

THOUGHTS ON THE KINGDOM OF GOD

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Thoughts on the Kingdom of God by William Niven

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WILLIAM NIVEN

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1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

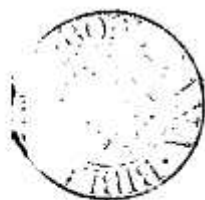
THOUGHTS
ON THE
KINGDOM OF GOD.

WITH AN APPENDIX
ON THE PROPHETICAL BEARING OF RECENT
GREAT EVENTS.

BY THE
REV. WILLIAM NIVEN, B.D.

AUTHOR OF
'THE VICTORY OVER DEATH,' 'PLAIN SERMONS FOR PERILOUS TIMES,'
ETC. ETC.

'They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy
power.'—Ps. cxlv. 11.



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PREFACE.

THE following pages contain the imperfect outline of a great subject.

Glorious, indeed, are the things which are spoken of the kingdom of God. References to it are everywhere to be found in the Holy Scriptures. It is the subject of prophecy and of promise—of parable, and of plain and direct instruction. So weak, however, is our faith, so dull are our spiritual perceptions, and so manifold are our infirmities, that, after all, it must be acknowledged that we see but “through a glass darkly.”

Still we see enough to strengthen our faith, to confirm our hope, and to guide our expectations in the right direction, and we have the highest of all encouragement to pursue such studies.

When the Psalmist says, “Thy saints shall bless thee; they shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power;” the words are evidently intended to express the Divine approval of those who are thus employed.

The great Teacher has himself spoken much upon this subject, and clearly indicated his will that it should engage our thoughts and attention. He has left us many precious instructions respecting it, told us that it is given to his people to know the mystery of the kingdom of God, and promised the assistance

of his Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth. Nor can we forget that in that interesting period, in which he showed himself alive after his passion, being seen of them forty days, "he spake to them of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God."

In endeavouring to declare to his flock the whole counsel of God, the Author has ever sought to give a due place to the word of prophecy. He has taught that the second coming of our Lord in power and glory should at all times be considered as the grand object of hope and expectation to his people, and he has endeavoured to arrange and harmonize those numerous prophecies which reveal to us the things which shall accompany and succeed that great and blessed event.

In these expositions he has had a deep response from many persons, and a desire has been expressed to him for such a brief outline of "the things hoped for," as may prove a help to further study and investigation.

It is to meet such wishes that he now publishes this little volume, which he sends forth with many prayers that the blessing of Almighty God may accompany it.

If, through human infirmity, these pages contain any erroneous sentiments, he earnestly prays that his readers may be saved from adopting them; but if, as he trusts, they are in harmony with the word of truth, he ventures to hope that what he has written may tend to their edification and comfort.

On a subject of this kind, perfect unity of sentiment is not to be expected; but whatever may be the opinion of his readers on the views here advanced, the Author desires most truly and affectionately to say, "GRACE BE WITH ALL THEM THAT LOVE OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IN SINCERITY."

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.	
THE PROMISE OF A KINGDOM	PAGE 1
CHAPTER II.	
THE LOCALITY OF THE PROMISED KINGDOM	8
CHAPTER III.	
THE EVENTS WHICH SHALL USHER IN THE KING- DOM	16
CHAPTER IV.	
THE CONSTITUTION OF THE MILLENNIAL KING- DOM	30
CHAPTER V.	
THE EVENTS WHICH SHALL SEPARATE THE MIL- LENNIAL FROM THE EVERLASTING KINGDOM	47
CHAPTER VI.	
THE KINGDOM IN ITS EVERLASTING GLORY	57
CHAPTER VII.	
CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS — THE PROBABLE NEAR APPROACH OF THE KINGDOM	70
APPENDIX.	
THE PROPHETICAL BEARING OF RECENT GREAT EVENTS	81