

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

We are living in historic times for never has a British monarch reached their Platinum Jubilee, - seventy years on the throne, - ... and there has been about sixty-one monarchs who have reigned since William the Conqueror. At present Queen Elizabeth has the third longest reign in the history of any monarch, anywhere at any time in the world ... and in a few more days she will move up to second place (DV) ... and if she reigns for just over two more years, she'll beat the record set by King Louis XIV of France, who reigned from 1643-1715.

In her first Christmas broadcast in 1952 she made a very personal request, "Pray for me ... that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life." ... Her father had died earlier that year, on 6th February 1952, and she acceded to the throne on 2nd June 1953.

As you would expect, her coronation was with great pomp and ceremony. In the deeply symbolic proceedings, she had the orb, the ring, and the crown, and each include a cross to represent the supreme rule of Jesus Christ over the world. ... Even though the crown jewels are among the world's most valuable gems, a Bible takes precedence when it is displayed before her during the coronation. ... At the point in the ceremony when she sat under a specially constructed canopy, she was wearing a simple white dress with no jewels or crown. The Archbishop of Canterbury asked her questions including, "Will you to the utmost of your power maintain the Laws of God and the true profession of the Gospel? Will you to the utmost of your power maintain in the United Kingdom the Protestant Reformed Religion established by law?" ... and the Queen committed herself, "All this I promise to do".

Then, again when the queen is seated, with the Archbishop standing beside her, the Moderator of the Church of Scotland personally gave her the Authorised Version of the Bible ... and the Archbishop continued with these words, "Our gracious Queen: to keep your Majesty ever mindful of the law and the Gospel of God as the Rule for the whole life and government of Christian Princes, we present you with *this Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords.*"

From other sources, we are told it was her mother's practice every night to read from the King James Bible to both her daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret. ... For her ninetieth birthday in 2016 the Bible Society produced a publication entitled "The Servant Queen and the King She Serves". She wrote, "In my first Christmas broadcast in 1952, I asked the people of the Commonwealth and Empire to pray for me as I prepared to dedicate myself to their service at my

Coronation. I have been, - and remain, - very grateful to you for your prayers and to God for His steadfast love. I have indeed seen His faithfulness.”

... Ought our Queen to be reminiscing in such terms, especially in these times when all religions are being presented as equal? Why should she speak so personally about the Christian God and the Lord Jesus Christ? ... Further, does a king or queen need to know God’s saving grace, or are they in a unique standing before God which automatically assures them of His pleasure and a place in Heaven? Do they have spiritual privileges other people do not have? ...

The Bible plainly tells us *all* have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23), and it further explains there is none righteous, not even one (Rom. 3:10) ... and there is no one who of themselves seeks after God (Rom. 3:11). ... These are exclusive terms which omit no-one. ... The beautiful truth about the Gospel is that it is plain. It does not speak beyond our understanding, whether we have the education of the privileged or whether we are simple folks.

The Gospel is not complicated, and it is not for the few who are interested in it. It is for every person in every nation in every continent in every period of time to know that Jesus saves. It is for the vilest offender who walks this earth as well as the most upright person because the Gospel is for all.

Do all need it? Of course, all need it, and that is why Jesus came into this world. He made it abundantly clear, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me (Jn. 14:6). ... No man, or woman, or boy, or girl will ever come to know God through Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Romanism, anaemic Protestantism, or any other religion. ... “One way God says to get to Heaven, *Jesus is the only way!*” Rom. 5:1 being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ ... 8 God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Jesus is the only way for those whom He has convicted of their sins to be brought to the knowledge of saving grace. He has lifted them up from the lowest, - like Mary Magdalene and Zacchaeus, - to the highest, like Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea, respected members of the Sanhedrin. ... Even a King pleaded with God, Ps. 51:2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin ... 5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me ... 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ... Salvation is free to all and necessary for all. The Lord has given to every individual the privilege of life, by being born into this world. ... A greater privilege though, is His gift of *new* life when we believe in Him for salvation,

and we are *born again*, when all the old things pass away, and in Christ all things become new (II Cor. 5:17).

