

highly perfumed. The use of oil in designating a man to the office of priest or king is also very old. On the monuments of Egypt two of the gods are represented as pouring oil on the head of their high priest, after he has been invested with his robes and the official cap has been placed upon his head. Amongst the Hebrews, the anointing not only designated and set apart officially the king elect, but symbolized the divine Spirit who was poured upon him on this occasion, to fit him for the work of the office on which he was entering. The oil for this

purpose was made of olive oil, pure myrrh, cinnamon, cassia, and the root of the sweet cane, and its unauthorized compounding was forbidden. The king of Great Britain is still anointed at his coronation, by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The custom is a relic of the time when the earthly sovereign was but the mouthpiece for God the real King. It was the anointing oil which gave a sacred character to the king, and caused any violence to the Lord's anointed to be accounted sacrilegious. It established a sacramental fellowship between God and the anointed person.

### APPLICATION

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*How long wilt thou mourn?* v. 1. Too much sorrow is a sign of lack of faith in God. Christians "sorrow not, even as the rest, which have no hope". There are, here and there, some people so ignorant and timid, so distrustful of all the business institutions of the country, that they will not put their money in a savings bank. They think that when the coin leaves their possession they have lost it. And other ignorant and fearful people, who have no confidence in the divine management of the universe, think that when their friends leave their sight they are gone forever. But those who know the love of God for men know, that, even as Jesus died and yet lived on, so shall all who trust God likewise gloriously conquer death.

*A king among his sons*, v. 1. There are future kings in many Sunday School classes to-day. The men who shall exert noble power in the next generation are training for their royal duties now. Perhaps nobody, when they were boys, would have picked out William Ewart Gladstone, one of Britain's most famous prime ministers, or William Booth, the head of the Salvation Army, or Dr. James Robertson, the apostle of our Western missions, or George Leslie Mackay, the fiery herald of the cross in Formosa, as leaders in the great battle of life. Yet they were princely boys, or they never would have become kingly men. No one spends his boyhood in trifling, and then leaps into a wise, strong, brave and skilful manhood. "The boy is father of the

man." What boy in this class is getting ready to be a king? Which of the girls is going to be a queen?

*Comest thou peaceably?* v. 4. The Oriental salutation, "Peace!" points back to times of constant danger, when every approaching traveler might prove to be a foe.

*Never Outworn* In like fashion, the Chinese greeting, "Have you eaten rice to-day?" marks a country where famine is always imminent. Our own is "How do you do?" showing that we, being without fear of more violent evils, make our health the uppermost concern. Thus a salutation is a key word to the condition of the society using it. But "Peace!" in its deeper sense is a greeting that is never outworn. For we live in a world full of threatening cares and anxieties. And, above all, sin is ever disturbing the quiet rest of our souls. What word can be sweeter than "Peace!" on the lips of One who, like Jesus, can not only wish us peace, but give it to us?

*Sanctify... sacrifice*, v. 5. There should be preparation for worship. No lady, about to be presented at court, drives from her shopping to the palace. She spends time and pains, that she may appear in a suitable court costume. Should there not be preparation, of a far deeper kind, for coming before God? Yet we often go to church or Sunday School as carelessly unprepared as if we were merely strolling from one room to another in a house. It is a great and holy privilege to join in the worship of the Most High, and we should bring

Gloriously  
Conquer

Kings and  
Queens in  
Training

An Audience  
with the King