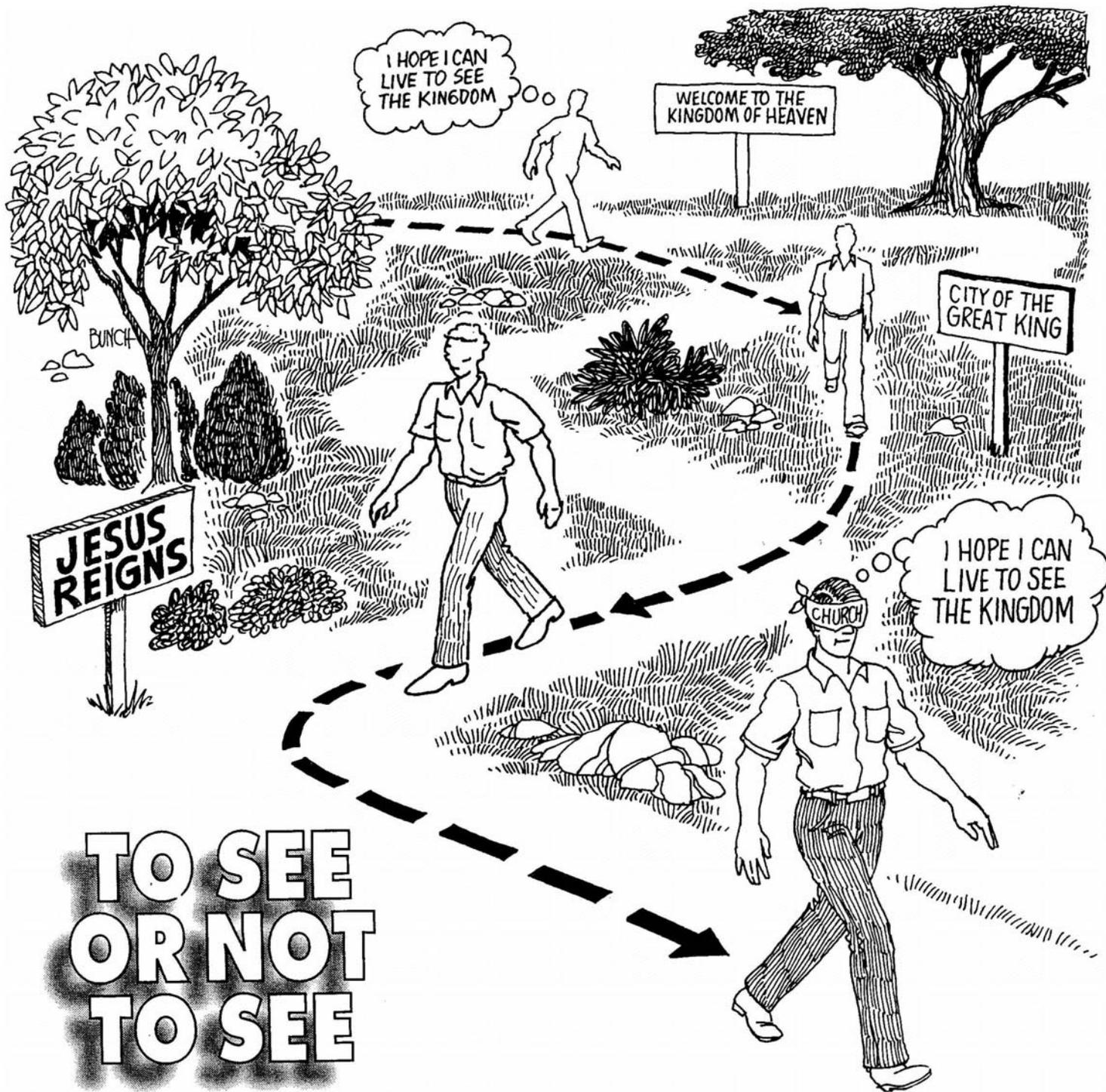


THE AMERICAN CHRISTIAN

NOV-DEC 1997

"... let Facts be submitted to a candid world."



