

*We Are Going
to See the King!*

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Pastor Stevens can be seen weekly on cable television stations throughout the United States. Call us for information regarding programming in your area.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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DEDICATION

“In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

“...Mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts” (Isaiah 6:1, 5b).

This booklet is dedicated to the memory of Karin Herrnegger, a member of Greater Grace Church in Vienna, Austria. Her deep love for Jesus and her sudden death at age 27—just hours after she had heard this amazing message—should serve as a daily reminder to us all that soon, and very soon, we really are going to see the King.

Along with everyone who attended the service in Budapest that night, the last song Karin sang before she died was the simple and joyful chorus, “We Are Going to See the King.” Many who knew Karin remember her radiant counte-

nance that evening and her expressions of gratitude for the message. Within a few hours, she beheld the King in His beauty, the Lord of glory.

Special love is sent to Karin's parents, Toni and Agnes, her brother Matthew, and sister Doris. Their love for others inspired Karin to seek the Savior.

*Pastor Robert Prokop
Christliche Internationale Gemeinde
Vienna, Austria*

WE ARE GOING TO SEE THE KING

*Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.*

*No more crying there; we are going to see the King!...
No more sickness there; we are going to see the King!...
No more dying there; we are going to see the King!...
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.*

—Author Unknown

Chapter One

GRACE SUFFICIENCY IN SUFFERING

“Why standest thou afar off, O LORD? Why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble?” (Psalm 10:1).

“For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning. If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children. When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me; until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end....

“But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works” (Psalm 73:14-17, 28).

The first word in the tenth psalm is “why.” Many dear people ask God, “Why?” Every pastor I know has tried to share with his people reasons why there is so much suffering. A teacher in our Bible college in Baltimore has suffered so

much from complications in surgery when all was expected to go smoothly. In another situation, I see pain and tears in the eyes of a wife for her husband's fight with cancer.

We see so much suffering. I don't know why, but I do know God; and through His Word we discover many reasons. Hebrews 5:8 tells us that Jesus learned obedience by the things that He suffered. The sinless Son of God learned obedience by suffering. I am a sinner—we are all sinners—but I can say that I have learned more about obedience through suffering than through anything else.

A man may suffer because of chastisement, which is what God uses to discipline the Christian who keeps on living in sin. Yet, there is something we discover about God, about obedience, and about grace when we are allowed to suffer in His plan. The measure a man has suffered contributes greatly to the measure he is anointed. And the measure he is anointed will be the measure he is able to reveal Christ and impart His attitude to others.

His Strength Made Perfect

In 2 Corinthians 12, Paul said he prayed three times for his “thorn” to be removed, but

God told him, “No, I am not going to remove it. My grace is sufficient for you. My strength shall be made perfect in your weakness.”

God said, “Paul, I am going to teach you something about My grace in your weakness.”

“Therefore,” Paul could say, “I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong” (2 Corinthians 12:10).

First we learn obedience by suffering, and then we learn the strength and favor of God’s grace. God’s strength through grace then becomes our source for living.

“But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you” (1 Peter 5:10).

“Settle you” speaks of being rooted and built up in Him (Colossians 2:7), letting Christ dwell in our hearts by faith, and being rooted in love (Ephesians 3:17).

Refined by Fire

“Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word” (Psalm 119:67). The psalmist was not living consistently by every

word of God; but after he was afflicted, he kept the Word. Every Spirit-filled believer has experienced the loving hand of God in his life. First come the sufferings of Christ, followed by His glory (1 Peter 1:11).

Malachi 3:2-3 pictures the refiner as he purifies the silver, keeping it in the fire and removing the dross as it comes to the surface, until the finished product reflects his image with no obstructions. Often, God may have to say to a Christian, “I love you; you are doing great, growing in grace. But I have to put you back into the fire. You are learning, but I am going to refine you some more. I want to see My own image reflected as a result of the fiery trial you are going through. Don’t worry—you will become mature, strengthened, established, and settled. Everything will be all right.”

“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 1:7).

Praise—*epainos* in the Greek—refers to the applause of the angels as they “look into” the lives of the redeemed (1 Peter 1:12) when we go through trials and we choose to trust God, mak-

ing grace adjustments if we fail. Honor speaks of receiving great self-esteem in the plan of God. Even in our suffering, when we choose to exercise positive volition toward God and His plan, we receive greater degrees in our uniform of glory for all eternity.

Through the suffering that comes because of being part of the angelic contest between God's Kingdom and Satan's, we receive more of the nature of Christ. He can see His image reflected in our hearts, and that reflection is what the angels see in us (1 Peter 1:11-12). Degrees of glory that are being added to our soul bodies now will be revealed in our glorified bodies later in eternity.

Chapter Two

THE KING IN HIS BEAUTY

“Thine eyes shall see the King in his beauty” (Isaiah 33:17a).

When King Hezekiah became seriously ill, Isaiah was sent to him with a message: “Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live” (Isaiah 38:1). Hezekiah had been a great king (see 2 Chronicles 29). He broke down all the idols, removed all the other gods from the land, and brought in the proper sacrifices for the Lord. Now he was ill, and the nation was filled with the fog of fear, the haze of helplessness, and the war of despair.

