

**ON THE NATURE AND  
CONSTITUTION OF THE  
PRESENT KINGDOM OF  
HEAVEN UPON EARTH**

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On the Nature and Constitution of the Present Kingdom of Heaven upon Earth by J. R. West

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NATURE AND CONSTITUTION  
OF THE PRESENT  
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN  
UPON EARTH.

"When Thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death, Thou didst  
open the Kingdom of Heaven to all Believers."

BY THE  
REV. J. R. WEST, M.A.,  
VICAR OF WEAVER.



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## PREFACE.

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If there be any such Society or Organization now existing upon Earth as *the Church of Christ or the Kingdom of Heaven*, it is plain at once that it must be of Divine Origin.

Because the very Title implies the existence of some special Organization, by means of which the Power of Heaven is exercised in some special manner ; so that all they who are living in this Church or Kingdom are brought into some special relationship to God.

And no one of us surely has the least power of his own to place himself in any such special relationship to God.

No one has the least power of his own to constitute any Church or to originate any Kingdom, whose members shall stand in some special relationship to God.

We can no more lift our own selves up above our natural state and place ourselves in some peculiar relationship to God, than we could move the world nearer to the sun.

A Church of CHRIST can be constituted only by the Power and the Authority of CHRIST Himself.

The Kingdom of Heaven can be constituted in this world only by means of some Divinely commissioned persons, whose Commission for such a supernatural work must be proved to the world by sufficient evidence.

It is indeed a common idea which very much prevails in our day, that any persons who have a zeal for God, may, if they please, form themselves into a New Religious Association, which they may call a New Branch of the Church of CHRIST. Some, perhaps, because they see some plain abuses or corruptions in the administration of the Church painfully existing around them, think themselves justified in separating themselves into a distinct Religious Body, and in endeavouring thus to institute a more holy Society, free from those abuses and corruptions.

Or else, perhaps, others, on the basis of some special interpretation of some portion of Holy Scripture which they firmly believe to be of supreme importance, and which, it may be,



has been for some time overlooked and put aside; constitute themselves a New Society of Believers, and so originate a New Brotherhood. And this New Association they call a Church, or a Branch of the Church; and they say, it is founded on the Authority of the Holy Scriptures.

Now, one fatal objection to this mode of proceeding which at once presents itself to our mind, must be this; that if this Church-making system be allowable, there is of course no limit to the divisions amongst Christians. All visible Unity of the Church on earth is by this system completely shattered to pieces.

Another fatal objection is, that there is not one single trace whatever of any such self-made Churches in the Holy Scriptures.

It must be indeed very certain, if the Church is the Kingdom of CHRIST upon earth, that it is just as impossible for any man or any company of men to originate a New Society, and then to attach that society to the Church of CHRIST, that is, to put it into the Kingdom of Heaven, as it would be for them to put a New Chapter into the Bible, or to put a New Star into the sky.

We must remember also that the Church was founded in the world, before one syllable of the New Testament had been written. The

Kingdom of Heaven was opened upon earth, before any of the Gospels or any of the Epistles had been composed.

The Authority to build the Church of the Living God was not derived from Holy Scripture, for this very obvious reason, that the Holy Scriptures of the New Testament did not then exist.

The Twelve Apostles of the SON of GOD were the Founders of the Kingdom of CHRIST upon earth. They laid the Twelve foundation stones of the City of the Living God, the New Jerusalem. And their Authority for this super-human work was given them by the Incarnate SON of GOD Himself.

He Himself had said: "I will build My Church." And this Word of His Sovereign Will He began to fulfil in His own Person, before He ascended to His Throne in Heaven. He began to lay the foundations of His Church in His own lifetime; by choosing Twelve Disciples to be with Him, that He might train them specially for their future work; fitting them to become His wise Master-builders.

As soon as ever He rose from the dead in His spiritual Body, He went on with the work; remaining on earth for forty days to give further instructions to His Apostles. He began at once the very first day of His Resurrection,

to give Power and Authority to the Apostles. He began at once the Work of the New Creation by breathing on the Apostolic Body the Breath of the New Creation. Before that, indeed, they had been formed into One Body; but only as Adam was formed, before the Creator breathed into his body the Breath of Life. But then receiving from the New Creator, the HOLY GHOST, the Giver of Life, they began to be a New Living Organization. And on the Day of Pentecost they were taken into the Fulness of the Divine Organization of the Incarnate Lord. Then they were made to be mighty Instruments of the HOLY GHOST, for the beginning of a New Creation; for then, by their Ministry, men below began to be made Members of the Second Adam, and so to enter into the New Kingdom of God Incarnate, by a New Birth of Water and of the HOLY GHOST.

The Church of the Living God, which is now "the Mother of us all," the True Eve, thus began her actual existence, on the Day of Pentecost. That Divinely fore-ordained Holy Day was our Mother's Birthday. Then the glorious Bride of the SON of God began to be constituted. Then the New Jerusalem began to come down out of Heaven, having the Presence of God in her, and began to be built upon earth on the foundation of the Twelve