TO SEE OR NOT TO SEE

A Question Of Perspective

by Ben Williams

"Unless a man is born from above he cannot see the Kingship of God." (Jn 3:3)

MOST Christians today do not see the Kingship of God. The reason I know this to be fact is because most Christians today are looking for a kingdom that does not exist. They are victims of the error of the churches. Therefore, they are convinced they are Christians, and they use Jesus' name and read from the Bible. However, if the "kingdom" they believe in can come and go, start and stop, then it is NOT God's Kingdom, for the Kingship of Heaven is timeless and everlasting.

But, don't misunderstand the above quote from Jesus. He was not saying that everyone who is "born from above" can see the Kingship. Nor was He accusing anyone of not being "born from above" if they could not see the Kingship. He was only saying that being "born from above" was/is necessary before anyone could see the Kingship.

There are, no doubt, many born-again Christians today who cannot see the Kingship due to the confusing deceptions of the churches. They need their minds cleared of church teachings ... then they could see it.

Seeing the Kingdom/Kingship of Heaven is the only way we can make sense of life and the world around us. It is the key to understanding God's plan for mankind. But today, as in the First Century, some folks just do not see it!

TRUTH INOCULATION

The churches have deceived men into focusing so squarely upon the Kingship of Man they can see no viable alternative. They accept a diet of bad fruit from Church and State simply because they haven't experienced the good fruit of God's Garden. They haven't seen God's Kingship. If that is so then men need to catch a glimpse

of it and awaken to a different paradigm.

"WAR IN HEAVEN"

The Kingship of Heaven is at enmity with the Kingship of Man (man's system). The conflict is basic. It is a war to determine who is sovereign and who can make law. The question is ... who has the power to determine right from wrong; define "righteousness" and punish "sin"? Man has always lusted after the power to do this. He covets it. The first conflict of the two systems is recorded in the first chapters of Genesis when Adam, spurred on by a serpentish agent-provocateur, was persuaded that he could be his own god, define good and evil by himself, and make his own law.

"... your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."

(Gen. 3:5)

Man's government has been following this pattern ever since. The rift still exists. One system declares the Kingship of Heaven, the other declares the Kingship of Man. It is pretty simple when broken down to basics. Accepting the Kingship of Man means rejecting the Kingship of Heaven.

TO SEEK YOU MUST FIRST BE FOUND

Seeing the Kingship of Heaven does not come naturally to man. Man cannot intellectually search it out ... for the simple reason that he does not know what he is searching for until AFTER it has been shown to him. Once it has been shown to him he then must decide his response.

Jesus places truth in man's path. Man can ignore it, or he can recognize it and embrace it ... like the pearl

of great price, and the treasure hid in the field (Mtt. 13:44-46).

Many people, searching in their own ways, assume they found it, but they haven't; they think they understood it, but don't; think they think they believe it, but believe paganized versions instead. There are many wrong perceptions of the Kingship of Heaven. These invented versions are figments of the minds of church leaders; men who have not seen the Kingship. The "kingdom" of which they speak is not the Kingship of our Christ.

Since the beginning, some men could see the Reign of Heaven and some couldn't. Why, I cannot answer. Paul said it was according to God's grace:

4. *Yet, what is God's answer to him? "I have left seven thousand men for myself who have not bent the knee to Baal." (man's kingship)*
5. *Even so, at this present time there has also appeared a remnant according to a calling-out by grace.*
6. *But if by grace, it is not of works, otherwise grace is not grace.*
7. *What then? That which Israel sought after he did not find. But the called-out obtained it, and the rest were hardened;*
8. *Just as it is written: "God gave to them a spirit of deep sleep, eyes that do not see, and ears that do not hear, until this very day."*

(Rom. 11:4-8)

God wants men to choose. They can ignore, or they can accept his gift and obtain grace. Why some men choose to ignore, I cannot say. Perhaps it is due to character and faith (or a lack thereof).

Jesus, quoting Isaiah, explained:

14. *Hearing you will hear but not understand, and seeing you will see but not perceive.*

15. *For the heart of this people is become gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed...*

(Mtt. 13:14-15).

