

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

We Pray: "Thy Will be done on earth
Just as in Heaven it is done!"
Yet from the very day of birth
We live for self, not for God's Son.

When will the Lord's Pray'r be fulfilled -
God's Will, not ours, will rule the day'?
In God's own Time, *when He has Willed*
His Kingdom Come, just as we pray.

Jesus will reign one thousand years
In an earthly Kingdom of Love.
Peace, Justice, Freedom from all fears -
His Will on earth, just as Above!

We can only gain admission
To this Kingdom of Light and Peace
When our wills are in submission -
And our rebelliousness shall cease!

God sent His Son, as Lamb to die -
To pay the price for mankind's sin.
He rose as King of Earth and Sky -
And soon His Kingdom will begin!

In a Vision given to John while he was on the Isle of Patmos,
Jesus said: "Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so come, Lord Jesus!"
The Revelation 22:20 from The King James Version of the Bible

Let Us Refocus Our Eyes

Joe Wright Griggs

Paul spoke of his "light affliction" -
Which lasted for only a moment!
Yet he wrote a clear depiction
Of suffering where're he went!

We, too, have pain, sorrow, problems -
Let us not magnify their size -
We have a God of Great Outcomes!
Look to Him! Refocus Our Eyes!

Some weep and wail that "Life's not fair!"
They quit! Surrender to their fate.
They reproach God: "You just don't care!"
Unfruitful lives, consumed by hate!

But Paul, who suffered more than most -
(Beaten, stoned, imprisoned, reviled) -
Stated his sorrows as a boast -
(Focused on God, his pain was mild)!

Don't look at the size of our pain -
(Which means we are focused on self) -
*Focus on the Great God we gain -
When we take Him from off the shelf!*

In his second letter to the Church of Corinth the Apostle Paul said:
"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a
far more exceeding and eternal weight of Glory!"
II Corinthians 4:17 from The King James Bible

"Are they ministers of Christ? ... I am more: in labors more
abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent in deaths
often. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice
was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck.
If I must boast, I will boast in things which concern mine infirmities."
II Corinthians 11:23-30 from The King James Bible

LET'S CHOOSE OUR BATTLES WITH CARE

Joe Wright Griggs

We should retreat from most wars faced -
(Without time or energy waste).

The daily irritations come
But they don't have-to make us glum!

*Some battles faced are worth the fight
When it's a choice of wrong or right!
But when the outcome has no gain-
We're foolish to endure the pain!*

When David's brother, Eliab
Chastised him with an unfair jab,
David just turned and walked away -
Saved his strength for a higher fray!

Armed with a prayer and one smooth stone
He faced Goliath, but not alone ..
For God gave him the Giant's head -
(He watched while all his foes had fled)!

*So let us choose which wars to fight -
Most have no point; while some are right!
Had David challenged his own brother-
He'd have no strength left for the other!*

The great Israeli Prophet Samuel reports on David vs. Goliath:

" .. And Eliab, (David's) older brother said to David:

'Why do you come here? ... I know your pride

David said unto (Goliath): "I come to you in the Name of the
Lord of Hosts" I Samuel 17:28-58 from The K. J. Bible

LET'S FULFILL OUR POTENTIAL

Joe Wright Griggs

**The Sovereign of The Universe
Has chosen us to help disperse
His Kingdom Goals to all mankind -
His Commission is: "Go and Find!"**

**The Great Potential which God gives -
(Since His Spirit within us Lives) -
Is hampered by our disbelief-
(Which brings The Spirit to much grief)!**

**But when we let God's Spirit lead -
He provisions our ev'ry need!
He gives the Gifts we are to use
The Kingdom Message to transfuse.**

**By faith we recognize our call -
Affirm our Gifts, avoid freefall -
Get out of our own comfort zone -
And recognize - We're not alone!**

**And so through Holy Spirit's Pow'r -
Our Potential can truly Flow'r!
It's by our Faith that we attest -
"We commit all to this Great Quest!"**

To the Church at Philippi, the Apostle Paul wrote as follows:

"I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me!"

Philippians 4:13 from The King James Bible

Following his 3rd Missionary Journey, Paul wrote to Rome:

'... We are more than Conquerors through Him that Loved us!"

Romans 8:37 from The King James Bible

LOVE, FAITH AND HOPE

Joe Wright Griggs

There now abides within our scope
Three entities: Love, Faith and Hope.
They all are Gifts from God above -
We must embrace them through His Love.

To obtain Faith, we first must Hope!
(One with no Hope can barely cope).
And without Faith we cannot Love -
Our Hope's in Him, God's Turtledove.

Though we give all to feed the poor
Yet have no love, one thing is sure -
We'll earn no points with God, above -
(*Christ died for us in Perfect Love*).

