

The Kingdom Chronicles

“The Millenial Kingdom of Jesus Christ”

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Chapter One

Hindsight

It's been more than 200 years since the final War ... since the return of the King of kings and Lord of lords, and the last great battle for Earth. Now Peace is the rule and Order the rule of the day. But memories of that war and the catastrophes that accompanied it are still vivid in my memory ... the sights of cataclysmic disasters that changed the face of the planet and claimed the lives of *billions* and the frightening images of Mankind's resistance against the cosmic forces of the LORD Who defeated His foes by the Word of His mouth and vanquished them into the darkness. The world had descended into such evil that its only hope was its complete destruction, not by the will of men but by God. In great pain the world was reborn and with great joy it is realized ... A world ruled not by men, but by the One whose right it is to sit on the throne in His Holy City that now stands glorious in its beauty on the mountains Zion and Moriah, having endured millenia divided and desolate.

I contemplate the world that now lays before my eyes and absorb the sights and sounds that contrast with the ones that are now a fading memory. I *will* myself to remember what *was*, that I might more appreciate what *is*. But with each passing year, these memories dim and yet thankfully, do not diminish my appreciation for what is now my home ... a world whose curse has been lifted and which now radiates the glory of the LORD that is its '*raison d'etre*.' There was an explosion of life after the Kingdom was first established ... after the Righteous One returned to Rule.

Hawaiians speak of this phenomenon in their state motto, "*Ua Mau ke Ea o ka 'Āina i ka Pono*" ... "*The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness.*" It was spoken by King Kamehameha III at the restoration of Hawai'i's sovereignty by the British in 1843. Its plain meaning speaks of the sovereignty of the Hawaiian people but its hidden significance comes from their ancient belief that the life force (*ke Ea*) of the land (*o ka 'Āina*) is forever established (*Ua Mau*) when the rightful High Chief rules (*i ka Pono*). They believe a spiritual connection exists between the *Ali'i Nui* or High Chief and the *'Āina* or Land itself. As long as the *Ali'i Nui* ruled, the *'Āina* was imbued with life and produced abundantly. There was no mistaking that when Jesus returned and established His Kingdom, something supernatural took place and the Earth, and all that was in it, was transformed.

And now, even after 200 years, I, Joshua Pono, bask in the warm joy that bathes my soul even as it did at the beginning as I survey the wonderful changes *around* me ... and *within* me. From the start, I chronicled these changes as a witness to the eternal greatness and goodness of my LORD. This is my testimony.

Chapter Two

The End of an Age

In the years preceding the return of the King, a great number of pastors failed to warn and prepare their flock for the persecution that eventually arose. Even until a few decades previous, it seemed unthinkable that Christians would be targeted by a nation founded on truths that were 'self-evident' and individual rights 'endowed by their Creator'. But the warnings of Christ were realized, and it came to be that even mentioning the name of Jesus aloud, except as an expletive, brought derision from a society bent on eliminating God from the public arena. Christians were cowed into silence in defiance of their Lord's command and in compliance with the devil's plan.

A darkness descended upon society. At first it was imperceptible, but eventually obvious that a change was spreading like a cancer, metastasizing in people's hearts. In time, words and ideas were altered to conform to what was deemed *correct*. Within a few years, this new thought reached critical mass and faith in Jesus Christ became something to be scorned. When men lost their fear of God they became vulnerable to corruption and their hearts were darkened. There was a wholesale rejection of morals accepted for millenia which ushered in an *amorality* that saw the acceptance of behavior and lifestyles unimaginable even a few years earlier. Eventually, those opposed to the new morality were ostracized and labeled intolerant, criminals and worse.

The deception of the evil one took root and, like an octopus, extended its writhing tentacles into the halls of government, schools and even churches, injecting its deceptions and turning mankind against their Creator. Man's need to worship, however, could not be extinguished, and when he chose to erase the true God from society, he replaced it with a false one ... himself. Eventually good became evil, evil ... good, light became darkness and darkness ... light, and 'hope deserted the land'.

Government leaders were corrupted by their power and sought to rule instead of serve. Lawlessness crept in when they violated their oaths and created laws from which they exempted themselves. It infected law enforcers who violated their commitment to serve and protect and, instead, viewed and treated the citizens as potential terrorists. The public had no choice but to turn on each other to survive and the fabric of society unraveled. It was every man for himself in the worst way, and it started from the top.

Schools removed God from their curriculum and taught students to worship the creation instead of the Creator. Environmentalism morphed from a noble pursuit to cult status. All who did not join were persecuted for their unbelief and consigned to the trash heap of the ignorant and worse.