Maybe some of the blame can be placed on this evil age which obscures truth. Perhaps some are chosen for other purposes. I can only speculate.

It is an abiding question. Why does the Kingdom remain imperceptible to so many people? Some see, and some don't. I cannot tell you why some are unable to see The Kingdom, but I can tell you what it means to actually SEE IT. I've been on both sides of the equation. I once was blind, but now I see.

WHO FINDS WHO?

I remember a time before I could see. *"I once was blind, but now I see."* I had read and heard about the Kingship, and assumed I understood. But in retrospect I now know that I didn't. I thought I was seeing, but I wasn't.

Like Paul, I needed the scales removed from my eyes. I needed that light that blasted Paul. And I remembered that he didn't find that light ... it found him.

It was the same with me. After it found me I could see. The light waited for the time when I would be ready to receive it. When the Light opened my eyes I could see. Anyone can when he accepts the gift.

Seeing the Kingship has never been natural for men ... although it seems to be naturally easier for small children (Mk. 10:14).

The religious establishment has always confused the subject, so Jesus often used parables to illustrate his Kingship. In fact the majority of the New Testament is an explanation of his Kingship. The fact that Christ's Reign is so little known in spite of so much scripture announcing it tells us that the religious establishment has worked tirelessly to cover it up.

Man's eyes do not "see" properly until Jesus opens them. When Jesus opened my eyes the world began to make sense. It was as if someone had flicked the light switch to "ON," illuminating dark corners, revealing things I hadn't seen. Once I could actually "see," I realized I had only been guessing before.

THE KINGSHIP PARADIGM

The Kingship paradigm is on a different plane from the churches. Jesus' Kingship parables demonstrate this over and over by rerouting perspectives away from established religious systems. And when religious gainsayers tried to trap Jesus with a theological question about the Pharisee's version of "the kingdom," He responded:

29. *You err, not knowing the scriptures nor the power of God.*

(Mtt. 22:29)

They were off point, posing a question about a different kingship – a different system invented in Babylon. The kingship to which they referred was NOT the Kingship of Heaven. It was a counterfeit "kingship" invented by organized religion ... not unlike the churches today.

Such scenarios are typical of the thoughts of modern churchgoers. When they speak of "the kingdom" they speak not of the Reign of our Savior, but of a Disneyland-kind of scenario that has been planted in their minds through decades of deception by those who have shaped the church culture as we know it. The deception has been so well-planted, and so enduring, that it has blinded churchgoers to the simple truth of the Bible. Systematic confusion is a mental prison ... the best prison of all, for it imprisons men's minds. Mental prisons are stronger than chains, bars and concrete. When men are blinded to truth they are prevented from entering the Kingship of Heaven.

13. *Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you are shutting up the kingship of heaven against men: for you are not entering, neither are you allowing them that are coming to enter.*

(Mtt. 23:13)

"KINGDOM" -vs- "REIGN"

One reason "The Kingship" has eluded so many Christians is because of bad translations and the so-called "authorized" church version of the Bible. The religious institutions that sanctioned them, have carefully and subtly planted incorrect words in their "versions" to throw Christians off

course. Also, there are many words in Greek that have no exact English translation.

One example of intentional deception is the case with the Greek word "basileia" (translated "kingdom" in English bibles). This word can be rendered "kingdom" under certain circumstances. However, that its primary definition is "reign" or "kingship." It is literally a condition ... not a physical piece of real estate. Unfortunately the translators rarely render it correctly, for it suited them to render it the other way. They wanted men focusing upon physical boundaries and time limitations. Institutional religion claims a Babylonian kingship, not God's Kingship. The fact that they generally rendered it "kingdom," instead of "kingship" or "reign," has contributed greatly to man's confusion on the subject.

There is an important difference between "kingdom" and "reign." The word "kingdom" creates a mental image of a physical location on Earth, or a chronologically delineated period with a beginning and an end. In this context it tends to cause men to look for a kingdom defined by boundaries and time. But the Kingship of Heaven, like its King, is not limited by time or boundaries. Yahweh is sovereign over his entire creation by virtue of the fact that He created it all.

