

THE PROMISED LAND

Entering “the promised land,” the Kingdom, or presence of God or Good, is accomplished through recognizing a “promised land” to enter. The “promised land” “cometh not with observation,” said the wise Hebrew teacher, for the “promised land” is here now, and does not have to come or be brought here by any method or by any means. This “promised land,” or “My kingdom,” is already here to be observed or seen.

Well, then, if it be here, where is it? And how is it to be seen? And how is it to be entered as it were? I will tell you. *It is everywhere*, and the way to see it is to look for it. “Seek ye first the kingdom of God,” said this same teacher. It must be *looked for* first, last and all time. Moreover, you must turn from looking elsewhere; you must be single-eyed.

If you had been born in London and came to this country to live and took the “oath of allegiance” to the United States of America, you would be required to foreswear allegiance to all princes, potentates and powers, particularly to the King of Great Britain in this instance. You would forsake the old country and cease to look for or to the things of the Kingdom of Great Britain, and instead you would look for or to the things of the United States. You would be subject to its laws and live therein.

Well, you are in the “promised land,” the Kingdom of God. You have emerged from the kingdom of matter; you cannot be in two places at once. Being in this Kingdom of God, Spirit, it is your business to act as though you were there and to look for the things of that Kingdom. Let the world of matter, which has been your abiding place for so long, be done with, and “let the dead bury their dead.” You have renounced your allegiance to the material kingdom and have pledged allegiance to the Kingdom of God, and so are no longer under the jurisdiction of the former kingdom, but under that of the latter.

You are like a butterfly. It was once a grub, a worm, a caterpillar. It crawled along on the ground and saw but little of that. However, after a while it crawled into a cocoon, and out came the butterfly. Does the butterfly hark back to when it was a worm? Does it try to get back into the cocoon? Not at all. It lets “the dead bury their dead.” The old kingdom of caterpillar is gone, the caterpillar is gone. The butterfly is here in all its beauty and grace and flies high in the rarefied atmospheres of the same world in which the grub lived, but he does not see or have anything to do with that which the caterpillar saw or did. The butterfly flies high, and that is what we want to do, as Jesus said in Luke 14:10, to go to the wedding but be sure to “sit down in the lowest room” (meekness and humility), so that when “he [the Christ] that bade thee cometh, he [the Christ] may say unto thee, Friend [God is our only Friend], go up higher.” Where are we to “go up higher”? From that “Second Degree” in *Science and Health* on page 115 (the use of the tree of knowledge, of both good and evil) to the “Third Degree” on page 116, or to the recognition, as here now, of the “promised land,” the Kingdom of God, or the Kingdom of the Christ, and to the utilization of the divine Mind, or divine consciousness only.

When one of New York’s leading society women was over in France, at Tours, during the War, it was part of her duties to entertain the Army. One evening she was

dancing with a nice young man from New York, so she said to him, "I hope that when you return to New York after the war, you will come to call on me. I shall be delighted to see you." The man said, "Why, thank you very much. I will be glad to do so, but I do not know who you are. What is your name?" "Oh," she replied, "I am Mrs. _____." The young chap looked at her for a moment, then mischievously cocking one eye, said, "That is right, Lady, always fly high!"

Well, I want you to fly high too. Be a butterfly, come out of the cocoon or the caterpillar stage. Stop looking at limitation, idleness, poverty, sickness, matter, evil and such things of the world of matter. "Let the dead [past] bury their dead." Did you ever hear of a butterfly saying to another butterfly, "I came near not being here at all. One day a turkey gobbler came by looking for grubs and worms, and if it had not just happened that I hid under a huge green leaf, he would have gobbled me right up"? No, never would he say such a thing. The butterfly never harks back to the days when it was a caterpillar or a worm; he has come out of that life and entered a new one; so have you. This is the Kingdom of God and you are in it even though you may not feel perfectly sure about it. Nevertheless this is true, and you should act like an inhabitant of the Kingdom of God, or that "promised land." Be a butterfly; do not be a grub; stop mulligrubbing about in the earth and rise into the rarefied atmospheres of the Kingdom of Spirit. Look up and not down. Do not have one wing pointed up and the other down. Point them both upwards and fly high and then higher still. Look for the things of the new kingdom, or that "promised land." It is here. You have come out of the cocoon of materialism, so look for this Kingdom of God and you will find it because it is surely here.