Many Christians embraced the new morality and laid aside the eternal Word to gain carnal pleasures and the World's approval. It came to a point where one could hardly distinguish between Christians and non-believers. The church lost its flavor and its light was extinguished.

But those who chose to live by the truths of God's Word were persecuted and apprehended, sometimes violently, by Government personnel who came with their armored vehicles and assault weapons. Those who resisted were sent to 're-education centers' to be rehabilitated, or removed ... permanently. Those who escaped went underground, forming a network of small fellowships which met at varying times and locations to avoid the Government informants and watchers.

You could never tell who would betray you even from among those who pretended to be with us. But despite the dangers, those times of fellowship were the richest I experienced since my years spent as a missionary in the poorest slums of the third world. Gone were the superficialities, the religious clichés and the insincere greetings. When someone inquired, *"How are you?"* the response would often just be tears and genuine embraces. The love of the saints was palpable and the joy of seeing a brother or sister in Christ could barely be contained. People were just glad to see one another alive! It was beautiful ... and if being persecuted, imprisoned, tortured and martyred were the prerequisites for such love, joy and unity, then they were a blessing from God. Oh the wonderful joy of such fellowship, of such genuine compassion, of such fervent prayers ... it was painful to break fellowship ... a pain that was lessened only by the hope of reuniting again in time ... or eternity.

The main cause of distress for me was the departure of so many from the Faith. The fear of suffering, of being ostracized or even martyred was too much for many to bear and they departed from the Faith, some even becoming informants and turning in relatives, friends and fellow members. I do not judge them, for indeed the pressures to give up one's Faith were great, but I sorrowed for them when the LORD returned, for their remorse could not assuage the penalty of their failure. The LORD had taught us to count the cost. If they had known what awaited those who abandoned the Faith, I know they would have remained. I would that pastors had trumpeted this truth from the pulpits more fervently, teaching their flocks how to persevere in suffering for Christ's sake, especially as they heard the drums of hate beating outside the doors of the sanctuary. They should have continually preached:

*"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep,
To gain what he cannot lose."*

Jim Elliot

Now, as I sit two centuries later enjoying the majesty and beauty of God's world, my only regret is that I was not able to persuade more to set their hearts on Eternity and their eyes on the LORD.

Chapter Three

The Return of the King

The world that witnessed Jesus' return was a world in complete defiance against Him and against everything He stood for. Like an over ripe fruit, the world had become a rotting display of depravity as the people did whatever they deemed was '*right in their own sight.*' They not only defied God's Ten Commandments, but nearly every law created by man. If they had only known that the Day of the Lord was near and that they were in danger of being destroyed, not by rising torrents of water as in time past, but by the breath of God's Wrath and the inferno of His Holy Judgment. But people defied Him even unto their end. Such was the insanity that sin inflicted on the hearts and minds of men.

The Day the Lord returned began like any other. I met with several believers early for prayer and encouragement as was our custom. These times allowed us to thank God for His protection and provisions which we shared gratefully with one another. It was easy to get discouraged as each passing day brought news of more arrests and even more executions. Soon we would all be found and eliminated to the delight, I'm sure, of those who detested our mere existence. After encouraging one another, we always closed our prayers with one final request, "*Come Lord Jesus. Come quickly!*" Little did we know that He would answer that very moment!

At first we did not notice the low rumble that was barely detectable under our feet. But the growing vibrations soon became apparent, at first like the passing of a distant freight train, but then like the growing tremors of an earthquake. We looked at each other wondering what could be happening and that's when we heard it. The trumpet blast. Not like a modern instrument, but more earthy, more ancient. Like the sound of a conch amplified a dozen times ... or even a hundred times so that it reverberated off the buildings and the mountains and the sky. It was frighteningly loud and caused everyone to clap their hands to their ears and cower on the floor.

I ran to the window and saw people running terrified down the streets and pointing to the sky. What I saw sent shivers from my head down my back, and I nearly collapsed.

"He's coming! He's coming!! HE'S COMING!!!", I yelled as the others crowded me at the window and followed my gaze. Tears filled our eyes and joy overwhelmed as we saw the glory of the King of kings and Lord of lords blazing in the clouds.

In a moment ... in an instant, a change came over me as a bolt of lightning striking my body. It was as though I had never truly lived until that very instant when the power of Christ transformed me completely. In that moment the enmity between my spirit, which desired to only do God's will, and my flesh, which desired to follow after sin, was removed, and they were fused together forever! For the first time, doing God's will was not an *option*, but the *only* option, and I was glad for it!

