

# The King's Highway

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## Our Missionaries Speak



### WHAT GOD THOUGHT

### ABOUT MISSIONS

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Ever since the tragedy in Eden, God's program has been essentially missionary centered. It has been a mission of redemption. The essence of God's thinking is revealed in that wonderful missionary prophetic verse in Genesis 3:15. The ultimate towards which God's thoughts projected is outlined here. The deep purposes of His redemptive mind are set forth with clarity and strength. They point directly to Calvary. Though centuries of preparatory work were to intervene, God would never once deviate from the great missionary program which His mind had conceived for the redemption of mankind. And every step along the way down through those long centuries would be a step, an act, motivated by that single missionary purpose to which God had with infinite purpose committed Himself. And every act would be a necessary step toward completing the preparation for the stupendously sacrificial deed of redemption first referred to in Gen. 3:15 and brought to a soul-saving conclusion on Golgotha's brow. There the heel of the Seed of the woman was bruised, and there the head of the Serpent's seed was forever crushed.

All through the Word God has revealed His thoughts, His attitude toward Missions. The germ of Missionary consecration is clearly evident in the beautiful account of Abram leaving home and friends to follow the call of God not knowing whither he went. The heart-warming story of Abraham and Isaac, father and son, unitedly entering into that noble, sacrificial service on Mount Moriah illustrates and pictures to us what God saw in the distant future to be accomplished by Himself in co-operation with his own only begotten and Beloved Son as the climactic expression of His missionary disposition. The redemption of Israel from Egypt becomes fully meaningful when silhouetted against the background of God's missionary pur-

pose to redeem from the world a people for His name.

Ruth the Moabitess casts away her idols and passionately and reverently declares her allegiance to the God whom Naomi serves. Thus God shows His willingness to accept the outcasts as His own. This is all the more forcibly impressed by the fact that God was pleased to bring this heathen girl from Moab into the lineage of the ancestry of our Lord. Isaiah gets a glimpse of God in his holiness and discovers that God's heart is essentially missionary in essence. As he lines himself up with the heartbeat of God he is constrained to cry out in deep consecration "Lord, here am I, send me." Jonah, unwilling to be God's missionary to Ninevah, brought upon himself God's displeasure and wrath, and earned for himself a namesake in every one who causes misfortune and disaster. God closes out His Old Testament revelations with a missionary promise, "Behold I will send you Elijah the prophet . . ."

And so through pictures, symbols, types, illustrations, examples and prophecies the stage is carefully set for God to bring to fruition the thoughts which have wholly entertained his mind through ages of preparation. Thus in the fullness of time God sent forth His Son. God the Father, and God the Son harmoniously co-operated in this unspeakably costly missionary enterprise that was to cost Heaven its most precious Jewel and reduce Him to the very limits of sacrificial possibilities. God the Father's heart was never more clearly and passionately revealed in its true nature than when He gave His only begotten Son to be born of a woman, take upon Himself the form of man and carry in His own body on the tree the curse of man's sin. God the Son's missionary heart was laid open for the world to marvel at when He yielded Himself up to the excruciating agonies of His redemptive act and submissively prayed "not my will but thine be done."

Yes, this was, and still is, the trend of God's thinking about Missions. And because it is, I, like Ruth of Moab, have attached myself to the great host of already redeemed and with a full heart have acclaimed "Thy God shall be my God . . ." Yea, and because God's thoughts are what they are about missions, multitudes on the mission fields of the world are daily casting aside their idolatrous superstitions, and with voices choked with glad emotion firmly declare, "Thy God shall be my God . . ." Aren't you glad it is so!

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## EASTER OFFERING

FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS

SUNDAY APRIL 16

"Let Us Give That They May Live"