

Christ the King (Sometimes God Allows Good Things to be Lost for a Time)

"The Lamb that was slain is worthy to receive power and divinity and wisdom and strength and honor; to Him be glory and empire for ever and ever." Introit

"Almighty and everlasting God, Who in Thy Son, the King of the whole world, hast willed to restore all things, mercifully grant that all the families of nations now kept apart by the wound of sin, may be brought under the sweet yoke of His rule..." Collect

"He shall rule from sea to sea... all kings shall adore Him, all nations shall serve Him..." Gradual

1. Sometimes God allows beautiful and sacred things to be lost or even stolen for a time... Note the phrase... FOR A TIME. And then, amazingly, contrary to all expectation, they are recovered to the glory of God! ...and the wonder of man.
2. Consider a few examples. Joseph was lost to Jacob for a time, but was found some years later to be alive and well... even to have become the second highest in the kingdom of Egypt. / The holy man Job lost all he had, everything but his life and his wife. And yet he gained all back again and more, such that the Scriptures say: "the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning" (42:12). / The Ark of the Covenant was lost, captured by the Philistines for a time. They tried to do with it what they would, but could not. It could only be returned to its proper owner, the chosen people of God. At the time of the destruction of Solomon's Temple, this same Ark was lost again, this time in a cave on Mount Nebo ... it is prophesied to surface again some point near the end of time, and the Jewish race, seemingly completely lost to God, will come back to their Lord and Master, His Majesty, Jesus Christ the King.
3. The Law of Moses was lost for generations until found in a hiding place in the wall of the Temple under King Josias. / During the Exile, the sacred fire was seemingly lost but it came back miraculously as we read in the first chapter of the Second book of Maccabees. / Lazarus was lost in death to Martha and Mary Magdalen, but was brought back after rotting in the tomb for four days. / Our Lord was seemingly lost to Our Lady and all mankind in His death on the Cross, and yet He came back all the better for it.

4. There are also many examples in the lives of the Saints. The most precious relic of the Holy Cross was lost but recovered by St. Helena. It was lost again, being captured by the Persians, but once again brought back. / The sword of Charles Martel was found by St. Joan of Arc, buried under the sanctuary of a church. / St. Margaret of Cortona has lost her maidenhood... her virginity, but Christ Himself came to her, saying she would occupy a place in the choir of virgins. / The suffering soul, St. Lydwine lost all her womanly beauty while still young. Her body literally fell apart for years...without dying. After some 38 years of this, she finally died... and her rotting body returned to become what looked to be a lovely 17 year old beauty. / Recently, it seemed the Traditional Latin Mass was lost ...sent into captivity, but it was restored to its immovable place in the Latin Rite on the Feast of the Triumph of the Holy Cross, 2007.
5. The list is long and I could easily go on...but you see the pattern. God allows Sacred and Precious treasures to be lost for a time... but somehow He brings them back! Often in a wonderful way with wonderful results! This simple pattern presents to us important messages for today's feast of Christ the King and our times. A message of undying Hope!
6. Is not Christendom a precious, sacred and desirable thing. It is the Kingdom of Christ... nations united under Christ, recognizing Him as their one true King and Head, Supreme Lawgiver and Judge, and the Pope as His Vicar on Earth. And this treasure has all but been lost, and the papacy is now almost gone too. There are only a few small remnants of Christendom left in the West... Russia has spread her errors and the State has risen up to dominate the Church nearly everywhere. Yet, at its height, nearly everyone in Christendom related everything of their daily lives to God... everything they did had some connection to their faith. Now we have forgotten God. Christendom seems to be no more! We cannot pray in public, ring bells, speak of God...etc... But wait, according to the pattern, it will come back. And it will be glorious!
7. Again, as we proclaim on this feast, Christ is indeed the King, and this in itself, apart from Christendom, is a sacred and wonderful thing. It is an awesome thing. And again His Sacred Kingship seems all but completely lost. We are like Pilate asking: "Are you a king?" The majesty, splendor, and nobility of the papacy and the Church have gone with it. Have

confidence... according to the Pattern... it will be recovered! All nations, willy nilly, shall recognize Him as their Lord and King. "He shall rule from sea to sea... all kings shall adore Him, all nations shall serve Him..."