It was then that I realized God's Word had come true and that we had all been transformed in the '*twinkling of an eye.*' I looked around the room and knew that my friends had all experienced it, too. Their faces shone with the glory of the Lord, radiant and beautiful and joyful! And all we desired with all our hearts, and with all our minds, and with all our strength was to do our Lord's will ... and there was not a hint of resistance.

Oh the unspeakable joy of that moment! Time was suspended as we stood in eternity and the true nature of the world's façade became apparent before our new eyes. We could see the demonic and fallen spirits which deceived the people. They were horror struck in the light of the Lord's glory and omniscient gaze, seeking to escape into the shadows without success. What brought fear to them brought joy to us, and as we stared upwards our entire beings were lifted up and drawn through the building, and up, up, up through the air into the glorious presence of our LORD. Hundreds and thousands and more joined us with Him in the clouds and "*so shall we ever be!*"

As I looked downward, I could see the masses staring up and I could not help but feel sorrow, for their time of redemption had expired and their fate sealed. The Age of Grace had ended. The time of Judgment was at hand.

Never was the Grace of God more cherished than at that moment. My faith in God's Savior was vindicated and my salvation was complete. And all of the ridicule, the derision and the persecution inflicted through the years were now merely the words and acts of foolish and ignorant souls. And those who had given their very lives as a testimony of their faith seemed the most jubilant of all ... as well they should, for the Lord imparted upon them a special blessing. Seeing them alive again made that moment the most joyful of my life!

Chapter Four

An Accounting

If we thought everything was now going to be easy, we were surely mistaken. The LORD is Good ... but *not* easy. The time came for each of us to give an account of our lives and of what we had done for His Kingdom and Glory. Even though I knew this day of reckoning would arrive, there was absolutely nothing to prepare me for it. It was now clear that our lives on Earth was really an exam... a trial ... to test us for the *real* life ahead!

I looked around and saw many familiar faces. But most chilling were the many faces I did *not* see. Church leaders and prominent members, pastors, priests and bishops, and those I had grown up with in the Faith who chose to depart in the end. It sent a chill through me to think of their absence. Church membership and attendance were no guarantee of one's place in God's Kingdom. But then I also saw people there whom I did *not* expect and a fleeting thought emerged ... *'how did they get here?'* And the answer ... the same way I did ... by God's grace through faith in His Son's death for our sins. It was indescribably humbling to know that God saved me solely and *only* because of His unconditional Love and through no merit of my own!

Eventually my turn came to stand before the LORD, and though I knew I was secure in His Love, dreadful fear overcame me and I fell faint at His feet. I heard His reassuring voice call my name and telling me not to fear but to stand. His knowing eyes bore through me, penetrating my soul and spirit, and perceiving my every motive and intention. Any and every one of my failures was a sin that I was more than willing to confess. Even many of my *'good works'* were exposed as self-righteous and self-serving pursuits undertaken to impress and even deceive people. Nothing was hidden from His sight, from His ears or from His mind. He saw all, He heard all and He knew all. Excuses and alibis would have been an insult to the One who knew my every thought. I threw myself upon His mercy for there was no defence for my failings. His Love was my only hope ... and He loved me more than I deserved.

It seemed so much of my life's activities were wasted on the superficial, but to my surprise, the Lord still rewarded me for my faithfulness ... not with literal crowns, but with increasing *'crowns of glory'* ... power and authority to rule and to serve. *"Faithful in little, faithful in much"* was the principle that guided Him. Before leaving, I heard the words I so longed to hear from His lips, *"Well done, My good and faithful servant. Enter into your rest."* There were no words to express the extent of my gratitude ... and relief ... at that moment.

I could tell immediately how others fared by simply looking at their countenance after they had spent time with the Lord. There are no uniforms or insignias in God's kingdom, but varying degrees of His Glory bestowed upon each person as He determines, even as each star has its own and each angel their own. The greater the glory, the greater the power and authority given. But there was absolutely no envy or jealousy among anyone for we knew that our rewards were chosen by the Sovereign King, and each of us was content. The real reward, in every case, was to serve Him and in the end that was all that mattered!

Chapter Five

The Kingdom

When the King of kings finally engaged in the battle for Israel, victory became certain. The end came swiftly as the enemies of God were literally cut down by the force of the Word of His mouth ... the double edged Sword of the Spirit. No one was left standing and all were sent into the darkness of their doom.

