

PREPARATION FOR KINGSHIP

(Bro. Bakht Singh, Balance of Truth, July 1969)

God wants to show, us what He has been thinking and planning for us long years before we were even created. (Eph. 1: 4). Yes, before God ever thought of creating this world, from eternity He has been planning what to give us and how to give it to us. To realize this we have to enter into God's heart.

In Europe and in Canada and America, many young girls in anticipation of getting married make and keep things needed for their new home, they keep such things in a "hope box". They make curtains, pillow slips, table clothes and baby clothes, preparing them with great love.

In the same way before the world was created we were in the heart of God, and with great longing and love He wants to bring us into the kingdom He has prepared for us. With our natural understanding we find it very hard to believe all these high thoughts for us, but when we receive eternal life we find it possible to believe what He meant when He said: "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom"; and what he does when He promises us some thing. Heaven and earth will pass away but His word shall not pass away. (Matt. 24:35, John 13:21, Luke 21:32).

The words in Luke 12:32 are God's words and not man's words. The Lord is saying to you and me. "O my little flock, little children, do not be afraid. Believe my words, and behave as children of a King, for you are being prepared to be kings." Joseph's life is an illustration of this. God chose him from birth for a very high purpose. His brothers did not know it and neither did he. Joseph means *adding*. Though his mother gave him that name she never knew the spiritual meaning of that word. Joseph means, *increasing, multiplying and enlarging*. We find this same Joseph going to find his brothers with every good intention. But his own brothers wanted to kill him. Instead they put him in a pit. He could not understand why they did so. He must have thought, "I love my brothers and yet they have done this thing to me" But God was telling Joseph, "Yes my son, I want to prepare you for a very high responsibility. This is how I prepare you so that you can occupy a very high position in Egypt." Then he was taken to Potiphar's house and there he was falsely accused and put in prison. Once more he must have wondered at his misfortunes specially

when he was far from his kith and kin. There he lay in prison forsaken and forgotten or so it seemed. Other people hated him. It looked as if he was wanted by nobody. But in the sight of God he was a prince, a king who was being prepared for his position. This is God's way. In Ps.105:20, 21, we see how Joseph was promoted far above others in the kingdom. He was given authority to bind princes. Just as there is corruption everywhere in these days, there would have been corruption there also, and the ordinary officers could not be expected to do justice to the high responsibility of preparing for the future. So Pharaoh put Joseph in the highest position and also gave him full authority to deal with any corruption he might find among the officers, no matter how high up they were. Because there is so much corruption in the present day they have had to open a new department called the "Anticorruption Bureau". But Joseph had absolute authority to deal with any situation as it seemed best to him. He became the greatest person in Egypt and even his enemies had to come and bow down before him. God trained him according to His own plan and not after the ways of the world.

In the same way the Lord also trains us as it seems best to Him, to bring us to that heavenly kingdom where he wants us to reign. He will take us through many many dark pits of trials and difficulties and even imprisonment for the very same purpose. According to Matt. 18: 18, we have the right and privilege to bind the powers of darkness. Just claiming a promise like a parrot won't help us but we must submit ourselves to God's training and discipline in order to be in a position to make them effective. So God, in His sovereign will, permits all kinds of trials and difficulties to come in our way.

We see from the book of Daniel how God chose Daniel to be the president of all the provinces in Babylon and also in the empire of the Medes and Persians. Daniel began his career in captivity. Dan. 1: 3. The great King Nebuchadnezzar brought young men from Jerusalem to Babylon. Daniel was one of them. We find that four of these young prisoners refused to eat the defiled meat from the king's table. Then in Dan. Ch. 2 we find this great king bowing down to his captive young man. Daniel. Dan. 2:46. Later on we find many people became jealous of him for being promoted to the highest position in the kingdom. Dan. 6:3. All the people in the kingdom knew what a great and spiritually wise man Daniel was because he had interpreted two dreams which all the magicians in Babylon had been unable to interpret. But they were jealous of him.

King Belshazzar gathered all the princes and lords and invited a thousand to a feast. They began to drink wine with their wives and concubines. What a condition! Great princes behaving so shamefully, together with their wives! In the big cities in India and other countries you will find many officers having parties and feasts in clubs together with their half-naked wives drinking wine and behaving shamefully. This King Belshazzar invited his nobles with their wives and concubines for a great feast. Then he commanded the holy vessels from the temple at Jerusalem to be brought so that they could drink from them, not because they did not have other vessels to drink from, but to blaspheme the holy and true God. Even King Nebuchadnezzar had bowed down to Daniel acknowledging the God of Daniel as the true God, but here was his son and the nobles mocking God. It is the same in the world: when people become prosperous they mock God, His house and His people. Not only Belshazzar and his princes drank wine from the vessels brought from the holy temple, but they also praised their gods of gold and silver. While they were doing this, there came forth the fingers of a man's hand near the candlestick, and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. Dan. 5:5. "When he saw this the king's countenance was changed, so that the joints of his loins were loosed and his knees smote against each other." A great king, a mighty king trembling with fear! This is the condition of worldly kings. You may become great persons like King Belshazzar. You may be intoxicated with your money, position etc., proud and arrogant when invited to come for the meetings. Remember this one day when sudden fear comes upon you. Some may look with contempt when invited for meetings, saying: "Who will come for these meetings? They last so long. If they give me a chair at least, I may come but even then just for a short time." Such are so intoxicated with their wealth and power but a day will come when their knees will shake and they will be trembling with fear when God uncovers their sins. Then no body will be able to save them. King Belshazzar was willing to reward the man who would read the writings on the wall, but none of the astrologers or wise men could help him. Then his mother told him to send for Daniel. He would be able to read the writing and tell the meaning as well. Daniel was brought and read the writing and told the meaning: God has numbered thy kingdom and finished it. Your kingdom is to be divided, and given to the Medes and Persians. v. 28. That very night the Word of God came to pass and Belshazzar was slain. Thus the Word of the living God, the true God, the God of justice was fulfilled.

