

Revelation 19 (1 of 5)

by Leonard Ravenhill

The sermon emphasizes the significance of Revelation 19 and the final judgment of Babylon, highlighting the importance of divine inspiration and the glory of God.

Duration: 1:10:58

Scripture: Matthew 22:14, John 17:24, Romans 8:17, Hebrews 1:8, 1 Peter 1:4, 1 John 3:2, Revelation 19:7-21

Topics: "Revelation", "Identity in Christ", "Eternal Celebration"

Description

Leonard Ravenhill emphasizes the significance of the marriage supper of the Lamb as described in Revelation 19:9, highlighting the joy and glory of being called to this divine celebration. He contrasts the eternal joy of the faithful with the impending judgment on worldly systems, urging believers to recognize their identity as part of God's eternal kingdom. Ravenhill reflects on the majesty of Christ, the King of Kings, and the profound implications of being part of His bride, encouraging the congregation to live in anticipation of this glorious event.

Transcript

Revelation 19 and verse 9. But he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the two sayings of God. Blessed are they who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

If you've been to one of the tourist spots, you wonder why people go to a cemetery, it's very cheerful. In Forest Lawn Cemetery in California, if you go, you'll see one of the greatest paintings that was ever painted. I don't think it's the greatest in value, it certainly isn't.

But in length it is, I forget how long it is, about as long as this wall, or longer. And it's a picture of the crucifixion. And then there's a subsequent picture of the resurrection, which is just about as large.

Somewhere in the Dallas area, there's another contemporary picture of the Day of Pentecost. I understand it's a very, very fascinating picture. We went some years ago, but the background music wasn't playing.

And that helps a tremendous lot in that kind of picture. But it's a very vivid picture, the tongues of fire are sitting on the heads of all these wonderful people that were gathered on that day. You can kind of pick out which is Peter and which is John and so forth and so on.

And as I thought of that, or actually I thought of that because I thought of this. The man who has given us the book of the Revelation by divine inspiration is writing on the greatest canvas the world ever saw. Because you see he can't paint this picture in time, he has to borrow a section of eternity to finish his canvas, it's so vast.

Somebody talked about a man who needed a seven league canvas. Well again this canvas surpasses all the canvas, all the paintings that have ever been painted. We're living in apparently the most bewildering days in history.

And I was reading just yesterday, and I want to share this with you in passing. That whatever the confusion is, whatever the state of nations is, whatever the economic basis may be. Whatever the thriving of the cults, while it seems that Christianity is shrinking.

The testimony of heathenism, the testimony of cults like Jehovah's Witness and Sun Moon and that bunch. It seems to be expanding. Then in the middle of it all this is what God says.

For God has allowed us to know the secret of his plan and it's this. He purposes in his sovereign will that all human history shall be consummated in Christ. Now let's keep that very clear in our mind.

Whether we go through the tribulation, the battle of Armageddon or what it is. That God's eternal purpose is to consummate all history in the person of his son. Because that's why the world was created and you and I were created.

That we might bring glory to the Father and glory to the Son. And again glory to the Holy Spirit. It's an amazing thing when you think of it.

The man that gave us this. It's the most baffling as well as the most beautiful book. Obviously it's the end book of the revelations.

All the revelations of God. It is called the revelation. But it's not only the end book of the Bible.

It's the end of all time. It's not only the end of all time. But it's the end, if you can say so, of all eternity.

All that is going to happen in one sense is here in seed form. Now the amazing thing is, I find this quite humorous and inspiring too. That the man that wrote this book was one day called by the intellectuals an unlearned and ignorant man.

You remember after, along with Peter he had been the instrument of healing the man. That was all bundled up, crippled up, distorted, a beautiful gate of the temple. And when the religious hierarchy of the day couldn't find any other answer.

They said well look a notable miracle has been done. We'll settle for that. But please notice these two men, they're not college men.

They have no degrees. They have no social standing. They're not intellectuals and boy did they downgrade them.

And they said please note they're unlearned and ignorant. You know what, well honest I'm real humble this afternoon. I'd like a baptism of ignorance like they had.

But after all one of the guys happened to be Peter. He doesn't much college education, he knew more about Fisher and philosophy. But the Holy Ghost came on him and he became the spokesman on the day of Pentecost.

And he wrote the first and second epistles of Peter. Which I find very inspiring, particularly the first chapter of the first book. And then John, the ignoramus John, he wrote the first gospel.

If you call it that, the first gospel or the first interpretation of the gospel. As we have it set forth here. And he too wasn't a great scholar.

He has the most profound Greek. He has the most profound interpretation of the life of Jesus. And John also was called unlearned and ignorant.

Though he wrote what Dr. Kaufman called John the Plato of the New Testament. The most profound thinker. And that's a lot when you think, at least he's the most profound of the evangelists.

Now that's an ignoramus. He wrote the gospel of John. He wrote the first epistle of John.

He wrote the second epistle of John. He wrote the third epistle of John. Four bestsellers.

He hasn't collected his royalties yet either. But he wrote four bestsellers. And then just to prove his ignorance.

He wrote the book of the revelation that still battles all the wise men. Now you and I could do, you don't look at it that way maybe. But you and I could do with a baptism of ignorance like that.

You see there are two ways again of knowing the word of God. One is by education, Bible education. And the other is by revelation.

And John has this, this stupendous revelation. He doesn't deal with anything that's small. You say he talks about the sands.

Yes but he interprets the sands as individuals, as people. The sands by the seashore innumerable. He talks about stars.

He talks about kingdom. He talks about thrones. No less than 39 times in this book of the revelation he mentions thrones.

Now if I were to try and tie a, put a tag on this verse I read to you. Let me read it again verse 9. He saith unto me write blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me these things are, no I should have read verse 7 sorry.

Let us be glad and rejoice and give honor to him that the marriage of the Lamb is come. And his wife hath made herself ready. Now if that isn't a string of jewels where in the world would you find them? It's like having a lady's necklace with a diamond and an amethyst and a sapphire and a ruby and an emerald and a topaz and an opal and a diamond.

And I don't know any others but anyhow if you put all those on one string. And then you shone a light on them man they'd almost blind you with their beauty and with their majesty. Now don't you think these words are just eternal jewels that need the illumination of heaven on them.

To make them radiate and capture our hearts our affection our adoration. Think of them separately here for a moment. Let us be glad well I'll tell you what this world hasn't got much gladness.

And then he says let us rejoice which is a compounding it's joy on top of joy. Let us let us be glad let us rejoice. Now you see because there isn't any we have to have comedians.

