. (*CWWL*, 1978, vol. 1, “The Exercise of the Kingdom for the Building of the Church,” p. 79)

The losing of the soul is the basic factor in our being built up together. It is not only a matter of denying the self or of bearing the cross but of losing the soul. We need to lose all our present soulish enjoyment for the

Lord’s sake, for the sake of the church, and for the sake of all the saints. If you are willing to lose your soul for the sake of others, those with you will be enlightened, nourished, and filled. This is the way the church is built. If all the saints are willing to lose the soul, what a wonderful situation there will be among us. There will be no offenses and even no need for forgiveness. If we are like this, we shall be rewarded with a prevailing transfiguration. But if we are not willing to lose our soul, we shall not share in this transfiguration. On the contrary, for us the church life will be darkness, and, during the time of transfiguration, we shall be rewarded with suffering. Instead of being joyful, we shall be in darkness.

Our willingness to lose the soul for the Lord’s sake will cause the church to be transfigured. In other words, it will bring in a revival. Every genuine revival is a coming of Christ, a present coming of Christ with His reward (not His second coming in a physical way). He rewards the faithful ones positively and the unfaithful ones negatively. I have seen this happen in the church life. When a revival, a transfiguration, came, some were enjoying and others were gnashing their teeth in darkness.

Husbands and wives argue with each other because they find it enjoyable...But if a brother loses his soul by losing the case to his wife, the Lord will reward him by coming in at a certain point to save his soul. That will be the time for the soul to have its enjoyment...There cannot be a proper family life without the losing of the soul. For the sake of the family, you need to lose your enjoyment. Then the Lord Jesus will reward you in a positive way when He causes a transfiguration to take place in your family.

The same is true in the church life. In the church we all need to learn to lose our soul, to lose our soulish enjoyment. By losing our soul, a transfiguration will take place. Then in the Lord’s transfiguration we shall be rewarded positively, and the Lord will save our soul. (*CWWL*, 1978, vol. 1, “The Exercise of the Kingdom for the Building of the Church,” pp. 94-96)

When we lose our soul-life, the Lord in our spirit will have the opportunity to spread from our spirit into every avenue of our soul so that our soul may be transformed (Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18). Eventually, our whole being will be conformed to His image (Rom. 8:29). At such a

time we will be mature and ready to be co-kings with Him for our enjoyment of His kingship and participation in His joy in the coming age (Matt. 25:21; 2 Tim. 2:12a; Rev. 3:21; 20:4, 6). (*CWWL, 1975–1976*, vol. 3, p. 87)

Further Reading: *CWWL, 1978*, vol. 1, “The Exercise of the Kingdom for the Building of the Church,” chs. 3, 5

Saturday 12/28

Related Verses

Matt. 13:43

43 Then the righteous will shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

Phil. 3:21

21 Who will transfigure the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of His glory, according to His operation by which He is able even to subject all things to Himself.

Matt. 16:27

27 For the Son of Man is to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will repay each man according to his doings.

2 Thes. 1:9

9 They will pay the penalty of eternal destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His strength

Rom. 8:18, 21

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the coming glory to be revealed upon us.

21 In hope that the creation itself will also be freed from the slavery of corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

Heb. 2:10

10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Related Reading

Not many Christians realize that Christ’s transfiguration was His coming in His kingdom...The Lord’s coming will not take place suddenly; rather, it will come gradually. In a sense, the Lord will come back from heaven; but in another sense, He will come out of us. When He fully lives Himself out of us, that will be the time of His coming. According to Matthew 17:1-2 with 16:28, His coming was His transfiguration, and His transfiguration was His glorification. When He was transfigured, He was glorified. (*Life-study of Matthew*, 2nd ed., p. 559)