That was interrupted only briefly when all were brought before the thrones on which sat the saints of the LORD tasked with indicting each with the charge of sinning against their Creator, and convicting each of lawlessness and unbelief in the death, burial and resurrection of His Only Begotten Son for the forgiveness of Sin. Fallen angels and demons alike were brought before God's judges and convicted of treason and rebellion against the God of all Creation, and all were returned to their places of anguish where they await their *final* sentencing and punishment before the awful Great White Throne of the LORD Himself. It was a difficult task that underscored the gravity of sin and its consequence, that would forever be on our hearts even as we continued to serve our LORD in the Kingdom. The varied reactions from the convicted ranged from utter grief to raging anger, but their fates were sealed by their own actions and decisions. What made it so difficult was that forgiveness through Christ was so available in life but was rejected with eternal regret that will now be part of their unending pain.

The violence of Mankind's reign on Earth gave way to the peace of God's Millennial Rule. Gone are the political struggles for dominance, the wars for power, and the violent and criminal acts committed by mankind against their very own. The King of kings rules with a 'rod of iron' and has little tolerance for sin. Correction is swift and just, usually by restitution or punishment as befits the violation, and order maintained throughout the Earth. His rule is administered by all whom He received on that wonderful day of His return, for He has given us a commission to ensure every person reveres His Throne and follows His Sovereign Will.

Those who survived the last unspeakable days on Earth and had not accepted the mark of the beast were allowed entry into His Kingdom. But unlike those who had accepted the forgiveness and spiritual rebirth of God through His Son's death, they did not experience the miraculous transformation that changed our bodies forever. The survivors remained in their earthly bodies and continued to live as before, but in a much improved world. The population had been reduced drastically due to the devastations and plagues that were poured out unto this rebellious planet. Mountains were thrown down, valleys filled, oceans displaced, islands inundated, epidemics unchecked, and death and starvation reduced a human population of seven billion to less than one. But the Earth was healed and transformed by the Lord, and needless to say, life was made much easier, and the surviving remnant was glad to be in the Earthly Kingdom of God and subjects of the benevolent King.

But sin still dwelt within them and even though satan was bound for a time, the weakness and propensities of sin made the remnant susceptible to deeds of evil that had to be controlled. It was imperative that the people learn to resist sin and submit to the LORD. And that is where those of us who experienced God's transformation fulfill our roles.

I'm not sure what the others envisioned this life to be like, but I never thought it would be what it became. I pictured myself on a forever vacation, eternally retired. My goodness ... how far from the truth that picture was! But how much better and wiser it turned out to be, for I would have been quickly bored to insanity should my first impressions been realized! Instead, I continue doing what I had done in my previous life, which is to serve my God and King through the gifts He has given me, but on a much grander and fulfilling scale.

I do not remember many sermons or lectures that expounded what our lives would be like in eternity other than the recitation of what the book of Revelation already made clear ... that we would reign with our Lord for a thousand years! But, to my surprise, it turned out to be the continuation of the command of our LORD to '*make disciples of all nations*', for indeed that task is ongoing. There *are* nations yet on the Earth that need to be shepherded and taught and guided in the LORD's ways, and who best to do that than the former citizens of those nations who now belong to God's eternal family!

The rewards we received from our LORD gave us our areas of authority. To some a specific person. To others a family. To others still, a community, a town, a city, a region, a state/province, an entire nation or even multiple nations as God gifted and commissioned us to do. Those gifted to teach continue to teach the nations about the Lord but in a much more enlightened way, as you can imagine! Those gifted to pray continue to bring people's requests to the Lord, in person! Those who were gifted to heal do so in more amazing ways because of the Lord's return. To each, power and authority was bestowed as determined by their faithfulness exhibited during their earthly lives. And there are no complaints, for the LORD does not err.

Chapter Six

Jerusalem – the Capital of the World

After millenia of strife, the city of Jerusalem finally exemplified its name ... a place of *'peace, prosperity and well being.'* Indeed, if it were not for this city, the Earth and its inhabitants would not have been healed of the divine judgments that devastated the planet. The plagues of war and disease, of cosmic destruction and earthquakes, of chemical and radioactive contamination had nearly extinguished all life on Earth.

The earthquakes had changed the topography of the ancient city. Zion and Moriah were shaken and brought low, filling the valleys and creating a vast plain. When Christ descended on the Mount of Olives, it split into two creating a deep valley extending west to the Mediteranean Sea and east to the Dead Sea. Soon after, the entire ground was prepared and an enormous Temple that befits the King of Glory was built on top of it in accordance with Ezekiel's design, including a Throne in the Holy of holies for the LORD Himself. Then a miracle occurred. A gushing spring of Living Water welled up from beneath the Throne and flowed into that deep valley streaming in both directions, and every river, sea and ocean, and every piece of land touched by this Water was immediately healed even as people were healed by the Savior's touch when He walked this land 2,000 years before.