The chorus reminds us, “I gave Him my old tattered garments, He gave me a robe of pure white” ... whiter than the regal attire belonging to Queen Elizabeth at her coronation. ... It is not by human endeavours we have been saved, and it is not because of who we are, or where we were born, or who our father and mother were. ... As Jesus told one of the most religious men of the day, *Jn. 3:3* Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Salvation is the free gift God graciously offers to all so they would pass from spiritual death unto spiritual life, *I Tim. 2:3* For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; ⁴ Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (II Peter 3:9), *Jn. 3:16* For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ... *Rom. 10:12* For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. ¹³ For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. ... Salvation, therefore, is open to all who will believe and accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

It is the only access into God’s Heaven. Being a king or a queen is not an automatic qualification for Heaven, but being a sinner saved by grace is the only way. We read of many kings and queens in the Old Testament who resisted God to the end and were never saved. ... Our position in life is not what saves us, rather, our position in the Lord Jesus ... “Standing on the promises I now can see, Perfect, present cleansing in the blood for me; Standing in the liberty where Christ makes free, Standing on the promises of God”. ...

And He has promised all Who believe in Him, - but they must believe in Him, - *Jn. 14:2* In my Father's house are many mansions ... I go to prepare a place for you. ... Many people argue ‘mansions’ is not the correct translation of the Greek word, and neither it is because the world’s greatest and most magnificent mansion/palace will be like an ‘out-house’ compared to where we shall live with the King of kings!

The Word of God tells us all kinds of people will be in Heaven ... from every background and status who have been redeemed to God through the blood of His Son shed on Calvary, out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation (Rev. 5:9), as Jesus Himself said, *Jn. 12:32* And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. ³³ This he said, signifying what death he should die. ... Every

country will be represented, every language, every social class. ... Whether the person be a Jew or a Gentile, whether they be a slave or a slave's master, or a male or a female ... 'when the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore', we shall all be one in the Lord Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:28).

What you were here on earth doesn't matter ... whether you were a prophet in the Old Testament, or a powerful ruler of the nations, the day is coming when *Phil. 2:10* at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ... John tells us specifically, *Rev. 21:23* the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and *the kings of the earth* do bring their glory and honour into it ... The Kings and the Queens and the Presidents and the Prime Ministers who have known and served the *King of kings*, ²⁶ they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

God has only one qualification for entry into His Heaven, and it is the same for all, *Acts 4:12* Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved, ... Salvation through Christ alone, by God's grace alone, by faith alone, that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast (Eph. 2:8,9). ... "Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling" ... "What can wash away my sin? [*... in Buckingham Palace or in the streets of Kirkcaldy ...*] Nothing but the blood of Jesus. What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus."

Jesus alone saves and to be saved is to be kept in the hollow of God's hand, out of which He has promised, no one nor nothing can ever remove you. ... He is the eternal King of kings, and beside Him there is no other God (Is. 44:6) ... In 1719, Isaac Watts wrote a familiar hymn, and there is a beautiful story attached to it. ... One of the islands in the South Atlantic was named King George Island, which belongs to the South Shetland Islands, - it was claimed by Britain on 16th October 1819, as part of the Falkland Islands. ... It was King George III who gave them their new constitution, exchanging a heathen for a Christian form of government. On Whitsunday in June 1862, there were assembled King George, surrounded by thousands of native chiefs from various islands, for the worship of God. The hymn he introduced was the hymn written by Isaac Watts one hundred and forty-three years earlier,

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Doth his successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

Behold the islands with their kings,
 And Europe her best tribute brings;
 From north to south the princes meet,
 To pay their homage at His feet.

There Persia, glorious to behold,
 There India shines in eastern gold;
 And barbarous nations at His word
 Submit, and bow, and own their Lord.

To Him shall endless prayer be made,
 And praises throng to crown His head;
 His name like sweet perfume shall rise
 With every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue
 Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
 And infant voices shall proclaim
 Their early blessings on His name.

Blessings abound where'er He reigns;
 The prisoner leaps to lose his chains;
 The weary find eternal rest,
 And all the sons of want are blest.

Where He displays His healing power,
 Death and the curse are known no more:
 In Him the tribes of Adam boast
 More blessings than their father lost.

Let every creature rise and bring
 Peculiar honours to our king;
 Angels descend with songs again,
 And earth repeat the loud amen.

Through the psalmist, God instructs us to ... **Ps. 46:10** Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. ... His Word teaches us, **Rom. 13:1** Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God ... and, we are expressly commanded, **I Tim. 2:1** I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; ² For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. ³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour.