

Are the cunning of Hyena and the strength of his dogs any match for King Lion and his Son? Who will ultimately win control of the village of Perfect?

An allegory, not just of good versus evil, *Hyena, King Lion and the Prince* spans all of human and Church history, showing how God has worked in His Creation to redeem it from the schemes of Satan and the corruption of sin. Set in a rural African village, the riveting storyline and charming illustrations make this epic tale an instant classic for the whole family to enjoy.

Marc and Cynthia Carrier are missionaries serving in East Africa with their eight children. Marc's interest in teaching Kingdom Christian history and passion for missions work among storytelling cultures were the impetus for *Hyena, King Lion and the Prince*. Their life in East Africa also inspired the setting of the allegory. For more information about their mission, visit www.KingdomDriven.org or connect with the Carrier family at www.ValuesDrivenFamily.com.



Hyena, King Lion and the Prince

The Battle for Perfect



Marc and Cynthia Carrier



Hyena, King Lion
and
the Prince

The Battle for Perfect

Marc & Cynthia Carrier

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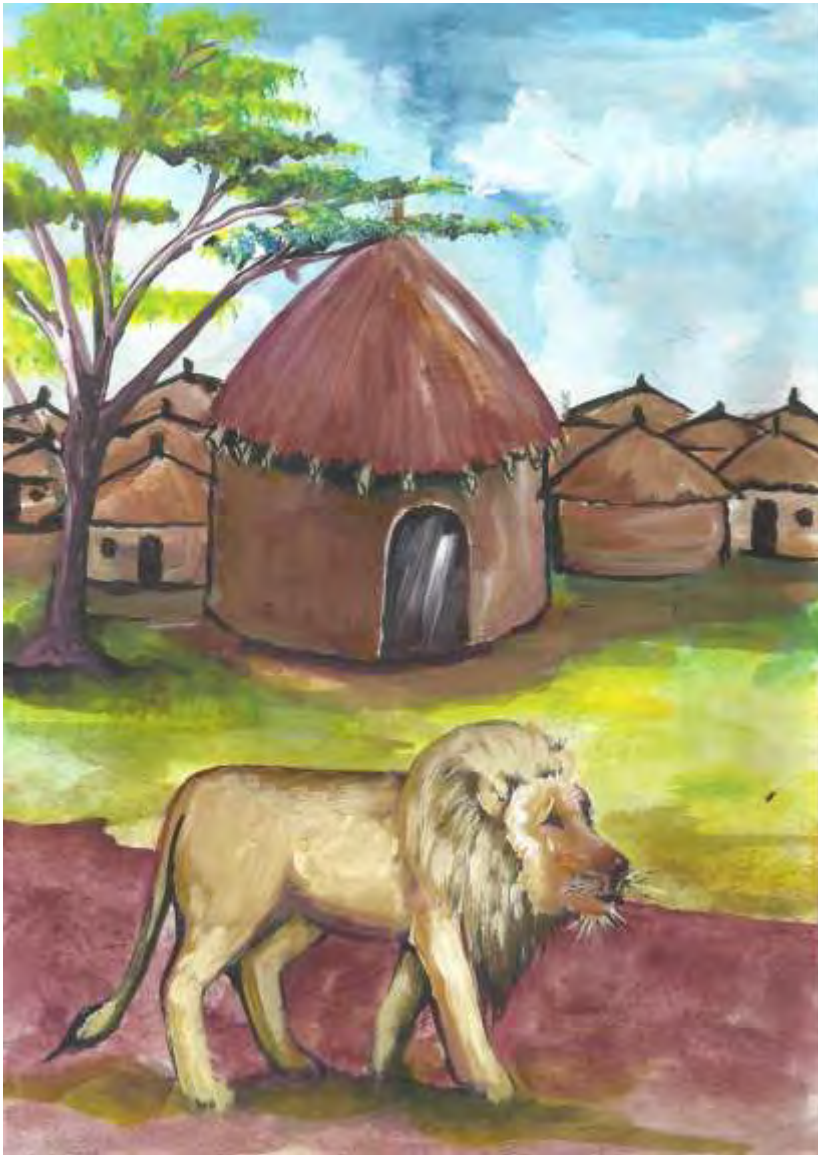
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The Establishment and Fall of the Kingdom