1. *Thus says Yahweh, The heaven is my throne (i.e., Kingship), and the land is my footstool;*

(Isa. 66:1)

False premises lead to fantastic and erroneous conclusions. When one accepts a false premise of the Kingdom, he is inoculated against "seeing" it correctly. As Jesus stated:

12. *For whoever has [comprehension] to him it [understanding] shall be given and he will abound; but whoever has not [comprehension] even that [understanding] which he has shall be taken away.*

(Mtt. 13:12)

19. *When anyone hears the word of The Reign without comprehension, error comes and snatches away that which was sown in his heart.*

(Mtt. 13:19)

It is difficult to understand the GOS-

PEL OF THE KINGSHIP if you don't know what a "kingship" is. A Biblical perception of "The Kingship" – "The Reign" – is needed. Then communication is possible.

SEEING IS BELIEVING

Can man believe in something he does not perceive ("see")? In 2 Corinthians 5:7, Paul says we must "... walk by faith, not by sight." But Paul is talking to Christians who already grasp the Kingship message. They were seeing the Kingship through spiritual eyes, not physical.

What of the blind? Can a pilot fly blind in the clouds before he has been trained, experienced it firsthand and learned the instruments? No! And attempting to fly blind (with "blind faith") can kill him if he tries it on his own. But a veteran pilot can navigate through the clouds by his faith and experience with navigation instruments. Hi isn't flying blind.

Thus the called-out man BELIEVES ... because he has SEEN. He has obtained "eyes to see" not unlike a pilot's faith in his instruments. Thus, pursuit of truth requires effort and training ... and the gift accepted in faith.

14. *How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how will they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without one to preach?*

15. *And how will they preach unless they are sent? As it is written "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things."*

(Rm. 10:14-15)

SCHOOL OF STUMBLING

Jesus initiates communication by giving evidence of his Kingship. Men do not ask for it. They only respond to it. They come to BELIEVE it only because they were first shown it. The gift (i.e., the clue) comes usually by stumbling across an article like this, or from hearing a witness, or some kind of event. In this way God speaks to you. This, then, is the beginning, and depending upon your spirit you will act upon it ... or you will lose it.

I've heard it said, "Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and

hurry off as if nothing had happened."

We pass by truth every day without noticing. We stumble over it, walk past it, and otherwise ignore it. Truth is there, even when we don't see it. "The teacher does not appear until the student is ready." Truth cries out to us from all around (Prov. 1:20-33).

The Earth is approximately round in shape. That is truth. It has always been round, and the evidence has always been there. Notwithstanding, men historically believed it was flat.

Bacteria cause infection. Simple sterilization and antiseptics disable these demons of infection. This truth remained "unseen" to our scholarly ancestors until the 1800's.

God's physical creation is comprised of microscopic cells, molecules, atoms, etc.. With the invention of the microscope man discovered these tiny building blocks of the physical universe. But until this recent advance in technology men could only guess at what physical matter was made of. In retrospect, some of the early guesses were pretty laughable.

These truths were ALWAYS there for man to stumble over and notice. Man stumbled over them for ages, not SEEING them. How many men stumbled over the principle of gravity before one man (Newton) broke with tradition and noticed the obvious?

This is also true in religion. Truth is there, but men are not seeing it.

NEW KING, SAME THRONE

Yahweh has always existed, therefore his Kingship has always existed ... with or without man's notice. Two millennia ago Yahweh appointed his Son as our present King. It is still the same Throne of Heaven. Heaven's status above man does not change. Heaven's Kingdom (Kingship) does not end or change. As stated by Paul, sent to the nations to tell the good news of the new Kingship, the Throne was there ... since "ages past":

9. ... *to bring to light that unrevealed plan which was from ages past kept in God*

11. ... *according to the purpose of the ages in which He ordained Christ Jesus as our Lord.*

(Eph. 3:9 & 11).

It is impossible for the Kingship of Heaven to not exist. It existed in Genesis chapter one. Also in Samuel's day, when Israel rejected Yahweh as her King (I Sam. 8:7). Later, Yahweh appointed his Son to sit on the Throne of Heaven. Jesus ascended the Throne when his Father raised Him to life immortal. This basic doctrine is spelled out clearly in Matthew 28:18-20, and Acts 2:30-31.