We have to have clowns we have to have these people that are not funny they're stupid most of them. But they get millions a year for being stupid you don't get much if you're intellectual. As you know I don't get much but anyhow the bigger fool you are the more money you seem to get.

Now these are I say eternal jewels. Be glad and rejoice well those are two things we need to do. Give honor my we need to restore a bit of that and then the next wonderful thing is to him.

For the marriage of the Lamb is come. Man that ought to take a year to get through that the marriage of the Lamb. Isn't that something.

Now you look as though you've been left out but I've got news for you I'm going to it. You can stay on the fringe if you want but I'm going to that. Super wedding of all the ages the marriage of the Lamb is come.

So you have the marriage and you have the Lamb and you have the fact that again his wife has made herself ready. I was reading the other day I read it every week as a matter of fact when it comes. The review of the new books that have been published 40,000 books at least a year.

I don't read them all but I read the review of many of them in the New York Times book review. And there's a book that's quite a shocking book. It's written by a colored man his name is Haley.

And one day he suddenly desired to know where he came from. He's a man 50 odd years of age I guess by his picture I don't know his exact age. And he'd heard somewhere that somewhere around about 1750 somebody raided the African coast.

Somebody raided a village somebody kidnapped his father's father's great-grandfather. And he set out to find his history he's called his book Roots. It's a very disturbing very challenging book.

It shows the infamy it shows the terror of slavery. How that women were torn away from the husbands. How that babies were pulled from the mother's breasts.

How that women were made pregnant to produce more slaves and so on. And the book is very devastating. But the review of the book was written by James Baldwin.

He's been quite an agitator in the years of the past. But as I read through the book I found a very startling statement of his and it was this. He says certainly the bell is tolling for all that the Western peoples thought would last forever.

Right now the bell is tolling. For us white people he says it though he doesn't say it's white. The bell is tolling because we thought the existing the status quo as the other people say would last forever.

And we're suddenly discovering that we've got a problem on our hands. Do you realize this the colored people of this nation can tick the vote one way or the other this time. They're so big they're so powerful.

Nemesis is overtaken us we become victims of some things our grandfathers left us. This is why the scripture is true. You visit the sins of the fathers upon the children unto the third and the fourth generation.

They had a whale of a time. They bought and sold women. They got women pregnant if they wanted to.

They got them drunk. They did just what they liked. The human beings were chattels.

But suddenly the iceberg has kind of tipped over now. And instead of the tip we're going to the bottom and the colored people are coming to the top. We're wedged in between the yellow races and the black races.

Our days are numbered as white people let's face it. Now that doesn't mean we'll be exterminated. It doesn't mean a lot of our dominion will go.

As I've reminded you before in the United Nations America has one vote. Africa has 51 votes. If they want to vote us out they can vote us out.

They leave us to pay the bill sure enough. But by the same token they're in that place now where they've got the weight and the power on their side. Barry Goldwater now you must believe his book he's a Texan.

And Barry Goldwater says in his book almost at break point that we're so inundated with a colossal bureaucracy. He says openly I'm on the inside for 25 years. The president doesn't run the country whoever you put in.

Congress doesn't run the country. It's run by a bunch of bureaucrats. They do as they like.

They pull the string. The man that pays the piper calls the tune. The president dances according to somebody pulling his financial coattails and whatnot.

Barry Goldwater makes it very clear that we're coming by nothing external but something internal. In other words people say this that now our creed is greed and our God is gold. And it's pretty near what we've come to.

Because we're living in a state that's dominated by materialism. Not only in our country of course but in other countries. Now to some people they say that's the handwriting on the wall.

Well isn't it wonderful. I knew that when I fell out of my cradle nearly. I happened to read my Bible when I was a little boy.

And it told me as I mentioned to you just two weeks ago. It may seem longer it does to me. But two years, two weeks ago today, not two years, two weeks ago today.

We consider the 17, oh pardon me the 18th and 17th chapter of the book of the Revelation. You know it's awesome when you think of it. That every one of these human systems.

These men have built their palaces and they've lined them with gold. And they've studied them with jewels. But you know what before long the storm's going to break.

The winds of adversity and the wrath of God. And they'll discover now that they built on sand. And that when the tribulation comes the house falls down.

And yet we will build our eternal hope. And our salvation on the rock Christ Jesus. That that rock is going to abide forever.

The storm can break. It will make a hill of beans difference to us. They can rob us up to our skins.

But from our skin inward we're untouchable. No community can touch us. They can't legislate for anything on inside of us.

We've already by the grace of God. We've come into another kingdom. We've come into an eternal kingdom.

Now in that 17th chapter we reminded ourselves. That that was really ecclesiastical Babylon. The world has become fed up with the deceit.

The duplicity of what you might call organized religion. And therefore it, what did it do? It stripped her naked. And it ate her flesh.

And it burned with fire. That was it, that was ecclesiastical Babylon. Church of Rome and get all the rest of them.

Everything which does not believe in the fundamentals of the Christian faith. The virgin birth. The physical resurrection.

The atoning death of Jesus Christ. They're ecclesiastical Babylon. It doesn't matter who worships with them.

Doesn't matter how popular they are. Doesn't matter what intellectual backing they have. They've already got death signed on them.

By the verdict of God. Now in the next chapter, the 18th chapter, commercial Babylon has fallen. And all of these men have been building.

Can you imagine those men losing everything they have? Repeatedly it says in that chapter, in one hour. In one hour destruction has come. Now that hour may not be an hour on the clock.

For Jesus said, you remember in John 17, Father the hour has come. But that hour lasted for a number of days. It lasted through Gethsemane.

It lasted through his trial. It lasted right up to the cross. The hour isn't necessarily 60 minutes.

It is a period of time. The time of judgment has come. And all they've been building for hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of years.

Is going to collapse. And when it does, what do they do? Well of course they panic. There's going to be a day.

Isn't it something? You know when you go to bed tonight in some hospitals in America here. They'll be fighting to save the life of somebody. Stuffing tubes up their noses.

I had that experience. And being watched every few minutes. And people running in and out.

Striving to save somebody's life. But the Word of God makes it very clear in Revelation. There's going to be a period.

When men will cry for death. And they won't find it. A man will shoot himself.

And already eternal life has got hold of him. He'll jump off a cliff. He won't perish.

He'll take poison. He won't die. And then he'll cry for the rocks and hills.

And they won't annihilate him. Because you see there is no escaping that final judgment. Everything, every system, every war.

Every religious corporation. Every material corporation. Are all going to be consummated in Jesus Christ.