The city was rebuilt with the Temple at its center and every building was constructed facing toward it even as the tribes of Israel encamped around the Tabernacle during their sojourn. The LORD in His Temple gave Life to a dying world and Prosperity and Health were restored. It was amazing to see how quickly it occurred. Even as the early morning rays of the rising sun pushes back the shadows of the night and races across the ground until the entire landscape is bathed in its warm and healing light, even so the LORD's Living Waters pushed back the lingering shadows of death until the whole world was aglow in a springtime of colors.

And at the world's center was the great city of the King ... sitting high and sparkling like a gem, and shining bright with the presence of the Lord. In Jerusalem He dwelt and from His Throne He ruled, and the kings and the queens, presidents and prime ministers, princes and governors came from every nation to worship Him and to pledge their devotion, and there were no more wars nor conspiracies for He ruled with a rod of iron and none dared defy Him.

Jerusalem also saw the revival of the Temple worship as the faithful remnant of God's chosen honored their God and fulfilled their call to lead the nations in worship of the LORD. Priests were anointed and David, the son of Jesse and slayer of the Philistine, was restored to the throne of Israel as was promised him by the LORD. The prophets of old walked the Land as they had before, rejoicing at the fulfillment of the words God had placed in their hearts. I have spent much time enjoying the fellowship of Daniel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Elijah and Ezekiel as they never tired retelling what they had foretold in times past.

And what can I say about time spent with Adam and Enoch and Noah and Abraham and Moses and Esther and Rahab and Ruth, not to mention the Apostles and saint Paul ... but I will stop lest I fill the balance of these Chronicles with their tales alone! I will have an eternity to hear them out and absorb all of their stories and wisdom!

In my earthly life, I had visited Jerusalem once and explored her narrow alleyways and marketplaces, enjoying the cacophony of sounds and aromas that blended together and imprinted themselves in my memory like a delicious bisque. To feel the cold stones of the Western Wall and see the places of my Savior's execution and burial were unforgettable, but they testified only of my LORD who came to the old city as a Bondslave to offer Himself as a sacrifice for the world. Seeing the restored Jerusalem completes that testimony as He now comes to the restored city as the King of kings, and I love Him for both, for as a Bondslave He loved me by giving His life to save me, but as King I now love Him by living my life to praise Him! Oh what a Savior ... Oh what a King! There is none like Him in all of Heaven and Earth!

Chapter Seven

A New World!

There is nothing in the old world that can prepare anyone for the Millennial Kingdom! I was always captivated by the beauty of the Hawaiian islands with their emerald jungles flowing from volcanic peaks to golden sands as their turquoise waters dropped off into azure oceans. Or the desert sunsets that set the sky ablaze with every shade of red, or the variegated amber sandstone cliffs of the canyons in the Southwest or even the soaring granite cliffs of Yosemite with their towering waterfalls plunging down to verdant valleys. The Millennial Earth is all of these and far, far more beautiful!

When I think of the devastation that occurred, especially the mass die off of myriad forests and creatures, I wondered how, or even if, God could ever restore the World. Well, He did, and made it even better! How? The same way He created the World the first time ... through His Son, who created all things in the beginning with His Word.

This time, as I described earlier, He did it through the Living Water that flowed from the LORD's Throne. When that stream began flowing, it healed everything in its path. The power of the LORD was in the Water, and whatever it touched flourished. The Dead Sea was the first to be healed as fish began to fill its waters for the first time as the Sea overflowed to Aqaba and even to the Oceans beyond. The Mediterranean Sea, also, began to teem with all manner of sea creatures and flowed out to the greater Oceans. Throughout the world streams, lakes and seas ran clear and blue. The plains and hills became awash in lush hues of green as the grass, bushes and trees that were destroyed were restored and pushed out their leaves. Fruit trees of all varieties blossomed and covered the land bearing their luscious bounty. The original curse that caused man to labor for his food was broken and crops grew like the weeds of old. Every person had a green thumb and a full stomach.

The harvests were continuous and so bountiful that there was more than enough for every creature. Fruits, grains and greens were so plentiful that the predatory animals gave up hunting and grazed beside their former prey, even taking food from people's hands. God's Word was fulfilled as the wolf and sheep lay together, as well as the lion and the calf. I had always wanted to bear hug a real bear and now I can! And they seem to love it, or at least they don't seem to mind because they enjoy playing, especially the large Grizzlies and Polars! I will admit that this is one of the great pleasures of life here!

The LORD did something to the weather, as well, because there are no longer any disastrous storms or droughts ... or even extreme seasons. The Earth now experiences a Goldilocks climate where the temperatures remain constant in the 65°-85° F range at sea level. There are still seasons, but not in the former way. If you want to experience fall or winter, you simply go to a higher elevation. This way, a variety of food bearing plants can grow in the same general area! To say that the environment is perfect is not an exaggeration. The air is crystal clear and always fragrant with blossoms in continuous bloom. Rains come regularly but without floods, keeping the rivers running and the springs flowing.