However, when men refuse to recognize the true Throne of Heaven, an alternate religion develops wherein men think of themselves as gods (law-makers). This begins the process of decay where men perish in their delusions. All the while the actual Kingship of God continues inexorably on ... while church men claim it hasn't yet come. Ignorance does not cancel out truth. It only makes men blind.

Jesus points us down paths where truth is located. Men stumble over these truths, and blindly keep stumbling on, taking no notice of the world around them. Over and over they stumble. Over and over they miss truths, until one day one man looks at the object (truth) in a different frame of mind and realizes it exists. Then, when truth is noticed man prides himself in his "great discovery"... which, in truth, was more a spoon-feeding than a discovery.

Jesus sends us truths which we stumble over many times. Some of us eventually, hopefully, see and embrace them. Thus it is with the Good News of Heaven's Kingship. Men stumble over it, pick themselves up, dust themselves off, and continue on as if nothing happened. But now and then a man actually stops and looks at it.

Our challenge, as messengers of this Good News, is to place it before others so they can keep stumbling over it. Hopefully, some will notice. That makes us happy, and them blessed.

30. *How might we compare God's Kingship, or in what parable might we put it?*

(Mk. 4:30).

20. *And when He was asked by the Pharisees, when The Reign of God should come, He answered them and said, The Reign of God comes not through (visual) observation.*

21. *Neither will they say 'Look here!' or,*

'Look there!' for the Reign of God is within you."

(Luke 17:20-21)

Perhaps another illustration is in order ... one with modern application and vocabulary to clarify the picture. Bear with me. Perhaps we can gather a little more light.

THE GREAT FAMILY STORY

The Reign of Christ is like unto a great family with a patriarch. The patriarch of this family loved the Lord with all his heart and did his best to follow Him. Under his patriarchy the family had been blessed with material possessions including homes for all the married children and relatives. The family estate provided the means for each member to work and fulfill his dream within a healthy, nurturing environment.

The great family was blessed also with spiritual values due to the leaders' attention to spiritual matters. The children grew up proud of their heritage, and mentally sound. Character weaknesses of any one member were shored up by attention and love from others who were older, wiser, and stronger. Thus, the family ecclesia system was strong, expansive, and blessed.

One day, a band of entertainers came and gave free performances for the people. The naive, children watched and listened intently to the performers.

One performer was a Women's Rights advocate. One was an evangelist. One was a politician. And one was a lawyer. These four had conspired together to carry out a secret agenda wherein they planned to mentally capture and use the people of the land for profit.

With charismatic charm each performer beguiled the children. Subtle thoughts and strange images were implanted into naive minds. Soon, the children were convinced that they had not been happy, and their lives were dull and meaningless. Instead of following wholesome family tradition, they began to emulate the performers who were very popular with the youth in other lands. The performers had become the new role models, and every child wanted to be a performer

and experience being a celebrity.

Having won the children's trust, the performers began implanting in the children's minds the doctrines of foreign systems. In spite of the fact that those other systems were backward and unhealthy, the children began accepting the serpents' lies that cultural mixing (adulteration) is the mark of intelligence and true happiness.

The Women's Rights advocate taught the children that Christianity repressed women and forced them to submit to arbitrary authority. Soon the little girls believed that family structure was a curse in the lives of women. They decided that a new social contract, where women no longer sought cultural norms, equated to freedom. They began to pursue lives built around themselves instead of family.

The lawyer taught the children lying and stealing could be done legally, and taking advantage of others is shrewd business practice. Escaping responsibility became a mark of genius.

The politician taught the children how to get rid of God's laws by creating their own via their own government, thus becoming "gods and masters of their own destiny."

The evangelist taught the children that this Earth, and life as they had known it, is the dominion of Satan, and that God is gone to outerspace. They soon were thinking that the life they had known as children in the great family was an illusion now that they had graduated into the wide world, and only in the next life could the promises of God apply.