The end is that they're all going to glorify the Lord Jesus. It doesn't matter which way they go. God's going to make them finally.

Yield praise to his only begotten Son. The Lord Jesus Christ. Now, so the end of that 18th chapter.

In verse 19 it says. They cast dust on their heads and they cried. With weeping and wailing and saying.

Alas! Alas! That great city wherein were made. Wherein were made rich. All that had ships in the sea.

By reason of their costiness. For in one hour. Is she made desolate.

Now these great corporations again. They've been stripped of their wealth. And these men have nothing.

They've no foundation. And they weep and they wail. And yet at the same time as they're weeping and wailing.

The church of Jesus Christ is saying what? Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Well, because now finally. All corruption that ever existed. From the moment that Adam sinned.

You can take every devilish thing that has been done. You can take everybody that lies. And everybody's blood that's fertilized the battlefields of the world.

You can take all wrongdoing. You can take Watergate. You can take anything else.

Every one of those systems. The white slave traffic as well as the black slave traffic. Las Vegas.

The filthy days of the Roman Empire. All that ever happened. The combined enormity of guilt and sin.

And impurity and incest and lying. It's finally been done away once and for all. And God burns it.

Because if you set fire to a thing all you have left. There's no chance of life getting out of it. He consumes it with his wrath, with his anger.

It is consumed. It is destroyed finally. It's never going to have a resurrection.

Well do you wonder that all heaven bursts into a hallelujah. Boy I will, I'll nearly burst my lungs when I'm up there. When God finally says listen Babylon the Great has fallen.

Not only, not only religious Babylon. Commercial Babylon. Selfishness and greed and all those devilish things which have ruined lives and tortured lives.

They're all done away. And yet when these people find that every investment they've ever made. Man everything they've ever done.

All is burned up in a moment of time. And they get the dust and they throw it in the air. And those rich men.

My they might just be coming out of an opera in New York. And the ladies all dripping with diamonds. I remember passing the opera house about midnight or afterwards.

In New York around 44th Street. And the opera was just leaving. And you know the ladies were there in their long white coats.

And their mink and hmm. There's a lamp flowing with mink and money. And there they were all standing.

And they were all this. And the men with their tall hats. And they were strutting around.

You know we're the elite of the earth. And I thought you better wake up. For you might wake up in hell with all your jewels.

And your guilt and everything else you've got. You see they've served the God of this world. And he'll pay them back.

He'll pay them back. What they've sown they're going to reap. The only thing is what you sow in time you reap for eternity.

You reap it forever and ever. The interest is compounded and compounded and compounded. And their misery will know no end.

And in that awful day when God says this is the end. This is finale. I've watched it long enough.

The stink has come out high up to heaven. This is the end of it. Isn't it terrible that we abolish slavery.

And yet we're more slaves now than ever in history. Man alive we've got more sex slaves than ever we've had in history. We've more slaves to impurity.

We've more slaves to drugs. We've more slaves to drink. We've more slaves to debauchery than ever.

What used to be looked upon with contempt it's a sport. It's a game to be played. Flesh is exalted.

As I've said so many times. There comes a time when God says this is enough. Finish.

Finish. And every diabolical system. Every dictator.

Every Mussolini. Every Hitler. Every Genghis Khan.

Whoever started the massacre of St. Bartholomew and everything else. It's all finished and God is going to bring everyone to judgment. In that final collapse it says that they weep and they wail and they gnash their teeth.

But verse 20 says rejoice over her thou heaven and ye holy apostles. And prophets. For God hath avenged you on her.

You see there's total misery here. There's grief beyond anything they've ever known. There's pain beyond anything any human person ever had.

It's just as though you took a knife and ripped a man alive. Like they say that Isaiah was suspended with his legs and sawn down the middle with a wooden sword. One of the most agonizing deaths.

And yet they're going to feel that torment. They're going to feel that sadness. That misery compounded.

And at the same time that they're grieving over all the wasted lives and everything else. The saints of God are going to be shouting hallelujah and praising the Lord. And it says ye holy apostles and the prophets rejoice.

Rejoice. Rejoice. You don't rejoice just because of their misery.

You rejoice because he's coming into his kingdom which is an everlasting kingdom. That all this is out Lord forever and ever. You see again it says here that.

That we're to rejoice and be glad and give honor to him for the marriage of the lamb. My that's wonderful isn't it. You ever heard of a lamb getting married.

I've seen one of our neighbors have some that won't keep in the fence and they jump all over the place. But they haven't married them off yet. Maybe they'll kill them off and we'll be there for lunch.

But the marriage of the lamb. You see if you just swallow that and say well that's the marriage of the lamb. Boy that's going to be great in eternity.

Hey do you know what, do you know what's amazing about this. He doesn't describe the wedding. He doesn't even tell us who the bride is.

He doesn't tell us how long it lasts. He doesn't even tell us what we're going to eat and we're all interested in that. But he doesn't even mention it.

You know I suddenly realized that this book of the revelation is just as amazing by what it doesn't say as by what it does say. Now it does say it's the marriage of the lamb. It does say there's going to be a bride.

It does say she's going to have attendance. It does say his throne. You see this bride isn't marrying just an angel or Gabriel.

She isn't even marrying a king. She's marrying the king of kings and the lord of lords. She isn't marrying somebody who's going to die after he's reigned 20 years.

He's going to live forever and ever and ever and ever. King of kings and lord of lords. Of his government there shall be no end.

He's the governor. He's the ruler. He's the chief shepherd.

He's the chief apostle. He is the king. He is the creator.

Man alive he deserves a bride doesn't he? And you know he's going to get a bride. The most beautiful bride that the world has ever known. And it's a very intricate subject surely.

And indeed it's a very not only intricate but it's a very challenging thing to me. You see there have been again some tremendous empires. There have been some tremendous kings.

Belshazzar, Nebuchadnezzar, the pharaohs. The kings that ruled in the days of the apostles. Nero and Constantine and some of those terrible Caesars.

Caligula and all the rest of them. And yet this kingdom that Jesus has. If you put all those other kingdoms together.

Man alive they'd be comparatively like dung at the side of the biggest diamond you ever saw in your life. Because he's never going to usurp his kingdom. Do you remember what it says in Hebrews 1? Thy throne O God is forever and ever.

I like that. If I could sing I can't. But if I could I like to play that in the Messiah you know.

And he shall reign forever and ever. Man I feel like stopping and weeping and getting down and doing a bit of howling and magnifying the Lord. Because you see I'm going to that kingdom.