As people on the Earth drank the water and bathed in it, its healing properties brought health and life to their earthly bodies. Instead of getting old by their 70th year, people live longer ... even

centuries longer. Though the waters do not make them immortal, due to sin, it lessens its corrupting power such that if anyone dies at one hundred, it is as if a baby died. Also, the length of their years is accompanied by less illnesses and diseases, for those of us gifted to heal do so by God's grace.

Excellent health and a transformed environment have inspired people to remain active, and it's rare to see an over weight person. People remain outdoors year-round, playing and conversing, hiking and exploring, planting and harvesting, and enjoying the fruits of their harvest with one another. If and when there are disputes, they are resolved easily. Everyone seeks the welfare of their neighbors and the adherence to the King's Will creates an atmosphere of safety and security that results in greater freedom for all.

Chapter Eight

A New Life!

As amazing as the changes in the world have been, the most incredible change has to do, not with what I can see around me, but what took place within me. As already mentioned, when Christ returned, a remarkable transformation took place within the bodies of all the faithful. As the apostle Paul described in Scripture, we were changed in the *'twinkling of an eye'* and received a body fit for our calling as God's children ... even as Sons of God.

I had always thought being called 'Sons of God' was simply a phrase to describe our relationship with our Heavenly Father. But it was first used to describe the angels who were delegated to oversee God's original creation. They were sent by Him to serve mankind by teaching and guiding them toward righteous living. Unfortunately, as described in the books of Genesis, 2 Peter and Jude, many of them were tempted by the daughters of Adam and sinned with them, and for this they were punished and imprisoned in Tartaros.

But now, new Sons of God have been raised up, not from among the angelic host, but from among people who have been born again in Christ and transformed through His Spirit. These are they in whom God has placed His very Spirit and has called His own. Unlike His angels who do not possess His Spirit, we are members of God's family having received His divine nature and are rightly called His children. And as Sons of God, we are now tasked with ensuring that the nations and people of this world reflect the glory and will of their Creator. As befits this high honor, He has clothed us in a body worthy of our station that is so incredible it deserves to be described. The apostle Paul's description of our new bodies is true but brief so let me expand on each trait that he describes.

1. It is Celestial! All of my concerns during my old life with my appearance are seen to be so foolish now. My new body is like nothing anyone could have imagined in a million years! It is made of Heavenly 'stuff', if I can call it that. Just as my old body was made out of physical matter, my new body is made out of spiritual material that is not restricted by the natural laws of the physical Universe. For one thing, it is luminescent, which comes not from chemical reactions, but from God's Spirit within. I can appear in a solid form or disappear into a spirit form that is unseen by earthly eyes and unhindered by physical things. It is perfectly suited for both Heaven and Earth and I am able to move between these two dimensions with ne'er a thought!

2. It is Incorruptible! Disease, aging and death are not part of my life anymore! Since being transformed, I haven't coughed, sneezed or wheezed ... never had a cold, caught the flu, been ill, injured or diseased. In fact, I have never, in all my days, felt healthier and more alive than I do now. This body is built for ever! I remember my biology professor telling us that given the cell's ability to replicate itself through the DNA molecule, there was no reason our bodies could not last forever. Well, now it can!

3. It is Glorious! All the saints are clothed in a glorious light, radiant and magnificent beyond description. The most stunning clothes on Earth could not even compete with its splendor! Our bodies radiate the glory of God, and as mentioned earlier, they do so in accord with the rewards

received from our LORD. It is truly a marvelous thing to behold all the saints gathered together in worship. The entire assembly shining like stars at their utmost brilliance while their praise fills the heavens! It *is* glorious!

4. It is Powerful! My new body has abilities that I could have only dreamed of possessing. Besides being strong and indestructible, I can do things that previously could only be seen in books ... such as flying, becoming invisible and moving through solid objects. Using spiritual bridges like 'wormholes', I am able to travel instantly between physical destinations and experience far more of God's physical creation than I had ever hoped. I have witnessed nebulae and galaxies first hand that previously could only be seen through telescopes or photographs. I'm able to see and hear far more than I could, and can now perceive sights and sounds unseen and unheard before. Colors beyond violet and red and the indescribable musical tones all colors emit. Music is both an audio and visual experience now. Having this new body is like the scene in 'The Wizard of Oz' when Dorothy steps out of her gray world into the explosion of colors in the land of Oz. It's also akin to the difference in the images of the universe before and after the Hubble Space Telescope.