These new teachings left the children without roots, without a future, and without identity. Nonetheless, the children still claimed to follow God in some unknown way. They still believed, but their faith and perception of Him was skewed.

By the time they were adults they were thoroughly rooted in the ways of the other systems of the world. They were seeing and hearing as those who were "of the world." They no longer saw and heard as their former brethren who remained in the great family. Each went his own way to express himself in new ways that were acceptable to the world in general.

The Establishment (the political/religious/financial system) was taking control. Social acceptability became

their goal in life. Avoiding responsibility and accountability, and revoking God's laws, became their religion. Instead of honoring the God-ordained channels of authority, they perceived God as a hard taskmaster. Thus, the only authority they would accept was that which was offered them by established political organizations.

The years passed, and that generation married and had families. Times got harder. Unforeseen adversities turned up, and financial stability became a constant worry. Depression, loneliness, and insecurity haunted them and became household topics discussed on radio and TV talk shows.

Thus, they began to feel the need for a "future millennial kingdom" (as taught by the churches) to rescue them from "this evil world of Satan" where paradise had been lost. When they opened the Sacred Scriptures nothing in them made sense according to the churches' interpretation. Nothing offered hope for them and their children for this life; only vague promises of a future "kingdom" that would come long after they had suffered and died on "this evil earth."

Because of the lack of hope, women began killing their babies before they could be born. This, the mothers claimed, was not a good world in which to bring children. Also, without babies clinging to them they were freer to express themselves and seek true meaning in their lives.

Life had become very different than they had ever imagined. They lived in constant fear and confusion. Right and wrong were no longer definable. Wickedness was admired, and good intentions were ridiculed. All those who had "graduated" into the world system were now divorced from their families and spouses, and their children were looking in all the wrong places for the meaning of life.

The original entertainers had gone on to become bankers and legislators, and their children were appointed to powerful positions in the bureaucracy where they shared in the largess derived from government-enforced programs where citizens were forced to give them a percentage of their possessions.

Finally one day, in rage and desperation, one of those who as a child had been in the great family, shook

his fist toward Heaven. "Why," he demanded of God, "have you allowed our lives to become so unbearable? And why do you continue to withhold your Kingdom from us so our enemies can rule over us?"

He expected no answer. But much to his surprise a voice replied from Heaven: "I have withheld nothing from you. By your own choices you opted to reject my Reign. Consequently, you lost the ability to see my Kingship. Furthermore, you lost

the understanding that you had acquired in your youth. Therefore, repent and return to your former estate ... for that WAS and IS my Reign manifested among men.

**KINGDOM = REIGN
REIGN = SALVATION
SALVATION IS NOW**

The Kingship of Heaven invites all who seek entrance sincerely.

1. THE APPOINTED TIME IS FULL-FILLED, AND GOD'S REIGN IS AT HAND: REPENT, AND BELIEVE THIS GOOD NEWS.

(Mk 1:15)

17. ...whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

(Rev. 22:17)

See the creation from God's perspective. Heaven's blessings can be yours if you will only believe in the King and his Reign.

"ENTERING THE KINGSHIP"

HEBREWS 3:

4. For every house is being built by someone, but all things were built by God.
6. But Christ [is faithful] as a Son over his house [Kingship]; whose house we are, if we hold to our witness and rejoice to the end.
7. Wherefore, as the holy spirit is saying, "TODAY if you will hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the provocation (Ex. 32; Nu. 14:26-35), in the day of testing in the wilderness,
9. Where your fathers questioned Me, tested Me, and saw my works forty years.
10. Thus I was grieved with that generation, and I said "They always make themselves err in their hearts, and they have not known my ways."
11. So I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest [My House; My Reign].
12. Beware, brethren, lest at any time there should be in any of you a wicked heart without faith, drawing away from the Living God.
13. But exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.
14. For we have become partakers of Christ [his Reign] as long as we hold firm till the end to the understanding we had at the beginning.
15. In which it was said, "Today if you will hear his voice do not harden your hearts as in the provocation."
16. For which ones, having heard, did provoke to anger, if not all who left out of Egypt with Moses?
17. And with whom was He grieved forty years, if not with those who sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?