You're going to that kingdom. And do you know what? We're not going on probation. We're not going on probation.

We've already passed our probation. Don't you realize, bless your dear heart. You look so heavy this afternoon.

I thought you'd smile when I came back. You look miserable. But anyhow.

Do you know what? By the time we get here, do you know what you'll have? Listen, cheer up. Poor Kay, she was under the weather yesterday. Kay dear, you'll have a body like unto his glorious body.

Brother Herb, all the rest of us. Do you know what we're going to have in that day? By the time we get to this point of time, I was going to say no eternity. Do you know what we'll have? We'll have put on off corruption and put on in corruption.

We'll have got rid of mortality and put on immortality. We're going to a kingdom again here. A kingdom that we're not going on probation.

We're not going to be cast out if we can't answer the first twenty questions the Lord asks us. Brother, we're going forever. Once inside those gates, we're going forever and ever.

He's going to reign forever. We're going to reign forever. Man, won't he be worthy? We're not going on probation.

Another man, we're not going on probation. We're not going for a vacation either. Oh, vacations are all right till you get two days from coming away from, you know, going home.

And then, oh, back to the old grind. Herb and Betty have just been away for two weeks, two days. And, you know, coming back.

Oh, when you get back, meeting Pornbill. You know, shopping for sausage and all these weary things. Isn't it great? We're going to enter that kingdom.

You know, you and I, we better live upstairs a bit, don't you think? We're to earth down. As I prayed earlier before you came in, I want people to feel when they come in that door. You do kick the dust of time off.

And you come through that door and say, listen, I may not be much outside. But once I come in here, even angels envy me. I'm of a royal priesthood.

I'm of a holy nation. We're made forever and ever. And so we're not going on probation.

No, sir, we're not going on probation. We're not going for a vacation. We're going for the duration.

And we're going to stay, I can tell you how long we're going to stay, till the last second. We're going to stay there till God dies. Wouldn't that be great? And he's not going to die.

Man, he's given me everlasting life already. He's given you everlasting life. And you know, later I maybe get to this Tuesday.

I don't know. If I can get Dr. Stanley to preach, I'll ask him. But I won't push him.

But he might want to hear some good preaching himself. So maybe I'll preach. But anyhow, I might finish the other half of this.

And tell you that the next chapter talks about the bride being a city that comes out of heaven. A new Jerusalem. Hmm? You know, it really is, it's astounding when you think of this.

In this 19th verse it says, after these things. After what things? After God has blown out the light. Yeah, let's rejoice in it.

But listen, let me, let me say this. Let's have a tender heart of compassion for those who are not going to get through the gate too. Because you see, once God says finale, he never changes his mind.

God doesn't repent in that situation. It's finished. You know what he says? Oh, we say in heaven.

You know, we're not going to hunger anymore. We're not going to thirst anymore. We're not going to have headaches anymore.

We're not going to feel all the limitations of physical life anymore. Sure, hallelujah, a million times over. But if we're not going to have any more sickness, and any more death, and any more pain, and any more sorrow, and anybody to harass us.

On the other hand, you know what it says of these who are lost? Violence shall be in that great city of Babylon. It shall be thrown down, and shall be found no more. The trumpeters in it shall be heard no more.

Its craftsmen shall not work anymore. This is the end of chapter 18. And the 22nd verse says, there'll be no craft there.

No workmen shall be found in thee. The sound of the millstone shall be heard no more. There'll be no grinding food for them.

No millstones to make bread for them. And the candle won't light there anymore. It's eternal darkness.

Heaven is eternal light without any darkness. And hell is eternal darkness without any light. And the voice of the bride and of the bridegroom shall be heard no more.

The voice of what? The bride. The church is the bride. She's witnessing this happen.

She's urging people to flee from the wrath of God. But in that moment when God says finale, the church is finished. And the Holy Ghost is finished.

And they can go to hell forever for all God cares. No more. No singing anymore.

Can you imagine a place where nobody ever sings? Shall I pull that back and say, they sing in hell. What do they sing? I'll tell you what they sing in hell in my judgment. Jeremiah 8.20, the harvest is passed.

The summer is ended and we're not saved. They look for light. I believe that men will feel in their hands just as when somebody put a tract in their hand.

They'll feel that tract in their hands in all eternity. And it won't be there to read. They lust, but there'll be no satisfaction to lust.

Whether they lust for the flesh, or lust for sex, or lust for money, or lust for drink. They'll have all the appetites, but they'll have nothing to satisfy their appetites. Whereas the opposite is true in heaven.

Whatever I yearn for in heaven will be supplied, God says. My, that's going to be wonderful. Thirsting and hungering.

All you have to do is give a signal to an angel and they'll bring you fruit. Because the fruit happens to be ripe every month of the year. Isn't that nice? Twelve months in the year there'll be fruit.

And the drinking will be there, because we're going to drink of the water of life. They hunger no more and they thirst no more. It's the very opposite of the condition of those who are in eternal darkness.

And then this kingdom of God, this eternal heaven. It's ruled by three things, what? It's ruled by love, the kingdom, the incorruptible kingdom. The basic government of heaven is on three points as I see it, number one.

It's ruled by light, because there's no darkness there. It's ruled by light because He is the light. There's no need of candle.

In hell they give a million dollars for a candle, but in heaven there are no candles. There is no need of candle because He is the light of it. So the number one principle is there, or at least one principle is that it's going to be governed by light.

There will be no darkness. And then it's going to be governed by love. Because God is love.

And He's going to reign there forever and ever in love. So we have love, and we have light, and it's going to be governed by life. Because there's no death there.

Well you couldn't have a better government than that could you? Ruled by light, and ruled by love, and ruled by life. And they're all indestructible because they're all the very nature of God Himself. Now, it says

that, what does it say? It says here that we're to rejoice because the marriage of the Lamb has come.

Marriage. There's a lovely hymn, I don't think it's in our book. It wasn't really written by Samuel Rutherford.

It was sections of letters that he wrote to people, that people would take now to use certain phrases over another. And a lady, Mrs. Cousins put them all together and she wrote a hymn with about 27 stanzas. Maybe we'll sing it one afternoon.

27 stanzas, it begins, The sands of time are sinking, the dawn of heaven breaks. And in that hymn she says this, The bride eyes not her garments. Did you ever see a bride that didn't? Honest to goodness.

Isn't she just swallowed up with what she's wearing? Mother doesn't it look lovely? You will take it, you know, with the train all out, won't you? And I mean, make it as big and beautiful. The bride eyes not her garments, that her dear bridegroom's face. Ah, there may be a point and I've seen this.

