

There's a memorable moment in the movie "Frozen", where King Agnarr, the King of Arendelle, brings her injured daughter Anna, to a weird little cove full of rocks in specific formation. When the King shows up, a bunch of trolls, disguised as the rocks, come out of hiding because they recognize the King's presence! They come to the aide of King Agnarr and Anna.

The Kingship of Jesus Christ causes people to come out of hiding! People hide behind a lot of things- grief, mourning, addiction, Church hurt, selfishness, greed, depression, anxiety, insanity, evil, religion, hatred, bitterness, unforgiveness, violence, blind optimism, and more! But when Jesus shows up, everyone's true colors shine through! He exposes everything in us! He either draws us to Him or detracts us from Him because of how perfect and amazing He is!

Towards the end of His time on earth, Jesus showed up as a King in Jerusalem. People came out of hiding to show who they were. They call this scene "The Triumphal Entry". It's why the global Church all over the world celebrates "Palm Sunday", and some people even wave around palm fronds in the air to commemorate Jesus' Kingly entrance into Jerusalem two millennia ago.

With all that in mind, we dig into the account of the triumphal entry from Luke 19:28-35:

28b (Jesus) went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. 29 As he approached Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples 30 and said, "Go into the village ahead of you. As you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. 31 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say this: 'The Lord needs it.'" 32 So those who were sent left and found it just as he had told them. 33 As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" 34 "The Lord needs it," they said. 35 Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their clothes on the colt, they helped Jesus get on it. (Luke 19:28b-35)

To give a little context, Jesus was "going up to Jerusalem" and making His final ascent to the holy city, which was located on a plateau in the Judaean Mountains. He was going uphill. Bethphage and Bethany were villages on the outskirts of Jerusalem. He came upon the "Mount of Olives", which was a location with prophetic connotations. In the book of Zechariah, the Mount of Olives (on the east side of Jerusalem) was identified as the place where God would take His stand in battle against those who had attacked His people (Zech 14:4).²

The disciples had to untie the animal, and if anyone asked what they were doing, they were simply to say that the Lord needed it. The cultural background for this response was the *angaria*, where a dignitary could procure use of property for personal reasons. This right extended to people like rabbis. So the request was not as unusual as it would seem to us in the twenty-first Century West.³

Really multiple images from the book of Zechariah were coming true here. Jesus' disciples put him on the donkey they got for him. This scene reflected Zechariah's image of the king triumphantly returning to Jerusalem from battle (Zech 9:9). This act had major messianic connotations, and many knew it: Jesus was riding into Jerusalem as the king of the Jews, in David's line (see 1 Kgs 1:33).⁴ Keep in mind that Jesus was genealogically descended from David. (Luke 3:31) However, the use of a "Solomonic-like," humble regal entrance should've blunted concerns that Jesus was a threat to Rome, since he neither seized power nor gave any indication that He was a King of power.⁵

¹ Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). Faithlife Study Bible (Lk 19:28). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

² Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). Faithlife Study Bible (Lk 19:29). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

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⁴ Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). Faithlife Study Bible (Lk 19:35). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

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Jesus didn't come on a Harley wielding a semi-automatic rifle. He didn't come on a chariot wearing a golden robe. He didn't come rolling into Jerusalem in the first century equivalent of a Jaguar convertible. He came on a donkey. If this woulda been modern days, he woulda been rollin into Jerusalem in a Honda Civic or a Pinto.

I love the song "Poorest King" by Marty Reardon. Which talks about Jesus and says;

This is my song to the poorest king who ever lived Though He did nothing wrong They took his crown and cast him down But little did they know that was meant to Be so we might be with him again

To see him as he is Without a veil between Face to face again for all eternity

So I bend my knees to the poorest king who ever lived I've tasted and I've seen
This wealth is beyond what man can give
So now my heart can sing for my heart has found
What can't be bought
Communion with him

Jesus wasn't some power flexin, bougie sneaker wearin, Versace toutin, Tesla drivin, pretentious King. No! He was the Son of God! And existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death— even to death on a cross. For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow— in heaven and on earth and under the earth— and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father! (Phil 2:6-11)

The disciples did just as Jesus had instructed them, and everything happened as He said it would. This sense of knowing the future added to the mood of the passage. The events about to happen in Jerusalem were not surprises for Jesus! He knew exactly what he was riding into. In effect, Jesus was directing the sequence of events that led to his death.⁶

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And not only did Jesus know everything that was going to go down during His earthly life and exactly how it was gonna play out, but He also holds the keys to your destiny and your future in His hands! He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end! He sits at the right hand of God the Father and sits outside of time!

So when we're freaking out and stressing about the crazy decisions that people are making around us, and the unfair things that are happening to us, we can take heart, because in Christ we may have peace! We will have suffering in this world, but we can be courageous! Jesus has conquered the world!" (John 16:33) *WE... MUST... CLING... TO... ETERNITY!* At *ALL* times! It's the thing that will keep us going through this life! Knowing that our King of Kings and Lord of Lords holds everything in His hands! And He has our backs! It's time to come out of hiding and come to Him! It's time to uncover the hidden parts of our lives that we think we can hide from Him and realize that He sees them already, and wants dominion and leadership over them! "He views the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens. His eyes are on the ways of mortals; he sees our every step. Our ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all our paths." (Job 28:24; 34:21; Proverbs 5:21)

And we'll see that many came out of hiding and had the deeds of their hearts fully exposed when Jesus showed up in Jerusalem!

36 As (Jesus) was going along, they were spreading their clothes on the road. **37** Now he came near the path down the Mount of Olives, and the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles they had seen: **38**

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven!

39 Some of the Pharisees from the crowd told him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." **40** He answered, "I tell you, if they were to keep silent, the stones would cry out." (Luke 19:28-40)

Let's get a little context here. The people spreading their clothes on the road for Jesus as He entered Jerusalem were likely Galilean peasants who followed Jesus to Jerusalem, as opposed to residents of the city of Jerusalem itself.⁷ They were spreading out their clothes as an act of homage. In 2 Kgs 9:13 the people performed this same

⁷ Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). <u>Faithlife Study Bible</u> (Lk 19:36). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

action when announcing Jehu as the new king of Israel.⁸ This was a lot like how a red carpet functions today.⁹

Luke lacked any mention of palm branches, possibly because, being a Gentile writer for a Gentile audience, this imagery was decidedly Jewish and complex. Normally one expected the waving of branches at the Feast of Tabernacles, but this was the Passover. Tabernacles looked forward to the end times, while Passover pictured both the sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins and the final deliverance. This combination was instructive, because Jesus brought both apocalyptic and salvific elements together!¹⁰

To make chocolate milk mix, you gotta mix the bitterness of cocoa powder, and the sweetness of sugar into one mixture, and then it's legit to be used for chocolate milk! Just a bunch of sugar put into milk would just create a dental disaster in your mouth! Just a bunch of cocoa powder would be all clumpy, chalky and bitter to the taste!

Jesus's Kingship gives us the sweet sugary taste of salvation, freedom, hope, love, forgiveness, mercy, kindness, and joy! He ushered in an era where all sorts of messed up people would be invited to the banquet of God's grace, free of charge!

But Jesus's Kingship also gives us the potent, bitter punch of cocoa powder! He brought prophetic challenge, conviction, holiness, righteousness, justice, expelling of hypocrisy, and obedience to the most High God with all that He was! He was and is the perfect embodiment of love and truth! He wraps His loving arms of invitation and forgiveness around us while simultaneously challenging all the sin and unrighteousness out of us!

As Jesus passed the Mount of Olives, the disciples started to praise God for the miracles Jesus had performed. The mention of this mountain (another detail unique to Luke) added to the messianic feel of the event, since it was the predicted locale of the Messiah's appearance (Zech. 14:4 - 5). 11 Jesus sure didn't leave anything outta place, did He? He had it all mapped out!

Now notice, it doesn't say that the crowds praised Jesus. Luke's explicit mention of disciples as the source of praise was very important, because they formed the catalyst for the praise from the crowds the other Gospels noted. This detail brought light to how a few days later the same crowd could urge that Jesus be crucified! Their praise of

⁸ Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). Faithlife Study Bible (Lk 19:36). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

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¹⁰ NIV Application Commentary Copyright © 1996 by Darrel L. Bock.

¹¹ NIV Application Commentary Copyright © 1996 by Darrel L. Bock.

Jesus was lukewarm and followed the lead of other, more sincere followers. Both then and today, the popular masses always fluctuate in their understanding of Jesus.¹²

Unlike the crowds and masses, disciples of Jesus always lead the way in any situation and in any culture of Christ followers. Followers imitate what everyone else is doing, leaders lead the way. Christ wants to raise up leaders who lead others towards Him!

These disciples were praising God and His Son Jesus, and quoting Psalm 118:26;13

²⁶ He who comes in the name of the Lord is blessed. From the house of the Lord we bless you. (Ps 118:26)

So the disciples were leading the way in the situation, with Jesus totally at the center of it all. Religionists had come out of hiding to respond to Jesus as well, but their response was in stark contrast to the response of the disciples!

Contrary to the excitement of the disciples and the crowds, Some of the Pharisees in the scene laid into Jesus, asking Him to "rebuke His disciples". This is what they would've done if everyone were lauding them like that, cause it would've been the seemingly humble thing to do. Even John, decades later, while having heavenly visions on the prison island of Patmos, fell at the feet of an angelic being to worship him, but the angel said to John, "Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers and sisters who hold firmly to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God, because the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." (Rev. 19:10) All of us who know and love the Lord wouldn't want a crowd of people lauding us like they were lauding Jesus.

Jesus was the only King ever on earth worthy of this kind of praise! Why? Because He was truly the Son of God! All up until this point, Jesus had lived a sinless life in perfect obedience to the Father, saved many lives, and done many miracles, proving that He was, in fact, the one and only Son of God! The Pharisees who didn't believe it were pissed off and in denial of who He was.

These religious leaders surely recognized the symbolism of Jesus' manner of arrival, as well as the messianic overtones in the cries of the crowd. Also, they might have feared that shouts of praise to the King (v. 38) would incite a violent response from the Romans, as it could have been viewed as anti-imperial. But either way, the religious

¹² NIV Application Commentary Copyright © 1996 by Darrel L. Bock.

¹³ Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). <u>Faithlife Study Bible</u> (Lk 19:38). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

¹⁴ Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). <u>Faithlife Study Bible</u> (Lk 19:39). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

elites were rejecting this lowly King on a donkey, and would've done anything to shut Him down!

Jesus replied powerfully to these religious kats, "I tell you, if these people were to keep silent, the stones would cry out!" Jesus was alluding to Hab 2:11, and I'm sure these Pharisees had it disdainfully ringing in their minds as Jesus uttered His words.

⁹ Woe to him who dishonestly makes wealth for his house to place his nest on high, to escape the grasp of disaster!

¹⁰ You have planned shame for your house by wiping out many peoples and sinning against your own self.

¹¹ For the stones will cry out from the wall, and the rafters will answer them from the woodwork. (Hab 2:9–11)

Much to their dismay, His reply to the Pharisees accepted the people's praises as appropriate, implying that He truly was Israel's King who came in the name of Yahweh.¹⁵ The religious folks came out of hiding to show their distaste and hatred towards God's Only Son.

Jesus' reply made clear how appropriate the remarks are: If the disciples did not speak, creation would! This remark was important, for creation speaks when an injustice needs to be avenged (see Gen. 4:10; Hab. 2:11; James 5:4). It also contains an inherent rebuke. Inanimate creation knew more about what was taking place than they did. 16 Jesus was essentially telling them that the rocks on the ground knew more about God than they! He was saying, in effect, "Sure- tell them to be quiet, and be all grumpy about what's happening here, but these rocks know who I am, they were created by the Creator God and me, and if you try to silence people these little lifeless, heartless, soulless rocks will make sure to recognize me!"

With the release of the self titled album "Run-D.M.C." (1984), Run-DMC became the first hip hop group to achieve a Gold record. Self titled "Run-D.M.C." was followed with the certified Platinum record "King of Rock" (1985), making Run-DMC the first hip hop

¹⁵ Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). <u>Faithlife Study Bible</u> (Lk 19:40). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

¹⁶ NIV Application Commentary Copyright © 1996 by Darrel L. Bock.

group to go platinum. "Raising Hell" (1986) became the first multi-platinum hip hop record.¹⁷

When Run-DMC hit the road and went on tour after becoming a mega-group, they had die hard hip hop fans that followed their music and went to see them live. These folks were authentics that lived the life on the streets that Run DMC was rapping about. There were undeniably many people who followed Run DMC's music and saw them live who knew nothing about the life from Hollis Queens that Run DMC lived and spat bars about, and may have been fickle or fair weather fans of Run DMC and hip hop in general. There were also plenty of haters out there that were saying, all along, that hip hop wasn't real music. It was a fad that would die out. Little did they know that the fire that Run DMC started would lead hip hop to be the most internationally popular music today!