Now we must see what it means to be glorified. When Christ, who is God, became a man, His divinity was incarnated in His humanity. He was a unique person, one possessing both divinity and humanity. His divinity was concealed within His humanity. Outwardly, He was a man, but inwardly, He was the very God. God was hidden, contained, concealed, within this man. Glory is God manifested, God expressed...The God hidden within the humanity of Jesus was the very glory. Thus, the glorious divine element was concealed within the human element of Jesus. As He walked on earth, no one could see His glorious divinity. Many saw the miracles and realized that He was someone extraordinary, but prior to His transfiguration no one had ever seen the glory concealed within Him. Then one day He brought three of His most intimate disciples to a high mountain and was there transfigured before them. For the Lord Jesus to be transfigured meant that His humanity was saturated and permeated with His divinity...This transfiguration, which was His glorification, was equal to His coming in His kingdom. This indicates that Christ’s coming in His kingdom is linked with His transfiguration...The coming of the kingdom is the Lord’s glorification, His transfiguration; and His glorification is the saturation of His humanity by His divinity...Because the Lord has been transfigured, He is now in glory.

Before that time God was in Him, but His humanity was not in God’s glory. In His transfiguration His humanity was thoroughly saturated with His glorious divinity. In the coming manifestation of the kingdom, Christ will be like this. He will be the very Christ with

both divinity and humanity, but His humanity will be soaked with His divinity.

We now have the divine life with the divine nature within us. However, we still have our natural humanity. No matter how spiritual and holy we may be, our humanity is still natural. It has not yet been saturated with the divine glory. But at the time of the manifestation of the kingdom, our humanity will be glorified by the glorious divinity within us.

Perhaps the opposers will label this “evolution into God.” But this is not evolution into God—it is glorification. The opposers need to read Romans 8:30: “Those whom He predestinated, these He also called; and those whom He called, these He also justified; and those whom He justified, these He also glorified.”...To be glorified is to be saturated with God’s glory. It is to be transfigured, not from without but from within. One day we will be a great surprise to the unbelievers. Second Thessalonians 1:10 says, “When He comes to be glorified in His saints and to be marveled at in all those who have believed.” The unbelievers will be shocked by our glorification...The day is coming when they will see a glorious difference, for our humanity will be saturated with divinity, and we will become a glorious people. We will not just be spiritual, holy, pure, and clean. We will be glorious. This is the coming of the kingdom. We are waiting for this to take place. (*Life-study of Matthew*, 2nd ed., pp. 559-561)

Further Reading: *Life-study of Matthew*, msg. 37

Lord's Day 12/29

Related Verses

Rev. 22:1-7

1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.

2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

3 And there will no longer be a curse. And the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His slaves will serve Him;

4 And they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.

5 And night will be no more; and they have no need of the light of a lamp and of the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine upon them; and they will reign forever and ever.

6 And he said to me, These words are faithful and true; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent His angel to show to His slaves the things which must quickly take place.

7 And behold, I come quickly. Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this scroll.

Further Reading:

Further Reading: Life-Study of Mark, Messages 17, 26
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Hymn: #941

1 God's kingdom is God's reigning,
 His glory to maintain;
 It is His sovereign ruling,
 His order to sustain.
 He exercises fully
 His own authority
 Within His kingdom ever
 And to eternity.

2 Upon the throne, the center
 Of government divine,
 God reigns, and with His purpose
 Brings everything in line.
 God's headship and His lordship
 He only can maintain
 As King within His kingdom,
 O'er everything to reign.

3 By reigning in His kingdom
 God worketh all His will,
 And under His dominion
 His purpose doth fulfill.
 'Tis only in God's kingdom
 His blessing we may know;
 'Tis from His throne almighty
 The stream of life doth flow.

4 Submitted to God's ruling,
 All virtue thus will win;
 Rebellion to His Headship
 Is but the root of sin.
 The evil aim of Satan—
 God's throne to overthrow;
 Our aim and goal is ever
 His rule to fully know.

5 Within God's sovereign kingdom
 His Christ is magnified;
 When Christ in life is reigning,
 The Father's glorified.
 When God is in dominion,
 All things are truly blessed;
 When Christ for God is reigning,
 God's glory is expressed.

Churchwide Truth Pursuit of Hebrews**Level 1—Hebrews Sequential Reading**

Scripture Reading and Copying: None

Assigned Reading: None

Level 2—Hebrews Topical Study

Crucial Point: None

Scripture: None

Assigned Reading: None

Supplemental Reading: None

Questions: None