

GRACE GAZETTE

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Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. Hebrews 12:12-13

OUR KING

Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. Psalm 2:6

One of the Bible's greatest manifestations of the Sovereign Grace and Mercy of the LORD is set forth as the Three Wise Men from the East came to worship HIM who was "he that is born King of the Jews?" (Mat 2:2) How did these "astrologers" from the Far East know about this event, except that the LORD in Sovereign Mercy revealed it to them and directed their steps to HIS feet? "the star, which they saw in the east (i.e.; while they were in the East), went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was." (Mat 2:9)

They brought gifts which were appropriate for the ONE who is the SAVIOR of sinners because they were shown three things which it is impossible for men to know and see the glory of, apart from the revealing grace of GOD. **1. They knew HIM to be the KING**, and they brought "gold" because such is fitting for HIM who is the KING of kings. "Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign." **2. They knew HIM to be GOD** and they brought "frankincense" to denote their worship, which is a sweet savor unto the LORD. "Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh; prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high." **3. They knew HIM to be the ONE SACRIFICE for sin** and they brought "myrrh". Myrrh is a tree resin which was sometimes mixed with wine to ease the pain of dying (see Mark 15:23, "which HE received not") and is among the substances which Nicodemus brought to anoint the body of the LORD after HIS crucifixion. (see John 19:39) So we clearly see that "myrrh" is closely associated with death. "Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb." (these verses are from the hymn, "We Three Kings from Orient Are" written by John Hopkins in 1857)

These men are shrouded in mystery, and we are not told what became of them or what other revelations (concerning this KING whom they came to worship) which the LORD might have been pleased to give them. But we believe that they did indeed return to their own country with the same rejoicing which was given to them when they saw HIS STAR above the house where HE was. (see Mat.2:10) They had seen the KING and this was sufficient according to the understanding which the LORD gave them. The hymnwriter (Hopkins) has one last verse which is the Jewel in the crown of this KING as HE triumphed over death, manifesting HIS total dominion. "Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice: Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies."

Regardless of what else a man may know and believe about JESUS CHRIST, if he does not behold HIM as the KING of kings, then he cannot truly know who HE is. We hear many speak of HIM as though HE is a King in search of a Kingdom. That HE will one day be the King if HE can somehow persuade enough folks to help HIM establish this Kingdom by the operation of their own free will. The extent of HIS Kingdom (according to those who teach such drivel) is yet unknown as HE awaits the decisions of men.

HE is an absolute MONARCH who is limited by nothing but HIS own purpose to rule and reign in an everlasting Kingdom, whose extent and bounds are set by HIM from before the foundation of the world. "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this." (Isa 9:7)

JESUS CHRIST was appointed by the FATHER, to be the KING of HIS kingdom which is often referred to in the scriptures as Zion. *“Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.”* There have been many imposters over the years who have claimed to be “spokesmen” for GOD, yet there is but ONE who is appointed with DIVINE selection. *“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.”* (Heb 1:1-3) HE is presently seated upon HIS throne and is THE TRUTH of GOD.

JESUS CHRIST was born a KING, that is HE came into the world as a KING. HE is not waiting to take control of HIS Kingdom, but rather has already established it with *“judgement and with justice.”* HIS purpose in coming into the world was to bring glory to HIS FATHER in the salvation of that elect bride which was given to HIM by the FATHER. *“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”* (Mat 1:21) HE has undergone the “judgement” of condemnation which rightly belonged to HIS people. And according to HIS “justice” HE has “justified” them by the shedding of HIS blood for their sins. HE has paid their sin debt in full. *“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.”* (Rom 3:24-26) Only ONE who is a KING could accomplish such a task.

JESUS CHRIST is a received KING. The world in general and according to the nature of its inhabitants reject both HIM and HIS Kingdom. *“He came unto his own, and his own received him not.”* (John 1:11) Yet HE is pleased to change the hearts and minds of those HE came to save in such a dramatic fashion that they are transformed from rebels to servants. *“The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power.”* (Psa 110:1-3) A glaring example of this truth is demonstrated in the final moments of one of the thieves on the cross as he was changed from one who mocked the LORD to one who humbly recognized the glory of the KING. *“Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off.”* (Isa 33:17) He did indeed see both the glory of the KING and HIS Kingdom when he said, *“Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.”* (Luke 23:42)

JESUS CHRIST is a triumphant KING. HE established HIS Kingdom in humility when HE first came into the world as a BABE wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. HE walked among the men of this world in that same humility and set forth the clearest example of self-denial that has ever been witnessed by men. *“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.”* (Zec 9:9) HE demonstrated daily HIS tender dealings with sinners, whether it was a woman taken in adultery or a trembling one who touched the hem of HIS garment. *“Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory.”* (Mat 12:18-20)

The world did not recognize HIM then as a KING since HIS humility was in such contrast to their pride. Yet HE is coming back to claim that possession which HE has purchased with HIS own blood. When HE returns, HE comes with quite a different demeanor. *“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe.”* (2Thes 1:7-10) “The King there in His beauty without a veil is seen; it were a well-spent journey, though seven deaths lay between: the Lamb with His fair army doth on Mount Zion stand, and glory, glory dwelleth in Emmanuel's land.” {by Anne Cousin (1857) from a letter by Samuel Rutherford (1660)} Do you see the KING in HIS BEAUTY?

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