

Notes for the Ones Called-Out to Meet

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The Risen King

by Dan Trygg

“I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. ¹⁴ And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.”

Daniel 7:13-14

“Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not out from this world. If My kingdom were out from this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not from here.’ ³⁷ Therefore Pilate said to Him, ‘So You *are* a king?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.’”

John 18:36-37

“These men who have upset the world have come here also; ⁷ ...and they all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus.”

Acts 17:6-7

“These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are called and chosen and faithful.”

Revelation 17:14

It is an interesting statement that Jesus made to Pilate, isn't it? “My kingdom is *not* out from this world. ...My kingdom is *not* from here.” It was for this reason that Pilate thought that Jesus was not a threat, and wanted to release Him. Pilate thought he had power to kill Jesus, but, even though he did sentence Jesus to death that day, ...and Jesus did die..., Jesus rose from the dead. He lives, while Pilate himself is long dead, his body long ago disintegrated into dust. **The kingdom that “was not of this world” continues to grow and expand**, while the mighty Roman Empire has been gone for over 1600 years. The Child that was appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed (Lk. 2:34), appeared to be a victim of political intrigue and injustice. Yet, while they appeared to have their way with Him, and were congratulating themselves at the success of their plot, they were shocked at the report of the guards who said that the grave was empty, and He had apparently risen. They tried to give an alternative explanation, and silence this troublesome rumor, ...but it would not go away. HE would not go away. **They thought His death would be the end of the “Jesus problem”, but it set the stage for an even greater problem, the dead man who would not stay dead!** They tried to silence His disciples, ...but they would not be silenced! And though each of those religious and political leaders slipped from this life, and their positions of power, ...and most of their names are long forgotten ..., **the risen Jesus continues, His kingdom expands, and His name is proclaimed among the nations!** And the whole time, He didn't need what they were so closely protecting, ...because His kingdom was not of this world, anyway!

While Jesus said that His kingdom was not out from this world, ...it is clear from the prophetic passages in scripture that His kingdom will eventually conquer and dominate the nations. His kingdom will reign. He is now King of kings, by virtue of His power. At that time, He will be King of kings in actual, visible fact. And, yet, His kingdom is *not* out from this world, ...it is out from the realm of heaven itself. It is truly the kingdom of God.

It is here now, but it is not visible. In Luke 17, when Jesus was asked by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God would come, His response was that **the kingdom of God does not come in observable ways.** “No one can say, ‘Here it is!’ or ‘There it is!’ For behold, the kingdom of God is within you.” **This is almost exactly what Jesus said about being born of the Spirit,** “The wind/Spirit blows where it desires, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; the one having been born out from the Spirit is like this” (Jn. 3:8). **And for now, Jesus Himself chooses to operate the same way:** He can show up without notice in a locked room, ...or walk along the way with someone for hours, only to disappear at the dinner table (Jn. 20:26-29; Lk. 24:13-31). He can show up in a bright, overpowering light, or come quietly in a vision of the night (Acts 9:1-9; 18:9,10). **One thing that is unmistakable, however, is the impact of His Presence.** Lives are *transformed* when He is present. **You cannot see the kingdom itself, but you can see what it has done. The same is true of the King. You may not always be able to see Him, but you can see what He does in the lives of those He touches.**

It is important to see that **we are part of a kingdom at war, but we don't fight with physical violence.** Our present war is not of this natural world. It is not a warfare of the flesh. We don't have to fight for Jesus in a military way. We do have a warfare, however. **Our warfare is not against flesh and blood. It is against spiritual forces** (Eph. 6:12). **Our weapons are not for fighting a physical fight. They are divinely empowered, mighty weapons for exposing lies,** tearing down reasonings, ...arrogant, high-minded beliefs that oppose the truth of God and attempt to block or

obscure the experience of His love (2 Cor. 10:4,5). ***Our battle is to bear witness of the truth, to present it and testify of its power to set people free.***

