

Sunday, April 8, 2012

## The Coming of the King

Jerusalem is the city of the Great King as Psalm 48 says. It is the city in which God, in the Old Testament, first placed His sanctuary in preparation for redemption. Then afterwards, His sanctuary has been everywhere on earth and in the hearts of all believers.

Hence, Jerusalem always resembles the Church and the human soul in which God wants to dwell in and establish his Holy Sanctuary within it, as the Bible emphasizes: *“you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you”* (1 Cor 3:16).

The Lord is King of His people. In the Old Testament, He freed them from the bondage of Pharaoh, and led them to the land that flows with milk and honey. This was a resemblance to the New Testament in which we were liberated from the bondage of Satan through His redemption on the cross. He was slain to purchase us to Himself (Revelation 5) and granted us the *“glorious liberty of the children of God”* (Romans 8:21).

Jerusalem without a King is like a widow without a groom, helper, or a supporter as Jeremiah the prophet spoke about her in lamentations after the captivity: *“How like a widow is she, who was great among the nations! ...She weeps bitterly in the night, her tears are on her cheeks; Among all her lovers, she has none to comfort her. All her friends have dealt treacherously with her; they have become her enemies... Because of the multitude of her transgressions.”* (Lamentations 1: 1-5). This would be the state of the human soul when it loses Christ her Groom and True King, she becomes desolate, despised, and in servitude.

The famous prophecy of Zechariah the prophet about the coming of Christ the King to Jerusalem carries good tidings: *“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.”* (Zech 9 : 9). The King came to save His people, but regrettably, not everyone welcomed His coming. Some were very joyful like the Apostles, children, and the simple people who seek God with all their hearts, while others were sad because the King entered His temple and expelled them because they turned it into a marketplace instead of being a house of worship. Another type of people was very troubled such as the scribes, Pharisees and chief priests, because He brought to them new principles and began to draw people after Him, away from the love of money, pride and power, the same things that the Jewish clerics delighted themselves with at that time.

Therefore, the coming of the King to us today, draws to our attention the importance of taking a stand with Him and His kingdom, and to decide which group do we belong to! Are we joyful for His coming to save us? Are we willing to leave everything to follow Him, to hear His teachings and walk with Him in the way to the cross? Or do we not have time for Him and do we not have any desire to follow Him and be His disciples? Or do we reject Him and don't want Him to reign over us?

In the Old Testament, when the people of Israel pressured Samuel the Prophet to ordain for them a King like the rest of the nations surrounding them, the Lord said to him: *“They have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.”* (1 Samuel 8: 7). This state of rejection continued till the entering of the Lord Jesus in the flesh as a King into Jerusalem. When Jerusalem rejected Him as well, He mourned her saying:

*“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate.”* (Luke 13: 34-35).

It is an honor for any person to have the Lord as his king where man joins the membership of the glorious and divine eternal Kingdom. However, until now, many still don't agree to join the membership of the kingdom of Christ, and rather prefer the earthly trivial and perishing kingdoms.

However, we should beware that Jesus the meek and humble king is also the just judge when He comes on the last day. Although His coming will be joyful to the members of His kingdom, it will be dreadful to those who rejected His reign. He assured us that: *“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world... Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels... And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’”* (Matthew 25: 31-46).

Today, as we celebrate the coming of Christ the King to us, it is an opportunity to rectify our position from His kingdom before it is too late.



*Fr. Yohanna Nassef*

[fryohanna@hotmail.com](mailto:fryohanna@hotmail.com)

St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church, Palatine, IL