But this new body also comes with a new mind. I remember one of my college professors telling us how we only used a small fraction of our brains. Now, my mind is able to absorb and remember the explosion of information that I'm able to detect. Its ability to think, analyze and understand has been expanded beyond what I could have imagined and comes into use during our times with the LORD. The issues that puzzled theologians and Bible scholars for centuries are now elementary concepts and He has increased our understanding of Himself far beyond textbooks or seminary lectures ever could. There is infinite wisdom to be gained from Him and our new minds have the ability and capacity to absorb it!

Another incredible aspect of the new body is its ability to communicate. In the spiritual dimension, thoughts can be transmitted to others without speaking a word. The genius of this is the complete absence of individuals hunched over their iPhones or Tablets obsessing over the latest trivia. For one thing, here, trivial pursuits are banished (*Thank-You LORD!*), and for another, communication is facilitated through the spirit ... instantly and freely. This greatly enhances our networking which comes in handy especially when dealing with the needs of the people on Earth.

5. But my favorite new trait is that my new body is Spiritual! My former body seemed to always struggle against God's Spirit within me, but now, my new body is in complete harmony with His Spirit, and doing what God wants is as natural as breathing! The LORD described my former body well when He said '*The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.*' Now my flesh is just as willing as Christ's Spirit within me! No struggle, no stress nor strain! Because it is made from spiritual material, obedience to God is now the most natural thing to do!

Another aspect of having a Spiritual Body is its ability to change between the physical and spiritual state. This ability allows me to transcend time and space, and travel between the physical and spiritual dimensions through the portals experiencing the qualities of both! It also allows me to finally see our LORD as He truly is in all of His unfiltered glory! There are no words to express the experience and emotion of being in His very presence where worship is spontaneous and right, and your sole desire is to remain with Him forever!

Chapter Nine

The Spiritual Realm

One of the most amazing things I've learned since Christ returned is the extent to which the spiritual dimension and the physical universe are connected. In the physical world, the spiritual dimension is unseen and easily dismissed, especially in western cultures. But unseen does not mean not existing. While working in a third world country, I learned that the spiritual world was very real and played a major part in the lives of people. Some were even able to see spiritual entities, even though I could not, and were quick to tell me when demons were present. Though these beings were invisible to me, I often sensed their presence.

After my transformation, my eyes were opened to the Spiritual dimension. I could see that the physical universe is really a manifestation of the Spiritual dimension that surrounds it and flows through it. The latter is the matrix in which the former exists and they are linked together by dimensional bridges that connect the divide between them. The entire physical world is sourced in its Creator, the LORD Himself, Who holds all things together by the power of His might, for without Him the entire Universe would instantly dissolve. He is the mysterious dark matter and dark energy that binds the Universe and powers its expansion, and the unexplainable strong force that holds the atomic nuclei together. His power flows into the Universe through innumerable dimensional bridges and portals providing the dynamism that keeps all things functioning according to His design.

And like in the movie 'The Matrix', most of the people in the world were completely oblivious to the spiritual matrix that surrounded and sustained them, and were happy to take the 'blue pill' and remain blissfully ignorant. Unfortunately, ignorance can be dangerous. In their bliss, most were unaware of the ubiquitous 'agent Smiths' who covertly wandered the world accomplishing their nefarious work.

Even as I ascended to meet the LORD in the air on the Day of His return, I could see multitudes of shadowy beings that I did not see before: principalities, powers and rulers of the darkness, hovering among the people left behind and even cowering under the glare of the LORD's glory. They must have surely been present around me in my earthly life, though their presence was mostly undetected save for their whispering temptations. I wondered how many people were driven to guilt, depression, insanity or worse by their continuous accusations, deceptions and ridicule, all done while cloaked in the darkness of their world.

But beside these denizens of the dark, my eyes were also opened to beings of light who traveled through the bridges from the LORD to encourage, enlighten and embolden Believers to keep trusting in God. These were the Guardians of the faithful, who spoke God's Word into our minds to dispel the deception in our hearts and repulse the evil ones. The Guardians, who numbered in the multitudes, and sent in response to our prayers that were transmitted through the bridges into the spiritual dimension and reaching the very Throne of God.