O young people, do not look at your wealth, do not be intoxicated with your education or position. What are these before God? You cannot come into God's kingdom because all these things are hindering you. But God loves you, and is saying to you, "You are weighed and found wanting. You are only worthy to be cast away. But the God of all grace loves you. He is giving you time to repent and come into His kingdom".

Daniel was promoted to a high position. Though Daniel's enemies were against him yet God exalted him to a high position. O dear believer, do not let the enemy's activity discourage you. The Lord will use the same circumstances to promote you. The enemy will try to drag you down in the dust but God will lift you up as long as you honour God and refuse to bow down to the gods of the world.

Now Daniel was given the highest place in the kingdom of the Medes and Persians, that of being the president over the 120 provinces of their kingdom. King Darius promptly decided to exalt Daniel over the others and the jealousy of his enemies became all the greater. I warn you before hand, dear believers, that as you enjoy divine favour in your different places, as you live a life of honesty and sincerity and when you work hard and refuse to take bribes or eat the king's meat, then your coworkers will join together against you. By many wicked devices, scandals and other means even your own ungodly parents will persecute you. If they can drag you down by any means they will certainly do so. Daniel's enemies wanted to drag him down from his high position. They made a very clever scheme. They began to flatter the king saying: "The laws of the Medes and Persians can never change. You are a great, wonderful and mighty king above all others. Now make a decree. . . O king, that if any body refuses to worship you and if they present their petitions to any other God than to you then they must be cast into the den of lions". Thus the enemies of Daniel laid their plans against him. They never knew that they themselves were going to be put in that den. They thought that it was a wonderful scheme when the king made it into a decree. All the presidents of the 124 provinces made a great feast that day. They thought: "Let us see what happens to the prosperity of Daniel now". But Daniel went on praying three times a day. (v. 10.) Daniel knew all about their scheme but with windows open and his face towards Jerusalem, he began to pray three times a day. Sad to say many of us are ashamed to kneel down. We say in our hearts, "What will he or she say if I kneel down. God knows my heart and I can pray sitting." Some of the young men here who earn even one hundred and thirty-five rupees are ashamed to kneel down. So proud are they

that they sit down in the presence of Almighty God. Do you call that prayer? O foolish and blind people, people, refusing to bow down and kneel before your Creator and your God. When you are in trouble you call upon Him for mercy. When you want promotion you say "Brother, please pray for me". When somebody is sick you want prayer. But you refuse to bow down before your God and your Saviour. Even though Daniel knew that the penalty of being thrown into the den of lions awaited him yet he went on praying three times a day. All the high officials brought him and put him before the lions in the den. But in chapter 6:20-24, we see that these lions instead of falling upon him and tearing him into pieces, just gathered round him. God sent His angel to shut their mouths. All these lions gathered round Daniel to worship him, for Daniel was a heavenly king, so much so that even the lions had to bow down before him. Yet the lions were so hungry that when the enemies of Daniel, the princes, their wives and their children were cast into the den they simply fell upon them and ate them up. The lions jumped upon them as they were thrown. Even before they could touch the ground, all their bones were crunched. But before Daniel the same wild beasts had bowed and worshipped. What a privilege!

Our loving and living God is calling you to such a kingdom. Just as the lions bowed and worshipped Daniel so also when you go to heaven all the evil powers will bow down before you. God will bring all His angels and even the devils to fall down before you. In this world people will tease you, but a time is coming when the evil powers will bow down before you provided that you now refuse to bow down to the world.

Daniel bowed down to God; he worshipped Him and honoured Him. Though Daniel was the highest official in the kingdom as the president over 124 provinces, yet he was very humble and went down on his knees three times a day. O come unto Him, the King of Kings, and the Lord of Lords. Bend your knees to Him and worship Him. Do not let worldly fame, wealth or education make you haughty. Just as all the glory of Belshazzar was suddenly brought to an end so also all that you have acquired will one day come to an end. Come humbly now and bow down before Him and confess your sins and claim His mercy and grace and forgiveness. Receive Him as your Saviour and Lord. Then believe that no matter what the circumstances are He will one day lift you to make you an everlasting king to reign with Him on His throne. Won't you come to Him now? He is saying to you, "Fear not, little Flock, it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Luke 12:32.