8. Again, returning to the precious and sacred things that were lost of old but yet recovered, we need to ask: when they were recovered, what happened? Wonders... many many wonders. Joseph of old saved all the nations about him from starvation, reunited his family, and became an amazing instrument of God for good. The whole world was going to Joseph. *Ite ad Joseph!* What does this teach us?? Some great unity surely awaits us in future... One flock, one shepherd... a great pope, a great king.
9. As we heard earlier, all that Job lost was recovered and more. His family was restored and all his goods. What does this say to us now?? That which is beautiful and dear to us... our sacred Liturgy, our sacred Architecture, even our sacred buildings like the Saint Sophia in Istanbul... will somehow be restored to their rightful use in serving His Majesty, the Son of God, Christ the King.
10. Under King Josias, many places of idolatry were destroyed. The Liturgy was renewed and much unity was found under the recovered Law. This indicates that the old ways of discipline and practices used for so many hundreds of years in the Holy Catholic Church will be recovered... and renewed. False religions will fail...idols destroyed. (It is interesting that down in Quito, Ecuador, the Miraculous Statue of Our Lady of Good Success originally had a beautiful Child Jesus but it was lost when one of the Sisters hid it to protect it from a revolution. But afterwards they could not discover its location... yet, it will be found... and its finding will be like the Law under Josias... a sign of great things to come).
11. Of old, Charles Martel drove out the Muslims from France... Shortly after finding his sword in a church, St. Joan of Arc blazed a path to Rheims for the rightful king of France be crowned in the Cathedral. Not long after, all the invaders of France were driven out... Have confidence! this same pattern will reoccur... it will happen again. The Muslims will be driven from France. Christ will be king!
12. As for body of St. Lydwine, with its stupendous transformation, everyone around her realized the goodness of vicarious suffering... people saw in her what their sins do to God's Holy Church. No less than three

authorities, one of whom was Thomas A Kempis, wrote biographies on her. She has a well established life. She stands as a clear sign of the restoration God will work at the Resurrection from the dead. For those that are good and suffer this present trial for the Love of God, their bodies will arise and be made whole again. She also shows in her body the spotless Bride the Christ, the Church.

13. To see how such restorations and recoveries are possible, we need to ask, what did it take to recover the sacred and beautiful things we mentioned above?? In the case of Joseph, years of famine. / Job had to endure long trials, live on a dung hill with people who were supposed to be his friends. / Plagues were required to get the Ark back. / The Law was found after efforts were made to restore the Temple. / The world needs to suffer the major chastisement of the end times before the Ark can be found again. / It took an exile to bring back the sacred fire. / Wars were required to recover the Holy Cross. / St. Margaret of Cortona embraced many difficult and harsh penances to recover her virginity. / St. Lydwine lived on her bed of pain for 38 years to become a beauty beyond telling after death. The pattern is clear, no??
14. The Kingdom of Christ is seemingly lost now. The King is not honored or obeyed. Yet, these will be recovered in a way beyond telling... with many wonders following (unless you follow the modern liturgy which puts the Kingship of Christ at the end of the liturgical year... indicating that it will only really come about the end). Be confident. We are going to win. The restoration will happen. But the price as we have seen is not cheap. We have to endure trials... famine, plagues, wars, exiles... living on a dung heap, with unwelcome neighbors who should be our friends...
15. Perhaps we are suffering some personal or domestic trial, famine, plague or war. Feel like all is lost... Sometimes God allows beautiful and sacred things to be lost or even stolen for a time... Note the phrase... FOR A TIME. And then, amazingly, contrary to all expectation, they are recovered to the glory of God! And it is always wonderful to behold... but it always costs something... and by all accounts, it is always worth it.