Faith draws the spirit world into the physical from both the Dark and the Light. Those who walked by faith in God's Light established a spiritual bridge through which He was able to bring the power of His Kingdom through their lives. The ultimate example of this was the Son of Man who walked in such communion with God His Father that wherever He went, God's Kingdom was present, and it's restorative power, seen in the people's deliverance from sin's curse and corruption, became manifest! The Light of Jesus' Life exposed the Dark that enveloped the world, bringing to light not only the evil spirits that oppressed the sick and destitute, but also the self-righteous and power hungry who conspired to extinguish His Light and sever the bridge to God. But Jesus' death and resurrection enabled the LORD to establish a multitude of dimensional bridges through the many who believed and were born of His Spirit, and through whom He brought His Kingdom to the poor in spirit who hungered and thirsted for righteousness before the final hour expired.

In the end, every living thing depends on the LORD for life. In Him is Life and He maintains all living creatures. And when their time ends, His Life is withdrawn and the living are no more. Except for people. Their souls continue on, either with God as His children or severed from Him in enmity forever.

I remember an obsession people had before the end of the age was the source of life. Science had distilled life down to its chemical reactions on a molecular level. The goal was always to discover how life formed or how to recreate it. But even *if* scientists could have created a living being from non-living things, it would have just been a zombie, appearing alive but without a soul, or love or compassion. I could see that without God's life flowing into ours, we would just be 'dead men walking.' We would be zombies. Every person depended on the LORD who gave not only life to our bodies but souls that made us living beings.

There are obsessions that actually turned people into magnets that attracted evil spirits, such as addictions to drugs, violence, pornography, sex, power, money and vanity. Though these needs seem anchored in the physical realm, their basis were really spiritual. French physicist Blaise Pascal once said, *"There is a God shaped vacuum in the heart of every man, which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ"*, which is why satan worked tirelessly to keep people deceived lest they discover the One Who alone could fill their emptiness!

An interesting aspect of the connection between the physical and the spiritual dimensions is that of Time. Whereas the physical dimension is locked in Time, the spiritual dimension exists in Eternity. In the physical world, time moves in one direction. In the spiritual dimension, there is no past or future ... just the now. But the 'now' encompasses all, which is why the LORD knows the end from the beginning. Seen from the spiritual dimension, Time in the physical world appears like a completed film with every moment represented by a single frame, from the very beginning to the very end. This 'film' can be viewed at any point removing the limitation that people in the physical world have. This explains how God knows all my days even before there was one and how He was able to reveal future things to the prophets. They were not future to Him!

I remember an incident as a missionary when someone prophesied events in the immediate future of my life concerning God's work. As the events unfolded as predicted, it was as if I were a mere player following a divine script, simply playing my part. I knew everything that was going to happen even before they did. It was a surreal and almost out of body experience to view myself

completing God's pre-ordained plan. And now I could see how the events were already completed even before they began. Thinking about Eternity is mind altering!

At first Eternity seemed comprehensible, but then I noticed there wasn't just one 'film' but an infinite number. I asked the LORD why this was so and He explained that each one was a different reality created by people's decisions, both real and potential. Every time someone made a decision, life took on a new track, not only for *that* person, but for everyone else as well! And the 'films' not only recorded what *did* happen, but even what *could* or even *should* have happened! It was way too much for even my *new* mind to fathom! I concluded that only the LORD God can track **all** things concerning **all** people for **all** time!

It has been 200 Earth years since the LORD came and took me home with Him, though it seems but an instant. My home is the **Heavenly Jerusalem**, a place prepared by our LORD, standing a millenia and a half miles high and wide and deep, and shimmering by the Light of the LORD with the most beautiful colors emanating from countless precious gems and the purest of gold from which it is made. Each dwelling place within makes the most luxurious earthly mansions look like shacks in comparison. And one day this heavenly city will descend through a spiritual bridge to a New World from a New Heaven that the LORD Himself will call into being. And I will dwell there for an eternity between the Worlds in thanksgiving to my God who gave Himself up for me!

I cherish the relationships of the many I knew in my earthly life and the countless new ones I have made in God's Heavenly family. Relationships here are beautiful and easy without the self-serving, self-centered and self-righteous spirit that made them so difficult in our earthly lives. Here, there is no self and no-thing to hinder our love for one another, but only Christ and His unfathomable Love for us! Here, Life is ... Perfect. ***I'm in Heaven! I am ... Home.***

Epilogue:

Are you certain you will be with God in Heaven when your life on Earth ends? If not, you would like to be wouldn't you? Then take the first step by expressing your Faith in God and ask Him to take you to be with Him using the following prayer.

“ Dear LORD God, I know I have sinned against You and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe Your Son, Jesus Christ, died for my sins and rose to life again that I might have eternal life. I receive Him into my life. Change me and make my life pleasing to You. And when my life in this world ends, take me home to be with You in Heaven forever! In Jesus' Name. Amen!”

Ke Akua Ho'omaika'i Oe!

(May God Bless You!)

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