

The Kingdom of God on Earth

THERE are different types of kingdom: the animal, plant and mineral kingdom; and the territory which a king or queen rules.

There are relatively few monarchs today, but here in Britain we have a queen and maybe you have a king, queen or other ruler in your country.

To deal with our subject we have to ask certain questions:

- ◆ Do you have such loyalty for them that you would willingly die for them?
- ◆ Can the ruler live for ever and offer you the opportunity of everlasting life?
- ◆ Can they change the attitude of all nations so they will willingly serve them?
- ◆ Can they offer good health to everyone without the need for medicine?
- ◆ Can they change nature itself, and make this world a paradise?

To most of these questions you probably answered 'No'.

The Coming King

However, there is a king in waiting, who is immortal, living in heaven, and preparing to return. Such will be his power that the whole earth will be transformed into a place of beauty and plenty. Even nature itself, said to be 'red in tooth and claw', will be changed to peaceful co-existence.

What a picture! You may feel that the idea is ridiculous, but these ideas are Bible-based.

Two thousand years ago, an angel appeared to the virgin Mary and told her that she would have a child to be named Jesus, which means 'God saves'. He added:

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. And he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end (Luke 1:32-33).

Note all the future tenses. He would be a saviour, the Son of God, and then king. He would open a way for men and women to approach God, and if they accepted the way of salvation, he would eventually be their king, but no ordinary king. One prophet said, "There will be one king over all the earth" (Zechariah 14:9).

All his subjects will have a place in that kingdom. His throne will be in Jerusalem, which he called 'the city of the great king' (Mathew 5:34-35).

At Jesus' birth, a choir of angels confirmed the fact to the astonished shepherds:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men! (Luke 2:14).

The world will never have seen the like, and all to the glory of God.

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