I remember a wedding not long ago, a multi-millionaire's daughter that we were privileged to share in the wedding off, in the service. And as she came down the aisle, I was captivated. She was a good-looking girl, sure enough.

But she had a most gorgeous dress, as you would think a millionaire would buy his only daughter, his only child, as a matter of fact. And you know, I could see her at the door like this, and looking, and everything was beautiful. But as she came down the aisle, she looked like this, and there was the bridegroom.

And so Rutherford says in his hymn, The bride eyes not her garments, that her dear bridegroom's face. I will not gaze on glory, but on the King of Grace. Not at the crown he giveth, but on his pierced hand.

When throned, where glory dwelleth in Emmanuel's land. You see, everything on earth is going to magnify him. Everything in heaven is going to exalt him.

Man, you won't even look at the cherubim when you see him. You won't be fascinated with all the cities. This is not a royal wedding, it is the royal wedding.

As I say facetiously, when you get to heaven, you'll know who the evangelists are. They'll be digging the streets up, they're made of gold. But, you know, it's such a wonderful place, heaven, that the thing that men have cut each other's throats for, you can prove it, that we have backed both sides.

We have done this with Arabs and Jews, selling them war weapons as long as we make money. Israel, England backed Hitler in the first part of his terrible invasion of Europe. But the very thing that men kill each other for, the thing that destroys governments, the thing that destroys families, the thing that eats men up, is gold.

And we're going to walk on it, you know, not ever think of picking it up. He will be so fascinating, he will so magnetize us, we'll never bother about things like that. It might as well just be made of cinders.

And the gates are made of pearl. Man, this is going to be some city. And you know, it says that he is the king of kings.

Ha ha ha. Oh, I think that's gorgeous. He is the king of kings.

And the Lord of Lords. Now there have been a lot of bad kings, there have been a lot of great kings. It says there are going to be many crowns upon his forehead.

Now John, when I see John one day, I'm going to talk to him, he's not fair. He tells me so much, and he tells me so little. How many crowns are on his head? Where do we get them? He says he's been crowned.

Well if he's been crowned, he must have been crowned somewhere. Where was it? He must have been crowned by somebody who did it. He must have crowns on his head.

What kind of crowns are they? If I remember right, and I'm getting dull these days, I get older, but I think it was Charlemagne, who after he conquered one country said, take their best cannon. Take a cannon, and out of the long barrel of the cannon, cut a slice out and make me a crown. Mostly we make crowns out of gold.

We make something, it has to be extravagant. I think the crown of the Queen of England, was worth about five million dollars. Now he doesn't even tell me how many crowns there are.

You know, he shortchanges us here. Do you ever wonder how a man sitting on an island, who had lost his shirt nearly, he'd lost his church, he'd lost his people, he'd lost his freedom, he'd lost everything. So you just be careful, dear soul.

Don't you say, Lord, I want you to bring me in a larger place than I've ever lived in, because you might lose the shirt off your back to get there. Hmm? Didn't somebody tell us recently of a woman that said, look, I'm so tired of my family being like this, it's terrible. I don't know how you're going to do it, Lord.

If we have to have a crash in the car, well let's have a crash. She had one, and in six days, that she happened to be in the car with the rest of the family. Do you know the first thing she said when she came round? Why did the Lord allow this? I should have said, Sister, He answered your prayer five days ago, that's all.

Well, by the same token, if you say, Lord, I want to get near, do you remember it was in the year that King Uzziah died, that Isaiah saw the Lord? He spent too much time with Uzziah. Uzziah had lived through the reign of five kings. Uzziah was a great reformer.

Uzziah was one of the greatest men that had lived up to that time. He'd reigned for about fifty years. But you see, he was blocking the view.

God couldn't be seen by Isaiah, because his darling friend was in the way. And he'd already had a vision in chapter one, verse one, and God said, I want you to have another vision. And the only way to do it, is take that dear, treasured friend of yours away, and then you'll get the full revelation of me.

Do you think you dare pray that? Don't pray it. No, I don't want to hear you. You pray it alone with yourself.

This man has no home, he has no people, he has no church, he has no Bible, he has no friends. He's on a lousy prison island. And when he's stripped where there's nothing else to strip, God says, all right John, you've stood the test.

All right, now I'm going to start unveiling. I'm going to show you what I didn't show Isaiah, I didn't show any of the apostles, I've shown it to nobody, unless of course, you say that period that Paul never reported, when he had that lifting up to heaven. I don't know what he saw there.

Now how in the world did this man contain this? That's what I don't know, I can't even contain a verse. He contained 22 chapters. And in case you don't know, he didn't have a tape recorder.

How in the world did he get it? You know he had a revelation, and God puts one thing on his spirit, and another thing on his spirit, and another thing on his spirit, and it was so real. The book of Revelation is full of majesty, it's full of mystery, it's full of marvel. There's nothing like it.

You can read the Vedas, the Koran, all the religious books, there's nothing like this. And so do you know how we get helped out? The liberal says, you know what happened to this man? He sat on an island, a devil's island, it was all filth and corruption, and God in mercy let him have some dreams. These are hallucinations, his mind was a little bit unhinged you know.

And he wrote it all down, and you can't, I mean you can't fault him, you know he thought, he thought it was right. But I mean you know you're not going to talk about, you're not going to talk about all the great systems, all those fabulous sheiks, or sheiks in Saudi Arabia that there are so many millions. Did you see where one of them sent an order two weeks ago to Chicago? Could you fill this order? Six custom made Cadillacs, so many, what were the other things he had? I don't know, a whole list.

It was a mere million and a half dollars, and he paid cash before he got there. Can you imagine all those systems, where one day, if it's pure gold it won't be worth anything except to repair the streets in heaven if they get broken down, which they won't. Every human system, everything that they've called valid, God is going to invalidate.

And his throne is forever and ever. There's nobody ever going to drive him off it. He won't die on it.

He won't be pushed off it. He won't renounce it to anybody else. He's setting up a kingdom.

And the only way you can enter it, is becoming like a little child. Not childish. A lot of church members would get in if that were the condition, childish.

But it's not being childish, it's being a child. And to be a child, you have to be born. You have to have a nature.

You have to have a God nature. You have to have Christ in you, the hope of glory. And then by that, through that, because of that, we're going to be partakers of this, this eternal kingdom.

As I say, I wish he'd told us more, or else told us less. See what he says? I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the voice of many waters, the voice of mighty thund... Hey, you can't get it much better than that. Come on now.

