


THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

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It is not my remit in these files to move into the consideration of the manner in which Old Testament saints fit this larger pattern of the teaching of the New Testament about the Church. This is a matter that demands examination in the light of the "Kingdom of God" in its breadth and a matching of the Theocracy of God over Israel in all history and the calling out of a people for Himself in the EKKLESIA. However much they may have been a "special case" in the past these Old Testament saints feature not only in the transfiguration and in view of their interest in the Cross or "going out" of Christ in victory to dwell among those in the "eternal state" but also in the order and praises of heaven where they and we shall be mutually loved and represented in leadership.

ABRAHAM IN HEAVEN

Jesus said that "many would come from the east and west and take their places at the feast with Abraham Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. Heaven's celebrations or PANEGURIS-as the Hebrew writer describes such- involve us but we must get things in proportion-the father of the faithful remains vitally important! **Matthew 8.11**

MYSTERY UNFOLDED-BUT MYSTERY REMAINS

In **Matthew 13.11** our Lord told us that He had allowed us to know much of the hitherto secret detail of the Kingdom of heaven. His parables unfold much of how the fullness of the Kingdom emerges as for instance is shown in part within the Parable of the Weeds **Matthew 13 37ff** and the net **Matthew 13 47ff**. It is not the remit of this series of files to explore that huge fundament of biblical truth.

HEAVEN RULES OK

We learn from **Psalms 103.19 & Daniel 4.3** that heaven rules over all and that is not about to change! Read it for yourself in the writing of David -recognise it in the "going hence" of saints today-digest it in the "catching away" of the church-know it in the creation beyond our dimension of life of the "new heaven and earth" and recognise it in the existence of the "eternal city".

KEYS OF THE KINGDOM

Our Lord Jesus gave his followers a most special privilege to open the door of faith to all who will hear and obey the gospel. This opening of the door of faith was not unknown to Daniel who led kings to faith in the living God long ago-and Noah and Enoch sought to do likewise-but to the whole Apostolic Church this grace is given to lead multitudes to God-that is the Father's will. **Matthew 16.19**

THE QUEEN OF SHEBA IN THE KINGDOM

We may have the privilege of meeting people like Nebuchadnezzar and Darius probably and it may well be even a number of the Maccabees and certainly the Queen of Sheba in the Kingdom of Heaven. The Queen of the South shall rise up in the judgment as a witness. She is chosen for a special role and she shall be in glory -for Solomon -the man who said "He that winneth souls is wise" led her to the Lord- **Matthew 12.42**

ENTERING THE KINGDOM

Entering the kingdom is by faith in the first instance. But actual entry into its eternal grandeur for the believer is by death and the rapture. It was by "rapture" that Enoch and Elijah entered. It may even be by rapture that Paul caught a glimpse of it in his Corinthian vision. It will be by rapture that the 144,000 of Revelation enter it. There is no way the Christian can understand the Kingdom of God and scrap the rapture. It is completely absurd so to do. To avoid the rapture is to settle for an earthy humanistic view of heaven.

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