There were three types of folk present in this scene with Jesus showing Himself as King: Haters, Posers, and Authentics! The haters were trying to shut Jesus down and get everyone to reject Him. They thought that His messiah-ship was a fad! Boy, were they wrong! There were posers, the crowds, that were there as well, just going along with whatever seemed hip at the moment. They were the ones who would be praising Jesus during the triumphal entry, then yelling "crucify Him" during His trial! The Authentics, the disciples, were leading the way in praising Jesus! They were worshiping without caring who was looking! They were in the Word of God! They were seeking the Lord by prayer! They were reaching out to other people and introducing them to Jesus! They were willing to sacrifice things to follow Jesus!

What are you? Are you a hater? Are you against Jesus? Are you against Jesus's people? Are you a poser? Do you just go along with what the crowd says all the time and change your mind based on who you're around? Are you quick to give lip service to Jesus on a Sunday but then get high and drunk on a Friday and talk smack about Christianity and God's people?

Or are you an authentic disciple? Do you chase Jesus? Do you adore Jesus? Do you worship Him? Do you love Him? Do you praise His Name in the good and the bad? Do you lift Him up in the easy and the difficult? Do you share who He is even when it jacks with your rep? Do you stand up and stand on His Word even when it's detrimental to you? There's a difference between the way religious haters, crowd following posers, and authentic disciples respond to Jesus! Ask Jesus to lead you out of hiding, reveal who you really are, and help you move towards becoming an authentic disciple!

¹⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Run-DMC

The gospel of John has an important addition to this narrative that I have to mention;

17 Meanwhile, the crowd, which had been with (Jesus) when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead, continued to testify. **18** This is also why the crowd met him, because they heard he had done this sign. **19** Then the Pharisees said to one another, "You see? You've accomplished nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!" (John 12:17-19)

The mass reception of Jesus made the plans of the Pharisees impossible. Many who were in Jerusalem were spreading word about how Jesus had just recently raised Lazarus from the dead, authenticating His divine authority. The Pharisees "were looking for some sly way to arrest Jesus and kill Him. 'But not during the Feast,' they said, 'or the people may riot' " (Mark 14:1–2). Pessimistically they acknowledged, The whole world had gone after Him. Irony was again evident, for most of the people in the crowd weren't really disciples and did not really believe in Jesus.¹⁸ There were plenty of posers and haters who had come out of hiding in Jerusalem, and a handful of authentic disciples who never wanted to hide.

And not long after, to seal the deal of the religionists' hatred towards Him, Jesus wasted no time in busting into the Jerusalem temple to make a bold public statement!

45 He went into the temple and began to throw out those who were selling, **46** and he said, "It is written, my house will be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves!" **47** Every day he was teaching in the temple. The chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people were looking for a way to kill him, **48** but they could not find a way to do it, because all the people were captivated by what they heard.; (Luke 19:45-48)

Here's some more context to help us understand what was happening in the temple here.

The vendors in the temple were likely selling animals, wine, oil, salt, and doves (John 2:14; Mishnah, Seqalim 1:3; 2:4)¹⁹ designated for sacrifice. To be fit for sacrifice, an animal had to be free from illness and physical defect (e.g., Lev 1:3; Mal 1:8). Many people preferred to purchase the animal inside the temple courts—especially during pilgrimage festivals, when thousands of people were around.

Later rabbinic traditions showed that Jesus' contemporaries argued over the propriety of acquiring an animal in this way (y. Beza 20a—b). Jesus' expulsion of buyers and sellers

¹⁸ Blum, E. A. (1985). <u>John</u>. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures (Vol. 2, p. 317). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

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may have signaled His alignment in this debate. His action may also have been inspired by the prophet Zechariah's pronouncement that "there shall no longer be traders in the house of the Lord of hosts" on the day God's global sovereignty came into effect (Zech 14:21).²⁰

In addition money was changed from Roman currency to the required Hebrew shekels in accordance with the law (Ex. 30:11 - 14). Monetary exchange was necessary because all contributions made at the temple had to be rendered in a uniform currency (the Tyrian shekel).²¹ This exchange had a built-in surcharge, some of which probably went to the high priest's family. In Jesus' view, the temple had rightly become an excessively commercial enterprise, not a place of worship and prayer.²²