You can hear the roar of a crowd at a football match, or a Kentucky Derby. They're magnified. But listen to this voice.

It's the voice of many waters, the voice of mighty thunders, the voice of a great... All together. Do you know what I think it'll be? It'll be like, all the earthquakes in history, all joined together. And instead of fear, and trembling, and terror, they're all going to shout, Hallelujah! The Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Man, if you didn't have a glorified body, you'd have a nervous breakdown, as soon as it shouted. It will shatter every nerve we have. But you see, we're going to have a body like unto His glorious body.

We're going to be restored as we were, before sin came and marred the personality. It's going to be a physically perfect body, intellectually perfectly, intellectually perfect, emotionally perfect, spiritually perfect. And yet, I think with an extended intellect, that even, even, even Adam didn't have, because he didn't need it there.

Man, you've never dreamed a fraction of what it's going to be. Oh well, I can't think, you know, we're going to live forever and ever. And you just whistle to an angel, and say, bring me one of those pomegranates.

And he says, yes sir, these are fresh, these are just a day old. Nothing ever decays in heaven, you know, but these happen to be a... grow this morning. And I'd like a drink of the water of life, and he says, Your Excellency, it's coming, because you see, I'm a king, he's only an angel.

And so he's going to serve you, they're going to serve us, as we serve him. And do you know what God did? God jumped ahead, as he always does, of all the smart people. Do you know what he says? That when you think of all these mystery, and all this majesty, it says at the end of verse 9, let me read it.

He saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb, and he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. They're not the words of John, they're the words of God. They're not the same kind of words that you have in Aesop's fables, or in his, what do you call it now, Britannica.

They're not the same kind of, these are the words of God. These are the, these are the true Amen. He that liveth forever and ever.

The one that never told a lie, he says listen, I've written all these things for your wisdom, upon whom the ends of the earth are come. And do you know what? I made up my mind, I'm going to live more in Revelation, than I've lived, as I see that day approaching. That day when all world's proud empires pass away.

The day when in an hour, what old rocky fellow won't have a dime. You haven't got much now, except gold, but not models, or anything else. But anyhow, you'll have less in that moment, when God speaks death, and the curse to everything, that man has invested in.

And then we come right round, to this kingdom, which is an everlasting kingdom. Let me skip over this quickly, verse to 19, verse 1. After these things, I heard the voice of a great multitude, in heaven saying hallelujah. After what things? After the destruction of the great whore.

You see, the false religion, is the great whore. The church, is the virgin bride of Jesus. Man, there's a difference there, isn't there? The great whore of the world, has defiled herself with everybody, that wanted to pay a price with her.

She has defiled herself. But the church is spotless, without spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing right here. Do you remember that lovely prayer, of Jesus in John 17? I think it's all consummated here.

Listen to what he says, Father I will that they also, that thou hast given me, be with me where I am, that they may behold thy glory. Isn't that wonderful? God has answered his prayer. He prayed it just before Gethsemane.

He says, Father I want every one of these, and all them that thou shalt give me, that they shall be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me. And thou didst love me, before the foundation of the world. And God says, you sinners you should have gone to hell.

But my Son redeemed you. He cancelled your sin. He gave you his own nature.

He took human nature, that you might be made partakers of the divine nature. And not only that, he prayed, just before he went to the agony of Gethsemane. And he says, Father don't, don't lose the name of one of them, will you? See Martha gets there, and see that Joe gets there, and Sue, and John, and Jem, and this, this.

Everyone in this little fellowship, this afternoon, Jesus says, see they get there. You know I was praying this afternoon, sometimes I cry when I pray, sometimes I laugh. And I was saying, Lord, one thing you say about Jesus, he is the chief shepherd.

And you know when we get to heaven, there won't be one of the sheep missing. Isn't that great? Remember the shepherd that went out, there were ninety and nine, that safely lay in the shelter. But one was out on the hills away.

And so the good shepherd didn't go to sleep. But you know when we get up to heaven there, there won't be one sheep missing. Jesus isn't going to hell to look for anybody.

He's not going to say to Gabriel, go down to earth and see if you, no sir, everybody's going to be there. You talk about marriages, do you remember when Ford married his daughter a few years ago, it cost him two hundred and fifty thousand dollars for the reception after the wedding. There's a lot in this, I'm not going to, well I hope I'm not wearing you anyhow, but I want you to not get so much you can't eat it kind of thing.

But remember this will you, that this is a wedding, and at a wedding you have a feast. Now there's no question here as to who is the, who is the bridegroom. We know who the bridegroom is all right.

You remember what John Baptist says, people don't worry when the bridegroom's with them, but when he goes away. Now you know these generous, wonderful dime store evangelists we have around right now. You know they give you the whole kingdom of God for three minutes at an altar saying I'm sorry I sinned, and then you go out and do the same things over again.

Those poor caricatures of preachers. You know they couldn't be more generous, they give you anything for five minutes at the altar. But you know what? No, none of the, none of the preachers that I know of, I've checked with some, but you know, nobody really agrees who the bride is.

Oh, the average preacher says, praise the Lord you got saved, well my dear you go on, your name's in the book of life, you have a mansion on main street, a five-decker crown, a free ticket to the marriage supper of the Lamb, and you're going to be with the rest of us in heaven, you're going to have a whale of a time, forever and ever. Well it just isn't so, that's all there is to it, if you read the scriptures pretty carefully. You know God has always been selective, hasn't he? Didn't he choose one nation, the Jews, out of all the nations of the earth? Then out of the Jews, didn't he choose one tribe? Then out of the tribes, didn't he choose one family? Then out of the family, didn't he choose one man to be the high priest? Sure, there was a kingdom set up, in that sense, in the Old Testament.

And you have 70 elders, they were far greater than the rest of the mob down there, the millions of Israelites. And out of the 70 elders, you have Aaron and Hur, who were more closely connected with Moses. And then you have a couple of important fellows, what they were called Nadab and Abihu, they had another job to do, or take the tabernacle.

There was a priest that ministered in the outer court, where it was daylight. There was a priest that ministered in the inner court, where there was candlelight. There was a priest that ministered in the Holy of Holies, where there was no light.

Now because, he was a priest and an Israelite, didn't give him the right to go into the holiest place of all. Now by the same token, I'm going to argue, that I don't believe everybody will go, will be part of the bride. I think we'll go to the marriage supper, but there's a difference between going to the marriage supper and being a bride.

Take again the apostles, as I've mentioned to you before, those that Jesus took, there were 12 of them. But they didn't all go onto the mount of transfiguration. They didn't all go into the garden of Gethsemane.