After Hezekiah pleaded with God, Isaiah was sent to him again with a message (Isaiah 38:5-7). The Lord comforted Hezekiah and the nation of Israel by telling them they would see the king raised up in his beauty: “The splendor of his countenance will come back. His hand once again will feel the scepter. He will once

again put on the kingly robe and wear the jeweled crown; he will sit on the royal throne again. I, the Lord, will give Hezekiah fifteen more years. Thine eyes shall see your king in his beauty.”

In the midst of strife and fear and struggle, the Lord spoke through Isaiah: “Israel is in serious trouble. Yet although she has had wrong foreign alliances, the king isn’t going to die. He is going to live. Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty.”

Among the most beautiful things we can know is this: In the trials of our life—when we face the fog of fear, the storm of doubt, the haze of helplessness, the war of despair, inevitable pain, the coming sorrow—we know we will see our King, Jesus Christ, in His beauty.

What Others Saw in Jesus

Jesus has been seen in many different ways by different people. Mary and Joseph saw Him as a miracle child. To Mary, He was her child, conceived by the Holy Spirit. To Joseph, He was a carpenter’s son. To wise men, He was the young child who would be King. To Mary Magdalene, He was the compassionate healer. To Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, He was the dearest

of friends.

Pilate saw Him as a defendant. The Pharisees saw Him as a blasphemer and an impostor. The blind saw Him as the one who could make them see. The deaf saw Him as the one who could give them their hearing.

Nicodemus saw Him as a great teacher. The crowd at Calvary saw Him as a criminal. One of the thieves next to Him on the cross saw Jesus as the one who in tenderness forgave him at the last possible moment.

Everyone saw Him differently.

The hungry said, "He will feed us."

The demon-possessed said, "He will deliver us."

The city of Nazareth said, "He is only a carpenter's son" (Matthew 13:54-57). Even His half-brothers and half-sisters didn't believe upon Him until after His resurrection (see John 7:5).

The scribes and the Pharisees said, "He drinks wine, He's a womanizer, and He gets money from publicans. He is a friend of publicans and sinners."

This is how they saw Jesus Christ, who came as the Lamb of God to die for our sins, paying for them all.

In All of His Glory

Be encouraged! Because one day, no matter what you are going through now, your eyes will see the King in His beauty—the One who was crushed for our sins, the One who wore a crown of thorns. Yes, we will behold the King in His beauty. And glory be to God, we will have a crown of glory!

The One who was judged for our sins will return to judge the world in His righteousness (Psalm 9:8). The One who rode upon the donkey into Jerusalem shall come back on a beautiful glorified white horse. This One who was rejected and cursed by the world with its immorality, homosexuality, and addictions shall come back as the King of kings and Lord of lords, exposing the folly of the pleasures of this world.

The One misrepresented by the self-righteousness of religion and the carelessness of Laodicean Christianity shall return in glory. We will behold the King in His glory. We will see Him with our eyes. Never again will He have to go through what He went through for us. Our King is coming back, and our eyes will behold His beauty.

The precious person in a wheelchair will behold the King in His glory. The children born mentally handicapped will know and understand the King in His glory.

Mary Magdalene, you were crying at the tomb—and you will see the King in His glory. Peter, you cursed and denied Him, but He forgave and restored you—you will behold the King in His glory.

Every Christian will look upon Him, His hair as wool, white as snow. We will all see His eyes as flaming fire and the Word of God proceeding out of His mouth as a sharp two-edged sword (Revelation 1:12-16). He will come back with power, ruling with righteous judgment from His royal throne in the New Jerusalem. He will rule with truth and righteousness while Satan is chained for one thousand years.

We will behold the King in His glory.

Chapter Three

JESUS WILL COME FOR HIS OWN

“Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

The day is coming when we will meet the Lord in the air, and He will take up His Church, made up of every born-again believer, to be with Him in Heaven for all eternity. This event is called the Rapture. The term comes from *rapere*, the Latin translation of the Greek word *harpazo*, which means to be “caught up” (1 Thessalonians 4:17). We are going to see the King!

The wrath of God is not appointed to born-again believers (1 Thessalonians 5:9), and we will not be objects of God’s wrath, depicted in Revelation 6:16-17. Our condemnation went upon Jesus Christ at the Cross; and we have already passed from death unto life, from darkness to light (John 5:24, 1 Peter 2:9). A careful

study of Revelation 3:10 and the Greek preposition *ek* (translated by the King James as “from” but meaning “out of”) clearly reveals that God is going to take us *out of* this world *before* “the hour of temptation,” which is the Great Tribulation.*

The tribulation we face in this life (John 16:33) is not to be confused with the wrath of God that will be poured out upon the earth during the Great Tribulation. It is so important to understand this. In John 1:11, Jesus Christ came *to* His own, and His own received Him not. In 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, the King comes *for* His own. Then seven years later, in Revelation 19:13-18, the King comes *with* His own “when he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe” (2 Thessalonians 1:10a).

