"The Kingdom of Light – Pt. 6"

This Part 6 of "The Kingdom of Light" may very well be the last in this series. Identity is everything in the Kingdom of Light. As our Lord Jesus said in John 3:1-3 TPT, "Now there was a prominent religious leader among the Jews named Nicodemus [means "conqueror"], who was part of the sect called the Pharisees and a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2. One night he discreetly came to Jesus and said, "Master, we know that you are a teacher from God, for no one performs the miracle signs that you do, unless God's power is with him." 3. Jesus answered, "Nicodemus, listen to this eternal truth [remember, truth is light]: Before a person can perceive God's kingdom realm, they must first experience a rebirth (Gk. "born from above")." TPT note: "The Aramaic word is clearly "born from the origin." The implication is that you must be born again like Adam was born by the direct breath of God. Nicodemus came seeking knowledge; Jesus offered him life." After life comes the knowledge of God's kingdom realm, not before.

3:5-6 TPT "Jesus answered, "I speak **an eternal truth**: Unless you are born of water (the Word of God that gives us life) and Spirit-wind, you will never enter **God's kingdom realm**. 6. For the natural realm can only give birth to things that are natural, but the spiritual realm gives birth to supernatural life." **TPT note:** "Some see in the water and Spirit analogy the creative beginning of Gen. 1, where God's Spirit fluttered over the chaotic waters. New creation life comes the same way. It was water and blood that came from the side of our Lord Jesus. He was the last Adam giving birth to His bride from His pierced side."

When you are born again from above (v. 3), you not only enter into the knowledge of God's Kingdom (v. 3), but you also enter into God's Kingdom realm itself (v. 5). Once inside the Kingdom of God, which is the realm of the King's domain, you are then endowed & endued with "supernatural life," which exceeds the qualities of the naturally known that you're acquainted with. This is the Kingdom of Light with all the attendant virtues & blessings of character, nature, authority & power of the King of that Kingdom, Who rules His domain by the influence of His Word & Spirit.

This Kingdom of Light is also a Kingdom of Love

Eph. 5:25-27 TPT "And to the husbands, you are to demonstrate love for your sives with the same tender devotion that Christ demonstrated to us, His bride (or

"church"). For He died for us, sacrificing Himself, 26. To make us holy and pure, cleansing us through the showering of the pure water of the Word of God. 27. All Pg. 2, "The Kingdom of Light – Pt. 6," October 18, 2023

"that He does in us is designed to make us a mature church for His pleasure, until we become a source of praise to Him – glorious and radiant,* beautiful and holy, without fault or flaw (Gk. "without any wrinkle." Aramaic: "w/o chips or knots.)"

*The bride of the king IS "radiant". TPT note: "The Greek word for radiance (endoxos) can also mean "gorgeous," "honorable," esteemed," "splendid," "infused with glory." This is what Christ's love will do to you."

Christ's Marvelous Light

This endowment of regal beauty is elaborated upon by the Apostle Peter, who should know a thing or two about acting badly and then being overwhelmed by Christ's forgiving & restoring love after His resurrection. He wrote one of the most inspiring passages of Scripture to me: 1 Pet. 2:4-10 TPT "So keep coming to Him who is the Living Stone [which the church is built on] – though He was rejected and discarded by men but chosen by God and is priceless in God's sight. 5. Come and be His "living stones*" who are continually being assembled into a sanctuary of God. For now you serve as holy (AMPC: "dedicated,"

"consecrated") priests (or "priesthood" or "community of priests"), offering up spiritual sacrifices that He readily accepts through Jesus Christ. 6. For it says in Scripture: "Look! I lay a cornerstone in **Zion**,** a chosen and priceless stone! And whoever believes in Him will certainly not be disappointed (or "put to shame")." 7. As believers you know His great worth – indeed, **His preciousness is imparted to you.***** But for those who do not believe: "The stone that the builders rejected and discarded has now become the cornerstone (or "capstone")" 8. and "A stone that makes them stum-ble and a rock to trip over (or "a rock of scandal." Gk skandalon — a trap stick)."

They keep stumbling over the message because they refuse to believe it. And this they were destined to do (AMPC "as those [who reject Him] were destined (appointed) to do"). 9. But you are God's chosen treasure (see TPT note (d), pg. 1056) – priests who are kings, a spiritual "nation" set apart as God's devoted ones. He called you out of darkness to experience His marvelous light, and now He claims you as His very own. He did this so that you would broadcast His glorious wonders throughout the world. 10. For at one time you were not God's people, but now you are. At one time you knew nothing of God's mercy, because you hadn't received it yet, but now you are drenched

with it (Aramaic: "mercies cascade over you." Both Israel and the church have been divinely chosen and showered with mercy)."

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*TPT note: "To be identified as Christ's living stones means that we are in union with Him and share His nature, for He is the Living Stone."

** TPT note (j): "Mount Zion was once a Jebusite stronghold conquered by David, who made it the capital for his kingdom. This is inside the walls of present-day Jerusalem. Zion is used in both the Old and New Testaments as more than a location. Zion is referred to as the place of God's dwelling (Isa. 8:18). God's people are called "Zion maidens" (Song of Solomon 3:11). Zion is the heavenly realm where God is manifest (Pss. 84:7; 102:16; 110:1-2; Heb. 12:22; Rev. 14:1)."

***TPT note: "Or "Unto you who believe is the preciousness." That is, all that Jesus is before the Father has now been transferred into our account. We stand before the Father in the "preciousness" of the Son. You are as precious to God as Jesus Christ is."

Glory Goes to God When Believers Act in Faith

Jesus knows what glory is. So did Abraham (Rom. 4:19-21) & so should we. In John 2:11 TPT, which we studied last week, where Jesus turned water into wine, it reads, "This miracle in Cana was the first of the many extraordinary miracles Jesus performed in Galilee. This was a sign revealing His **glory**, and His disciples believed in Him." Rom. 4:19-21 TPT "In spite of being nearly one hundred years old when the promise of having a son was made, his faith was so strong that it could not be undermined by the fact that he and Sarah (or "and the deadness of Sarah's womb) were incapable of conceiving a child. 20-21 He never stopped believing God's promise, for he was made strong in his faith (or "he was empowered in faith") to father a child. And because he was mighty in faith and convinced that God had all the power needed to fulfill His promises, Abraham **glorified** God!" In this Kingdom of Light that we now live in, Rom. 5:17 TPT tells us what's available to those who believe, "Death once held us in its grip, and by the blunder of one man, death reigned as king over humanity. But now, how much more are we held in the grip of grace and continue reigning as kings in life, enjoying our regal freedom through the gift of righteousness (or "the gift of covenant membership") in the one and only Jesus the Messiah!" Prov. 4:4 TPT "Then my father taught me, saying, "Never forget my words. If you do everything that I teach you, you will reign in life." Wisdom's lessons are to be passed on from parents to children.