God is selective. Alright, take the apostles themselves. Well four of them were evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

They were evangelists. So they gave us gospels, but they didn't give us epistles. And later you have men who gave us epistles, that didn't give us the gospels.

You see? And you have some who were prophets, and you have some who were priests, and you have some who have other offices, even in the same kingdom. Alright, well what about heaven? Well it happens to say, when we get to heaven, this is rather hard to swallow, but it says some of the first will be last. Won't that be embarrassing? I mean when you think you're at the top of the totem pole, and the Lord says, brother Gabriel comes up and says, the Lord just told me, hey you get right down to the bottom.

And the only reason that you're at the bottom, is there's nowhere else to go, only to push you down there too. But you're right at the bottom, big shot. With all the millions you made on TV, and everybody you preached to, and all the books you wrote, get right down there.

It so happens that you just taking a seat up here, you thought you'd be near Jesus. That belongs to a little colored washer woman, that used to live just outside of one of the great cities of America, called Seguin. And this dear old colored woman has worshipped God, it's been hell in the home, that she's offered me more worship, more pure gold in one week, than you sent me up in ten years.

You were always stuttering around, do you know how many stations we're on? Do you know how many magazines we've published? Do you know this? Do you know I was called to the White House? Well I don't think that's too famous these days, but we'll pass that up anyhow. But, you know it says a lot of the first are going to be last. And it says a lot of the last are going to be first.

And it says in what? Matthew 22. I don't know how he got there, but one man sneaked into the marriage, and he hadn't got a wedding garment. He thought he'd got it made.

He sat down and said, boy I wish they'd say grace and let's get going. I could eat that and that, and I'm going to take two lots of that, and boy this is going to be the greatest, oh this is fantastic, and I think Abraham's going to sit there, and Isaac there, and so on and so on and so forth. Hi.

He says get out. Get out? You haven't got a wedding garment. What about the argument of the ten virgins? There were five wise and five foolish, not five pure and five impure.

They were all virgins. But they didn't even get into the wedding, never mind be part of the bride. What had they got? They'd gone out as the oriental custom, the bridegroom comes at night, ready for the marriage the next day.

And a party go out to receive him, and they went out to receive him, but they got a bit sleepy. And five of them said, you know, oh we've been traffic all day. Wake him up just before he comes.

And the next thing they heard was, the door is shut. Hey, what happened? Hey, before you go in, give us of your, give us of your, give us of your oil. Too late.

Now they were virgin. Now, now, where was the bride? They were only attendants of the bride. Will you go home and read very carefully, the forty-fifth thought.

You know, there's a man there, comes out of the ivory palaces, and the bride is so beautiful, and she has her concubines, and she has her friends, and she has her servants all there. They would all go into the wedding, but they weren't all the brides. How many brides did you have at your wedding Herb? Just, just one.

Oh, well that's all I had. Just one beautiful lady. Oh, we had, she had, Martha had a bunch of bridesmaids, and I had some fellow to support me.

But, I forget all the things, but I'll tell you what, just one bride, a lot of attendants, a little flower girl, a boy maybe carrying a ring on a cushion, and all the guests, but only one bride. Huh? You know, we've all been herded in, praise the Lord, we're all saved. We're going to sit down with Abraham and Isaac, you'll be able to say, hey Isaac, you know, hey Abraham, buddy, you know, I always enjoyed that part in your life.

Oh, I don't think so. I don't think so. I think part of the, two things we've lost, in our modern Christianity, one is the awesomeness, even of God's presence, in a little humble sanctuary like this, very often.

The awesomeness of, listen, when I get out tomorrow, I want to serve notice on, I was going to say Baton Rouge, we don't live there. I want to serve notice on, on Seguin, or you dear folk from, the next village, what's that called? San Antonio. Serve notice on it tomorrow, when you go out, say, hey San Antonio, you're not pushing me around today, I happen to be a king's son.

I'm the child of a king, you're not pushing me around. You can make any accusation you like, but you better keep your hands off me. I happen to be more precious, than all the gold in America, or anywhere else.

I'm the child of a king, he redeemed me. He's got my name in his book, he's got a place reserved for you, who are kept by the power of God, it says in 1 Peter 1. You know, I sometimes wonder why we do get under the weather. Do you, do you ever wonder about that? Who is this man? The Christ, the anointed.

Why do these people shout Hallelujah? Because from here on, for a thousand, billion, trillion, quadrillion years, it's all going to belong to Jesus. It's all going to belong to the redeemed. There's going to be nothing that defile us, and nothing that will upset us, and nothing that will weary us.

There'll be no bondage, and no taxes. Man, this is going to be really something. His eyes were as a flame of fire.

I'm finishing right here, verse 12. His eyes was a flame of fire. On his head were many crowns, and he had a name written, and no man knew but he himself.

Won't it be wonderful when he explains that to us? Because nobody knows the name. How many crowns is he going to have? I don't know. I'll tell you what I think.

Number one, I think he'll have a crown of love. The king of love, my shepherds, whose goodness faileth never, he'll have a crown of love. He'll have a crown of victory, because he subdued death, and he led captivity captive.

He'll have a crown of, shall we say health, because he's destroyed all sickness. He's going to have a crown, as being the one who had a crown of a vote, because we're going to wear a crown. As I've said 39 times in this book, thrones are mentioned.

But you know, when they see him on his throne, and they see him with his crown, you know those fellows sitting down there, and there are four and twenty elders, and there are four living creatures. And when they see him, they're so dumbfounded, they're so staggered, that they fall down flat on their faces. What in the world do you think you and I are going to do? They're so overwhelmed with his majesty.

My, think of that, when you're brushing, washing little fellow's shirts tomorrow. Think of that tomorrow, when you're selling something, or buying something. Well look, this is very, very temporal, very perishable.

I belong to an eternal kingdom, where the king cannot perish, where nothing can be defiled, where nothing can be offended, where nothing can be destroyed. And it's forever, and forever, and forever and ever. All right, she's going to marry a king.

You know, when the Yankees came to England, as we call them, we saw these guys, and I think they all, the first batch must have come from Texas. They all look six feet high, big broad packs on, and they walk through the streets, and the girls look at them, oh, you know, as though they were from another world, which they were to them anyhow. You know, before long, they'd say, oh, we took an American in our home last night, we gave him a good English supper, as best we could, on our rations, and they were telling us about America.