You must, however, keep right on looking for it; otherwise you will never find it. Do not let yourself become discouraged because you may not find it at once; the butterfly could not fly at first. Jesus said, "because of his importunity" will you be given that which you ask for.

I once found a butterfly just emerging from its chrysalis. I held him in my hand as the cocoon dropped away. He had no wings; then they began to sprout as I watched. First, two little tiny wings, soft as down, appeared and grew a little as I watched; then two more little wings started out, the four growing until they were full sized. Then they grew strong, and the little butterfly commenced to stretch them out and they took on added beauty and color, grace and strength. He did not yet know how to fly in his newly acquired kingdom, that same kingdom wherein he had been all the while, but now he had an entirely different viewpoint of it. Still he could not fly; he tried, however. He fluttered those beautiful wings, hopped about on my hand a little, tried the wings again, hesitated, and then he took the plunge into the air, rocketed down at first as though he would fall, and then finding himself in his kingdom he arose, and from that time he flew. He never returned to his chrysalis state; he "let the dead bury their dead."

You must do the same. Day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year, you must "arise — go up higher" (from material or earthly tendencies) to the recognition of *His allness*, and you too will find yourself soaring into the blue sky of the kingdom of the Christ, looking out from and not up to the stars.

Once there was a great famine (of spiritual sense) supposedly caused by a three years' drought. Elijah was one of those men who lived in the Kingdom of God, or in "Heaven right here, where angels are as men, clothed more lightly, and men as angels who,

burdened for an hour, spring into liberty, and the good they would do, that they do, and the evil they would not do, that they do not" (*Miscellaneous Writings*). He was surrounded by people who lived in that same world as he did, but could not see the Kingdom of God or the "promised land" as he did — just as the butterfly lives in the same world as the grub which cannot see and soar as the butterfly does.

Elijah was called upon to end the drought (as the Elijahs of today should be called upon and with as sure results), and so he sought to see this kingdom with its plenty, knowing that the result would be that there would appear whatever was needed to bring peace and harmony into visibility — in this instance, rain (or the water of cleansing, washing away the materiality or the false senses). But this kingdom was not to be seen so easily; he too had, as it were, to try his wings. At first there was not a sign of rain, nothing but a cloudless sky with a blazing sun; so he sent his servant, Gehazi, up the mountain (always "up higher") to look for a sign of rain. Gehazi returned and reported not a sign. Undaunted, Elijah sent him up again, telling him to go seven times if necessary. Six times did Gehazi go up the mountain top (the same mountain we all must climb up to — divine Consciousness), and six times he saw nothing but the blazing sun and the cloudless sky. But the seventh time he reported back that he saw, "a little cloud" no bigger than "a man's hand" (I Kings), and in a moment more, the rain came in a deluge and the famine was over. The Kingdom of God or that "promised land" had appeared, and appeared in the very practical way as the needed rain. It always does appear in the practical way as needed, be it whatsoever it may be.

Keep on looking for the Kingdom of God. Keep on looking for the Kingdom of Good. Keep on looking for "the promised land." The Kingdom of God is the Kingdom of Good. Do not look for evil, for trouble, for want and woe; do not look for sickness, do not look for discord. Always and forever look for *good* — look for rain if rain is needed, look for a job if you need a job; look for health if you are in need of health; look for *life*, look for *love*, look for *peace*, look for the Kingdom of God and His Christ. If you keep at it, if you go up the mountain — advance to that "Third Degree" — seven times, you will see it, because *it is right at hand*. The Kingdom of God is not a fairy tale. *It is a fact.*