We show our Faith by how we live
By what we say, by how we give.
We use our Gifts and in God's Will
Salvation's Plan we help instill.

Hope is the Key to all of this
Without Hope we will live amiss -
We'll have no Faith, Purpose, or Love -
Our Hope's In Him like "Hand-in-Glove."

Jesus was brought as an Infant to Jerusalem by His parents:
"... They brought Him (Jesus) to Jerusalem, to present Him to the Lord ...
And to offer a Sacrifice according to that which is said in the Law of
the Lord, A pair of turtledoves ..." Luke 2:22-24 from The King James Bible

MANKIND'S SIN PROBLEM

Joe Wright Griggs

Mankind has a problem with sin -
Building high walls 'twixt God and men -
It started with Adam's "Great Fall"-
Highly contagious, it spreads to all!

God has The Answer fop all sin -
(No other way can mankind win)!
He sent His Son as Sacrifice -
(The cost of sin has a lethal price)!

Our part in this? Accept! Believe!
It's by God's Grace - we just Receive!
It's on God's Terms that we must live -
Not by our works or what we give!

Throughout the years, mankind has tried
To earn his way - *(In sin he died)!*
When will we learn just to obey -
And let God lead in His Own Way?

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Believers in Rome:
"For the wages of sin is death, but the Gift of God is eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

Romans 6:23 from The King James Bible

Jesus told Nicodemus: "For God so loved the world that
He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him
shall not perish " John 3:16-17 from The King James Bible

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Believers in Ephesus:
"For by grace are you saved through faith: and that not of
yourselves: It is the Gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should
boast!" Ephesians 2:8-9 from The King James Bible

MAN'S PEACE EFFORTS CANNOT SUCCEED

Joe Wright Griggs

"Men shall cry 'Peace' - There is no peace"
Jeremiah wrote in God's Word.
*But Peace will come, all wars shall cease
When Jesus reigns as King and Lord!*

Man's efforts are to no avail
Because his heart is ruled by sin.
All of his plans will surely fail
Until he has been "Born Again"!

One thousand years in God's Kingdom
Jesus will reign from David's throne.
*Now Jesus' Peace has truly come
No more will wars make Nations groan!*

*In harmony beasts, too, abide -
The wolf and lamb together dwell
Feeding in peace while side by side.
(Jesus, The King, does all things well)!*

Also, *only in God's Kingdom
"The Lord's Prayer" will be fulfilled -
"Thy Kingdom come Thy Will be done
on earth "* The doubter's tongue is stilled!

Jeremiah 6:14 and 8:11; Isaiah 2:2-4 and 11:6-7;
And Luke 11:1-4 - all from The King James Bible

THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

Joe Wright Griggs

Men shall cry Peace! (There is no Peace)!
Man's endeavors *will not prevail!*
But Peace will come and Wars shall cease ..
In God's Time, Prophecies unveil!

Isaiah said: "They won't learn war" -
(Not in Christ's Millennial Reign) -
Like Eden's Garden, God will restore
"The Peaceable Kingdom" once again!

Weapons of War will be beaten
Into gardening tools of Peace!
The wolf and the lamb will share a pen -
With a calf and a lion in place!

The "Curse 0/ The Fall" will be gone -
When Jesus will reign as The King!
Jerusalem will be His Throne -
Where choirs/rom all nations shall sing!

Israel's Greatest Prophet, Isaiah, states:
"And it shall come to pass in the Last Days ... out of Zion
shall go forth The Law, and the Word of the Lord from
Jerusalem ... And they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks: Nation shall not lift up
sword against nation, *neither shall they learn war any more!*"
Isaiah 2:2-4 from The King James Bible

"The wolf shall dwell with the lamb .. And the calf (with)
the young lion ... *their young ones shall lie down together ...* "
Isaiah 11:6-7 from The King James Bible

MY BOAST IN GOD

*In Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
The Triune God in One;
It is in Whom You Are, I boast,
For all that you have done!*

*Without Beginning, Without End,
An Ever-Present God,
You never waver, turn, nor bend,
Your Will is like a rod!*

*And yet your Essence is Pure Love,
Unqualified, Refined,
In equal measure from Above,
Bestowed on all mankind!*

*You have all Knowledge, Strength, and Power;
Yet You control each choice
To that which helps each person flower.
Your Speech, a Still Small Voice!*

*The Vastness of the Universe
Uncharted Time and Space,
Expands and Grows despite The Curse
As evidence of Grace.*

*Yet greater evidence of Grace,
Redemption's Plan, when done,
Shows that You saved the human race
By sending us Your Son!*

*And so, I boast in God alone,
(Not in the works of man.)
All persons fail, but You Atone
When we obey Your Plan!*

The Psalmist wrote: "*In God we boast all the day long ...*"
Psalm 44:8 from The King James Version of the Bible