

JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST

they and whom do they represent? They were the followers of Christ on earth, men still in the flesh. They represent all true followers of Christ on earth at the present time. They represent us insofar as we are worthy to be represented by them. But someone may say that if this is a portrait of the Kingdom of Heaven, men and women still in the flesh should not be represented in it. The objection arises from a limited conception of what the Kingdom of Heaven is. Christ said to His followers, "The Kingdom is within you." As soon as a man or woman has really found salvation in Christ by conversion, born again of water and of the Holy Spirit, that man or that woman is within the Kingdom of Heaven. True the followers of Christ while still on earth are only in the outer courts of the Kingdom of Heaven; the inner courts will not be reached until, like Moses and Elijah, we enter into the future life. "Now are we the sons of God and it doth not yet appear what we shall be."

Perhaps this can best be explained by an illustration from nature. We have all seen the beautiful moth or butterfly, its wings exquisitely mottled and exactly symmetrical—one of the most perfect works of nature. But the butterfly was not always beautiful. There was a time in its existence when it was in the larva stage, resembling an ugly grub or snail, as it lay in the dust. But there, confined in its earthly shell, it was slowly developing its wings until one day when