You know, this fellow, one of them, his father had a ranch in Texas somewhere, it's 9,000 and some acres, because he hadn't mined, but anyhow, everybody that came, had the biggest ranches in the world, and the most cattle, and these girls got awed and fascinated. Now, remember one girl who swallowed this whole thing, and when she got here, he had an acre, it's like the King Ranch opposite us, five acres. That's all they had, five acres.

And she said, you told me you don't, well, this is a ranch, isn't it? Well, she didn't think it was, but you know what, this bride is going to marry somebody who has a ranch, isn't that big it is? Well, it's just the whole earth, that's all. That's all. And he's going to have horses, in case you like them.

And he's going to ride, and behind him, there's going to come a whole retinue of, wonderful people riding horses. But let me say this one thing. Do you know what there is written? He hath on his vesture, and on his thigh, a name written, King of Kings, and the Lord of Lords.

And do you know his other name? Verse 13 of the 19th chapter, he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood, and his name was called, the Word of God. Do you know what that does? Do you know what that word there is? I don't profess to be a Greek scholar, I'm not. But the word there is Logos.

And John is the only one in the New Testament, that uses that word. John 1, 1, the Gospel, in the beginning was the Word, in the beginning was the Logos, and then in John's epistle, in the first chapter, he says there, the first epistle, the first chapter, the first verse, that which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled of this, the Word of God. Do you know what Logos means? Logos means, a thought.

And when you wrote that thought out, in this, where is it here now, the verse what, verse 13, the Word of God, it's a thought, and then, the Logos is not only a thought, but it's an expression, in a word. So everything that God was thinking, He put in one word, which was Jesus Christ. And this is the written Word of God, that Hallelujah, He's the living Word of God.

And so the book says, that His Word shall never pass away. How can it? Because He's eternal life. And so you find that Word, only in three places, in John chapter 1, verse 1, first epistle of John, chapter 1 and verse 1, and here in Revelation, the 13th verse of this, 19th chapter.

You see, that's why you can rest on it. Oh my, I wish I had a vocabulary of an archangel, and a voice like a trumpet this afternoon, and really preach what I feel. I can't get it all into words, but I'll tell you what, I know it's all true.

I know it's all true. It is the Word of God. These are the true sayings of God.

No, John wasn't having a nightmare. No, John wasn't being compensated, because he'd lost everything, and God says, well lay your head on that rock, and dream better dreams than Jacob had, when he slept on a rock. I'm going to show you things which are to come, and every one of them is true.

And they're all written in the Word of Him, who is faithful and true. And they're going to last, when this whole world has been burned, God's going to burn the world up. You see, it doesn't matter which way we go.

You can't escape fire. Our God is a consuming fire. And I have a little saying I use so often, I believe this afternoon, the world is going to hell fire, because the church has lost the Holy Ghost fire.

But there's no, there's no escaping fire, whichever way you go. Even the believer's going to judgment fire, the fire shall pray every man's work, what sort it is. But there's a marriage supper.

Oh, I don't know, I'll get on further with this again, I say, but I can't identify everybody that's going to be in the bride. But you know what, I'll be thrilled if I'm part of the bride, but I'll tell you what, I think as I understand things, I'll just be thrilled to get to the marriage supper too. I'd rather be the least in the kingdom of heaven, than be the greatest in the kingdom of earth right now.

I'd rather die without a shirt to cover my nakedness, when I died, than have all the money Rockefeller has. Plus all that's in the banks of all the whole entire world, because God has breathed death on them before long, I think in our day. I think when dear Herb was so generous to say, these children will rise up to the emissaries, I frankly hope they don't.

I hope the King's coming before then. And whatever else you say about the rapture, I know there'll be no children left. It's going to be pretty much like hell for a lot of people, because the children will have gone, and the parents will be looking for them.

Because I don't believe God's going to leave them to that final, not tribulation, I think the church will go through the tribulation, but it's the wrath of God that I'm scared of. I don't think it says that we should be saved from tribulation, it says we should be saved from his wrath. The final outpouring of those vials of his wrath.

And you know what it says? It says the angels wear white linen. Do you know what that is in the original? It's linden. Do you know what that really means? Asbestos.

That the angels wear an asbestos suit, when they pour out the fire of God's anger on the world. Because if they didn't, even angels would be consumed with the fire. But they're covered with asbestos, so they won't burn.

But hallelujah, we've got a better destiny than that. Glory, glory, glory. It's going to be great.

Right now the sheep are in many folds. One day there'll be one fold and one shepherd. Now that's one aspect of it, but remember this.

I don't know that sheep sit in committees. Do sheep sit in committees? They do in Washington, but I mean apart from that. Do sheep sit in committees? Do sheep elect people for office? No, no, no.

That's one picture of the kingdom, because it's a lovely picture, we all understand. He is the great shepherd of the sheep. And we're the sheep of his pasture.

And all we like sheep had gone astray. We were going to hell, but we've now returned, Peter says, to the shepherd and bishop of our souls. But the other aspect is he is a king.

And you know, everybody likes a kingdom, even Americans that don't have a king. We love to think of regal dignity and majesty. We love to think of pomp and circus.

It's the highest thing. God, God calls him a king. I didn't.

He is the king of kings. He is the Lord of lords. And you know what? Of all the kings that have ever lived, well, when he lived, his visage was marred more than the sons of men.

But you know what it says? We shall see the king in his beauty. It will be the most beautiful face you've ever seen. You can have all the ladies with the makeup or without it.

It doesn't make much difference to most of them anyhow. But, you know, when we see his face, oh, that face, that face. Those eyes like a flame of fire.

That voice as musical as the sound of many waters. His feet like burnished brass. His face like the sun in its spread.

Won't it be wonderful? Do you wonder somebody once got upset and thinking about it, saying it will be worth it all when we see Jesus. Life's trials will seem so small when we see Christ. One glimpse of his, you know, the first time you see his face, you'll ever, you'll forget you ever had a broken heart, or somebody

did you a lousy trick, or there were hypocrites in the church, and all the other stinking things that you can find even in churches.

One smile of his face and it'll blot out every sorrow and anguish and any horrible thing we had on earth. And, you know, we're going to see that face forever and ever. Oh, that's going to be beautiful.

It'll be worth it all. So, let's keep looking up. Don't get too earthbound.

Don't get too worried which of the old boys get the job of steering the nation. They'll both land on the rocks anyhow. It's just how quickly we get there.

But it's all going to perish. But thank God we have an everlasting kingdom. Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever.

And a scepter of righteousness, justice and holiness is the rule of that kingdom.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/30/SID30207.mp3>

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