

# *Building of the Palace*

Ancient history relates no more striking episode than the making of Palace Beautiful (Genesis 1:26-31). For this very reason there have always been, and probably always will be men who have doubted the truth of the record.

But wise men of all ages have agreed that the facts set forth in history concerning Palace Beautiful are true in every particular.

It is said that a great King was once on earth who determined to build for Himself, at a certain place, a palace (1 Corinthians 3:16, 17).

Now, you must know, this King was all-powerful, all-wise, all-good. So He summoned to appear before Him His architects, engineers, and builders generally, that He might lay before them His instructions and plans; which, when they learned, filled them all with infinite amazement. Such a palace had never before been dreamed of, and they cried one to the other in exceeding joy, "It is fearful and wonderful!"

In brief, the following were the instructions of the King: the foundations and walls of the palace

were to be of precious material. Concerning the plan thereof, it was the will of the King that this should be threefold; first, in the centre of the palace was to be the Citadel, made glorious within by needle-art such as embroidery and tapestry; second, there was to be the middle court enclosing the Citadel and running the whole circumference; third, there was to be the outer court, which was ordered to be builded immensely strong so that no foe should ever be able to break in.

The palace was in due course completed to the entire satisfaction of the King. Every part of the structure was minutely inspected by Him, and He graciously pronounced the whole to be very good. And in truth there was so much about it to delight the eye and gladden the heart, that it was named Palace Beautiful!

Soon afterward the King made known His desire to find a suitable keeper, and His choice fell upon a certain young man of great promise, comely in person, intelligent in mind, well-mannered and brave. Him the King quickly engaged to be the keeper of the palace, at a good wage and the promise of the royal bounty for faithful service.

Having settled this matter to His satisfaction, the King made known His will and pleasure to pay a long visit to another part of His dominions (Luke 19:13).

So He had the Keeper before Him that He might give him a Book containing certain instructions He would have faithfully observed during His absence.

“Guard My palace with all diligence,” said He, “as though it were a matter of life or death. Fear no foe from without, for no enemy can possibly effect an entrance from outside unless you decide to renounce your allegiance to Me and willfully admit them; but keep careful watch within (1 Thessalonians 5:23). Beware particularly of a certain Black Dwarf, who is not only cruel and bloodthirsty, but has skill as a sapper and miner above any in the universe. Beware, I say, for he is a traitor and hath power to so disguise himself that he is able to deceive any save Myself. Should he make his appearance (as is more than likely) in any part of the palace, hold no parley with him, but bid him begone in My name, for he will seek to make you captive.

“However, in order that you may be prepared for any eventuality, remember this: should you at any time need assistance, ascend to the watch-tower of the Citadel and there call earnestly—‘Help! Help!’ Immediately there will come to your aid a Mighty One who is the chief Lord in this part of My Kingdoms (Psalm 145:18, 19). He is swifter and stronger than the wind, and finds His greatest joy in fighting for the weak, cheering the downhearted, and comforting those who

mourn (Isaiah 65:24). None can withstand His power; therefore do not fail to call for Him should you find yourself in need.”

All this the young Keeper cheerfully promised to observe, and then asked if there was anything else that the King could assign him to do, in order that he might fully prove his diligence and faithfulness.

“Yes,” replied the King, “I would have the palace grounds planted with gardens that shall be renowned for their grace and beauty. Let there be beds of spices, and particularly set yourself to cultivate the rose and the lily in rich profusion, for of those sweet flowers I am exceedingly fond (Song of Solomon 6:2). Yet, I would have you attempt nothing beyond your capabilities. Remember, therefore, that any assistance you may need in guarding, maintaining, or beautifying the palace will be readily and joyfully forthcoming if only you make claim on the good offices of My chief Lord in these parts. And now, fare thee well. Occupy till I come!”

So with this parting command the King was gone, and Palace Beautiful was in charge of the young Keeper.

## *Invasion of the Palace*

It is pleasant to relate that for many months the Keeper of Palace Beautiful remained faithful to his great charge. Not only did he guard carefully the treasure of his Lord the King, but his attention to the gardens was most minute. With patient, loving skill he cultivated many rare specimens of the rose, and caused chaste, beautiful lilies to abound. All the paths were kept trim and neat, and not a single weed or thistle could be found.

So the seasons came and went; but though he lived in the daily expectation of the King's return, His coming was still unaccountably delayed.

At length, when to his superficial eye the grounds of the palace presented one unbroken vision of grace and loveliness, the Keeper persuaded himself that he might somewhat relax his activity and vigilance. He would spend just one day in innocent pleasure and rest.

So he securely fastened all the doors of the Citadel from the outside, and then wandered out