

HOPELINE

The Newsletter From Christ-In-You Glory Church

06/17

Kingdom Or Kingdoms; The Choice Is Yours To Make

Written By Pastor Anthony 'Yinka Adesile

Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "all these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." (Matthew 4:8-9)

Anyone who has witnessed any of the royal celebrations in England would be awed by the pageantry and revered glory associated to the Queen's royal kingdom. To then think that hers is one of many kingdoms, wealth, fame and stardom in this ephemeral world of ours reveals one startling reality: regardless of how much one acquires, it would only be like a drop in the ocean of this world. Though some were born into such glories and some rise up to the heights, there is an insatiable desire to gain more heights of glory and splendour. The temptation is just too overwhelming. We can then understand the gravity of Jesus' experience on that exceedingly high mountain. It was a mountain for seeing all. Unlike any of man's experiences, Jesus' experience is tempting to the extreme. The devil, as it were, knew how to play the game. Here was Jesus, God who along with His Father and the Holy Spirit created the world and all the glory in it. He owned it and gave it to man as a heritage. He then saw how man unwittingly gave it up to the devil and in addition, became subject to his authority. He had now come as the second Adam with no glory and honour and His mission was to save man. But here was the devil gleefully showing Him all the kingdoms and the

glory he acquired by deceit, and making it known to Him that He really didn't need to go through whatever he planned to do. There was an easy way out.

Yes, Jesus could have all the kingdoms and the glory but not until He fell down to worship him.

That was the audacity of the devil; asking his Creator to become subject to him for the sake of all the kingdoms and their glory. Have you not and are you not being put in similar positions? This is assuming that you have accepted the saving grace of the Lord Christ. Of course, you might not have been taken, like Jesus, to the high mountain to see all of the world's kingdoms and glory but have you not at one time or the other been presented with some parts of it in order for you to compromise?

Have you not been awed by the opportunities of a job, position, business contract, women or men of exceptional beauty, and the list goes on? Which brings us to yet another reality. Unfortunately it is no longer news that the Church peddles just about anything from the world's kingdoms and glory in the name of Christ but did Christ really die on the cross because of these? What really is the interest of today's Church in the glories of this world or could it be

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Kingdom Or Kingdoms (Continued)

that the pursuit of this present Church is a choice against the will of Christ, the Head of the Church?

The conclusion of the temptation of Christ is sufficient enough to convince us of the misdirection of the Church, and perhaps it is now best to expose the antichrist influence of the devil's personnel in the Church and how their teachings and lifestyles are luring many that are innocent away from the Christ they profess. We must know by now from recent events that alternative reality has now become the true reality while the truth has become obsolete.

First, Jesus asserted His superiority and authority over Satan even though He was human, of a lowly background and possessing none of the day's worldly kingdom and glory:

Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" (Matthew 4:10)

Jesus Christ did not come for the sake of the kingdoms and their glory but for the sake of man. The kingdoms were of no interest to Him. They were earthly, tainted with and by evil, temporal and cannot compare with the glory He left to become a life-saving Adam: *And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit (1 Corinthians 15:45)*

The Kingdom and glory Jesus Christ left was, is and

will forever be above and much more glorious than all of the world's kingdoms put together. The sheer splendour of the Kingdom of our God is not only breathtaking; it is pure, awesome and full of glory, eternal and above all, the glory of God's presence is an eternal reality. Being human and confronted with the choice of earthly kingdoms, it was tempting to choose that as an easy way out of the suffering and death that was ahead of him. But He gracefully chose not to. We also know about the many occasions attempts were made to make Him king and how He humbly declined, choosing death on the cross. His response to Pilate was instructive:

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." (John 18:36)

And just in case we have forgotten His promise to the redeemed, albeit all those who received Him as Lord:

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many

mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you (John 14:1)

It is strange that today, while we are not troubled as Jesus exhorted, we are not expectant either. The Kingdom of God is not in our sight. The kingdoms and glory of this world have become central to the race of many. The pursuits of the Church are now centred on empire building, wealth accumulation and things associated with this world. And this is coming after Jesus prayed, not for the world but for the redeemed of the Lord, saying:

They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth (John 17:16-17)

That is why we have a choice to make now. The Church has a choice to make and you have a choice to make.

Just in case you have been distracted by the allure of the world, there is time to repent. The Lord Jesus spent much time instructing on the Kingdom of heaven, and to ensure that we all understood the seriousness, He said:

"Have you understood all these things?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He said to them, "Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old." (Matthew 13:51-52)

I believe you also understand that just as the house-

holder cherishes his treasure and never lets it out of his sight, even much more we must be sure that we never allow anyone and anything to distract or prevent us from pressing on towards attaining that glorious heritage.

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

While there is a price to pay for staying focused, be it persecution, loss of fame, wealth or honour, or anything that is of this world, be assured and I sincerely pray;

That the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honour, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:7)

We have a life-changing decision to make and may the right choice be ours to make in Jesus' name.

Programme Flash

- **A Holy Convocation:** Join us every Sunday on a fulfilling time of worship from 10:30 - 13.00
- **Prayer Points Meeting:** We'll love to have you at our last Friday of each month Prayer Points meetings from 19:15 - 20:50
- **Covenant Sunday:** Fancy going through each month with a clear promise from God? Then don't miss the First Sunday service of the month where we receive our theme for the month - a word from the LORD to hold on to.
- **Communion Service:** Every first Sunday of the month

Venue:

Christ-In-You Glory Church

Music Room, First Floor
Deptford Lounge, Deptford Library
9 Giffin Street
London, SE8 4RJ