18. And of whom did He swear that they shall not enter into his rest [Reign] if not to those who disobeyed?

19. So we see that they were unable to enter [i.e., unable to see the Kingship] because of unbelief.

HEBREWS 4:

1. Therefore, since a promise is left of entering into his rest [his House; his Reign], we should fear lest anyone may seem to fall short of it.
2. For the good news was brought to us also, as well as them, but the word which was heard did not benefit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.
3. For we, having believed, do enter the rest [we see the Kingship] as He has said: "So I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest [Kingship] although the work [the Communication] was accomplished from the founding of the system" [the New Covenant System].
6. Since, therefore, it remains for some to enter into it, and the ones formerly receiving the good news did not enter in because of disobedience,
7. He again defines a day, saying "Today" in David (Ps. 95:7-11), after so long a time, as it was said before, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."
8. For if Joshua had given them rest He would not have spoken of another day.
9. So there remains a sabbath for the people of God.
10. For anyone who has entered into his rest [Christ's Reign] has rested from his works as God did from his own.
11. We should not delay, therefore, to enter into that rest [Reign], lest any man should fall after that same example of disobedience.

THE BLIND MEN AND THE ELEPHANT

John Godfrey Saxe (1816-1 887)

It was six men of Indostan
To learning much inclined,
Who went to see the Elephant
(Though all of them were blind),
That each by observation
Might satisfy his mind,

The *First* approached the Elephant,
And happening to fall
Against his broad and sturdy side,
At once began to bawl;
"God bless me! But the Elephant
Is very like a wall!"

The *Second*, feeling of the tusk,
Cried, "Ho! what have we here
So very round and smooth and sharp?
To me 'tis mighty clear
This wonder of an Elephant
Is very like a spear!"

The *Third* approached the animal,
And happening to take
The squirming trunk within his hands,
Thus boldly up and spake:
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant
Is very like a snake!"

The *Fourth* reached out an eager hand,
And felt about the knee.
"What most this wondrous beast is like
Is mighty plain," quoth he;
"Tis clear enough the Elephant
Is very like a tree!"

The *Fifth*, who chanced to touch the ear,
Said: "E'en the blindest man
Can tell what this resembles most;
Deny the fact who can,
This marvel of an Elephant
Is very like a fan!"

The *Sixth* no sooner had begun

About the beast to grope,
Then, seizing on the swinging tail
That fell within his scope,
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant
Is very like a rope!"

And so these men of Indostan
Disputed loud and long,
Each in his own opinion
Exceeding stiff and strong,
Though each was partly in the right,
And all were in the wrong!

MORAL

So, oft in theologic wars,
The disputants, I ween,
Rail on in utter ignorance
Of what each other mean,
*And prate about an Elephant
Not one of them has seen!*

THE DOLL

I promised a doll to my dear baby girl;
I pictured a treasure most fair.
With exquisite features, and teeth of pure pearl,
Moving eyes, walking limbs and real hair!

We entered a shop, and the dear little maid
Clasped a cheap, tawdry doll to her breast;
To make the exchange I was really afraid,
Though I wanted to give her the best.

I took it away, and the tears filled her eyes,
Till I gave her the one I had planned:
Then the dear little face glowed in joyous surprise
That a dolly existed so grand.

Oh, Savior, I too am a child in Thy sight,
I choose the first things that I see:
I struggle to keep them, I do not know quite
Why the Father should take them from me.

But when I look back, through the wisdom of years,
When my faith is age-old and sublime,
I know I shall see, through a rainbow of tears,
That my Father planned best, all the time.

GOVERNMENT IS GOD

*Law is in every culture
religious in origin ... in that it
establishes the ultimate
concerns of a culture.*

*In any culture the source of
law is the god of that society.*

*The religion of the state
locates the law in the state
and thus makes the state, or
the people as they find
expression in the state, the
god of that state.*

*There can be no tolerance in
a law system for another
religion.*

*Every law-system must
maintain its existence by
hostility to every other law-
system and to alien religious
foundations, or else it
commits suicide.*

—R.J. Rushdoony