What is that truth? The truth we are to proclaim is that Jesus has broken every chain, defeated every spiritual power, and removed every obstacle that has kept us from God. The truth is that in Jesus we are made new, infused with power, endued with authority and appointed for service as ambassadors and representatives of Christ. Through Jesus, the way is open into the Father's heart. God offers us total amnesty and acquittal through Jesus, ...as a *gift*, if we will embrace it by faith. Jesus paid the price of redemption, ransoming us through His blood (Rom. 3:24; Heb. 9:11-14). His death provides the satisfaction and removal of God's wrath and judgment for our sin, also removing any claim or charge that could be made against us by the accuser, having already nailed each charge to the cross (Rom. 3:25,26; Col. 2:14). Not only are we washed and cleansed from outward impurity through His blood, but we are also washed with a washing of transformative power, ...a washing of regeneration (rebirth) and renewal (a new self that did not exist before) by the Holy Spirit (Tit. 3:5,6). In Jesus, we can have peace with God, and can receive the life and love of God poured into us by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:1-5). He took us into Himself, so that when He died, we were put to death with Him, and when He rose again, we would be made new (Rom. 6:5-11). This unity with Him in His death and resurrection is the basis for our freedom from the power of sin, bondage to the Law, the dominance of the flesh, or the authority of the devil (Rom. 6,7,8; Col. 1:13; 2:8-15). We were put to death, ...*in* and *with* Jesus. Whatever claims or obligations that existed before, *ended* the moment we were bound together with Christ in His death. Sin, Law, the flesh and the devil have no legal claim on us as *new creatures* in Christ. Furthermore, as new creatures, we have been born from above and also adopted by God to be His heirs, co-heirs with Jesus Himself (Tit.3:5-7; Gal. 4:6; Rom. 8:15-17). That means that the legal rights and privileges of being God's child have been allotted to us. They are our equipment and resources with which we can fulfill God's assignments for us. These are more powerful and expansive than we can begin to imagine, and we are to pray to understand and grasp what resources God has entrusted us with (Eph. 1:15-23). **In Christ, we have a new identity, a new empowerment, and a new purpose for our lives.**

There was a whole lot of theology compressed into that last paragraph. And *that* is just some broad brushstrokes to help clarify some key ideas. If these are new concepts, or don't seem as clear to you, please take some time to study them, and ask questions about them from someone you know who could explain these to you. These truths are our stock in trade, if you will. These are the life changing, transformative truths that will set people free and turn the world upside down. **Understanding what Jesus did, what is available to us in Him, and learning to operate in the power of His kingdom is foundational for your own personal freedom, and critical for accomplishing your mission in the kingdom at this present time.**

"Christ gave Himself for us to deliver us from this present evil age." This statement, from Galatians 1:4 draws our attention back to the larger picture. Remember that Jesus said, "My kingdom is not out from this world." **There is a present evil age that is set in place here on planet earth. This is the kingdom dominated and manipulated by the "god of this world", who blinds people's minds to keep people from seeing who Christ is (2 Cor. 4:4). He is the spirit that is working in the children of disobedience, the one that Paul calls "the prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2). He is trying to keep people preoccupied, walking according to the "age" of this world, ...following him.** According to Revelation 12:9, it is the "ancient serpent, the one being called the devil and Satan, who is the one deceiving the whole inhabited earth." It would appear that **the devil has established his own kingdom here, a kingdom of deception, distraction and diversion, by which he controls, manipulates and dominates people. Christ came to deliver us from Satan's kingdom.** He came to inaugurate the invasion of the kingdom of God. **He broke the enemy's power, and is exposing his lies.** Those who recognize the truth, and embrace Jesus as their King, can be freed from Satan's power. **WE who recognize and respond to Jesus become the ones who are called into this kingdom conflict,** the battle of the kingdom of God advancing into this present evil age. **Our job is to testify of the truth,** just as Jesus did. The enemy's kingdom is a realm of deception and darkness. **We use the truth of God to dispel the darkness, and help people find freedom. When the people of God come and testify of the truth, things begin to happen.** People find Christ, and they find the freedom that He makes available. Suddenly, they are no longer doing as they did, ...their lives change. Some people see and respond to the truth that they see embodied by this change. The light in the darkness gets brighter. **Other people don't like this change, ...and neither do the spirits of darkness..., so they often instigate some sort of push-back,** to try to stop and shut down this incursion of light into their customary world. **The children of light will always "upset the world", whenever light and darkness collide.** Thus, we see the kingdoms in conflict throughout this entire time when God is patiently allowing for more to respond to the truth.

In the end, however, Jesus will come in power. He is the King of kings, and the Lord of lords. He will come to put an end to rebellion, and usher in the fullness of His kingdom!

He will reign as the victorious, risen, glorified King of kings, and of His kingdom there will be no end.