The Great Tribulation is the wrath of God revealed to men who loved evil and rejected perfect love. But our tribulation comes because we stand with God in this world (John 16:33). If we suffer with Him, we will reign with Him (2 Timothy 2:12), and the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared to the glory that shall be revealed in us.

We are going to see the King in His beauty.

Calvary: The Place Prepared

We have the Lord in our hearts. There is a quiet joy, a beautiful peace within. We are filled with the Spirit, and we know that one day soon we will meet Him. Let's comfort one another with these words (1 Thessalonians 4:18).

When Jesus said in John 14:2, "I go to prepare a place for you," He was not only referring to Heaven but to the Cross. "I have a place called Calvary," Jesus was saying. "I am going there as the Lamb. I will be mocked, laughed at, and found guilty of death. They will cry, 'Give us Barabbas.' The Cross is the place I am preparing for you. I am going to the Cross to become your substitutionary sacrifice. And because you believe in that place called Calvary, I will come again to receive you to Myself, where you will be with Me always."

Face to Face with the King

Picture what it will be like for our eyes to see the King in His beauty. I have preached nearly fifty-thousand messages, and I will finally see Him. We have sung thousands of songs about Him, and at last we will see Him. We have testified of His forgiveness, of His comfort, of His unconditional love, and of His faithfulness. And

on that day, our eyes will behold Him—the King in His beauty.

Thanks be to God that in His perfect justice, even those who have rejected Him will be made to bow. *Every knee shall bow*, and everyone shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father. Every rock-music star will face the Rock of Ages. All those who have rejected Christ because of intellectual pride will see Him at the White Throne Judgment. They will see the King, but their eyes will behold Him in His wrath because of His perfect justice.

At the Bema Seat of Jesus Christ, where every believer's life will be evaluated and rewarded, we will face Him all alone (Romans 14:10, 12). There, in the Supreme Court of Heaven, we will see the King in His glory and receive rewards according to how we witnessed with His great Gospel, served Him daily, prayed to Him diligently, and walked with Him as a member of His Church, revealing who He is to the world.

Here He calls us by name and leads us personally, one by one. There we will be all alone with Him, one on one, as His children. We will behold His eyes of love and hear His words of compassion for us personally. In Scripture, He calls us His beloved, His “darlings.”** We will

be there with Him, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, beholding Him in His glory.

As we grow together, according to Amos 4:12, we must prepare to meet God. And when the trump is sounded, we will meet Him in the air. Imagine it! Just thinking about it, that old song comes to my mind:

"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 dear face, all sorrows will erase;

So bravely run the race 'til we see Christ."

Just around the corner, we will see the King in His beauty. The blind will be blind no more. The deaf will be deaf no more. The widow who misses her husband will see him again. Broken families, broken hearts, all will be healed at that moment when God comes back, because they will see the King in His beauty. The secret pain and all that goes on in the lives of those who have been afflicted will be gone. For the many who have struggled through the years—thanks be to God, Jesus Christ is coming back. We will see Him in His beauty.

People have questioned why God never healed certain Christians. But in Heaven, they will see Him and never be sick again.

Jesus Christ is filled with love and kindness.

He has recorded every cup of cold water ever given in His name. Every diaper a mom changed because she loved her baby is noted. Every day a dad went out to work hard for his family is recorded. “I record everything in My book of remembrance,” Jesus Christ says (Malachi 3:16). The practical things, the things that were exercised spiritually to glorify God. He sees them all, and He will reveal the eternal purpose of each detail when we see Him on that day. We will behold the King in His beauty, and we will be His Bride forever. Soon—yes, *very* soon—we are going to see the King!

**Read The Pre-Tribulational Rapture, by Dr. Daniel E. Lewis, Grace Publications, 1997, for a thorough study of this foundational doctrine.*

***Read God Calls You His Beloved, by Pastor Carl H. Stevens, Grace Publications, 1999.*

CONCLUSION

Every time I consider our future, death doesn't seem so fearful to me. "O death where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" (1 Corinthians 15:55). Jesus conquered death, and we will see Him in His beauty.

I believe He is coming soon. He is the only One worth living for, and He is the only reason we are on earth. His values and virtues are the greatest in history. The King is coming! We can bring Him pleasure and glory through our obedience.

The King is coming, and we shall behold His beauty with our eyes.

Maybe you are going through the storm of struggle, the haze of helplessness, the darkness of doubt, the warfare of despair. Remember, King Jesus is holding you in the palm of His hand. Your sufferings and trials carry an eternal weight of glory because you are His. You will be rewarded forever and ever. Your King is coming

back. You will be with Him forever.

The measure we believe these words is the measure we are Spirit-taught. Please don't receive them in familiarity as mere knowledge. Be Spirit-taught, and let the message motivate, energize, and quicken you. Be charged with the love of Heaven, and let Him prepare you to live as if He is coming today.

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Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.*

*No more crying there; we are going to see the King!...
No more sickness there; we are going to see the King!...
No more dying there; we are going to see the King!...
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