So Jesus, true to form, quoted the prophets that the religious folks present should have known and heeded. Both paraphrasing and going for the jugular, Jesus, after flipping some tables and tossing folks out of the temple, boldly exclaimed; "It is written, my house will be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves!" He was combining Isaiah 56:7 and Jeremiah 7:9-11 into one poignant statement;

⁷ I will bring them to my holy mountain and let them rejoice in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be acceptable on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations." (Is 56:7)

⁹ "'Do you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and follow other gods that you have not known? ¹⁰ Then do you come and stand before me in this house that bears my name and say, "We are rescued, so we can continue doing all these detestable acts"? ¹¹ Has this house, which bears my name, become a den of robbers in your view? Yes, I too have seen it. This is the Lord's declaration. (Je 7:9–11)

Jesus was exposing the hypocrisy of the dominant religious system of His time. This definitely brought plenty of heat on the Son of God and Son of Man! Several factors also likely contributed to the religious leaders' desire to kill Jesus: They viewed Him as a messianic pretender and a blasphemer, they lost control of the masses due to His

²⁰ Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). <u>Faithlife Study Bible</u> (Mk 11:15). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

²¹ Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). Faithlife Study Bible (Mk 11:15). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

²² NIV Application Commentary Copyright © 1996 by Darrel L. Bock.

popularity, and they feared that civil unrest during the Passover festival would lead to violent reprisals from Rome.

Josephus, a first-century Jewish historian, recorded a number of riots that occurred during festivals in Jerusalem. As peasants from outlying regions (like Galilee) filled the city for the religious holiday, they often protested their perceived mistreatment at the hands of wealthy urbanites. The Romans often responded by violently quelling these demonstrations, resulting in many deaths.²³

But overall, Jesus's cleansing of the temple indicated how great the gap was between the worship Jesus called for and what went on in the temple.²⁴ It penetratingly indicated what kind of prophetic King Jesus truly was!

This should bring all sorts of questions into our minds! How great is the gap between what goes on in our worship versus the worship Jesus calls for? How does Jesus feel about the Christian Music Industry? The Worship Industry? The "Evangelical Industrial Complex" and Church Growth movements? Where's the line? What's taking it too far?

Should people be using their faith in Jesus to profit wildly off of people? Should pastors have net worths in the millions? There's a handful that do! What would Jesus have to say to them?

Again I think it comes back to what those millions are used for! I just don't see enough "camels through the eyes of needles", but I'd sure love it if more rich Christians in general just did radically crazy stuff with their money, decided to live a middle class life, and just gave an insane amount away to build the Kingdom of God and meet tangible global needs!

The dictionary defines a "channel" as a medium for communication or the passage of information.²⁵ The dictionary also defines a "dead end" as an end of a road or passage from which no exit is possible.²⁶

When it comes to God's money and resources, we can either avail ourselves as channels, or stubbornly decide ahead of time to be dead ends. Great intentionality and accountability is needed to become a channel! The money and resources can dead end with us and be spent on toys, clothes, properties, vehicles, food, pleasures,

²³ Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). <u>Faithlife Study Bible</u> (Lk 19:47). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

²⁴ NIV Application Commentary Copyright © 1996 by Darrel L. Bock.

²⁵ <u>https://languages.oup.com/google-dictionary-en/</u>

²⁶ https://languages.oup.com/google-dictionary-en/

experiences, and vacations. The money and resources can channel through us from God and into African wells for the thirsty, urban renewal projects, gospel efforts, bettering the lives of the fatherless and motherless, helping to eradicate poverty and more. We shouldn't be asking whether Jesus would flip over the tables in some megachurches and pastors offices. That's a cop out. we should be asking if Jesus would flip over the tables of our lives!

And all in all, we need to come out of hiding. We need to repent of being a hater of Jesus and His people. We need to get out of the shallow end of the pool and stop being religious posers. We've got to seek and see what it really means to be authentic disciples of Jesus! He's a worthy King! He died to forgive us of all our sins, past, present and future, and give us a clean slate in the sight of eternity so that we could live our earthly lives underneath His loving, truthful, merciful, holy, forgiving, just, joyful, powerful Kingship!