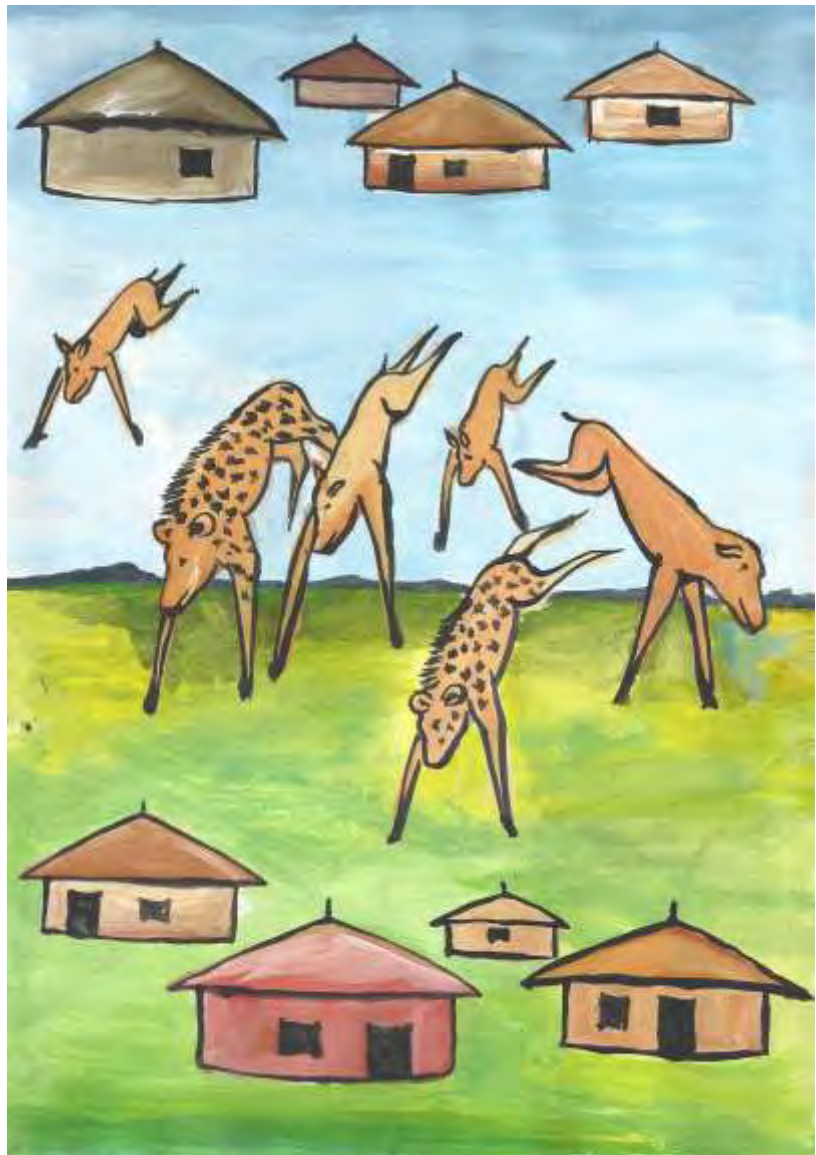
Many years ago, before the days of our ancestors, there was a village called Heavenly. As you can imagine, based on its name, it was a beautiful place where maize grew tall and strong, shade trees kept away the afternoon sun and heat, and there



were springs with cool, clean, plentiful water. The righteous and just King Lion was Chief of Heavenly and wanted it to be a place where everyone was safe and happy. For a long time, it was so.

One day, however, Hyena decided he had had enough of Heavenly. He wanted everyone to love him as much as they loved King Lion—in truth, he was jealous!

Hyena wanted to be as powerful as King Lion and was confident he could be just as good a Chief. He didn't like King Lion's ways and thought his own ways were better. He drew a great number of Heavenly's citizens to himself, and promised them that if they would fight with him to overthrow King Lion, they would win positions of influence under Hyena's leadership.



As you can imagine, King Lion (who was a very wise Chief) found out what the sneaky Hyena was up to. Hyena, understanding his deceit was discovered, departed Heavenly in disgrace and eventually made his way to a new place, a far-away village called Perfect.



Perfect was part of King Lion's domain as well, and he had already established a community there. It was a place much like Heavenly—a beautiful place where its citizens could live in peace.

Everyone in Perfect loved King Lion, from the Little Bug to the Giant Elephant, because they knew he wanted the very best for them. King Lion created laws which would ensure order and safety. King Lion's rules were fair and good. No one could steal from anyone else. If anyone was caught doing damage to someone else's property, the violator would repair or replace what was damaged.

King Lion, though not a permanent resident of Perfect, spent a lot of time there when he established this new village, in order to show its citizens his good example. He visited those who were sick and tried to cheer them up and help them get well. He was always kind and willing to help. Because King Lion was such a good Chief and Perfect was such a peaceful place to live, its citizens lived good lives and abided by the Perfect laws.

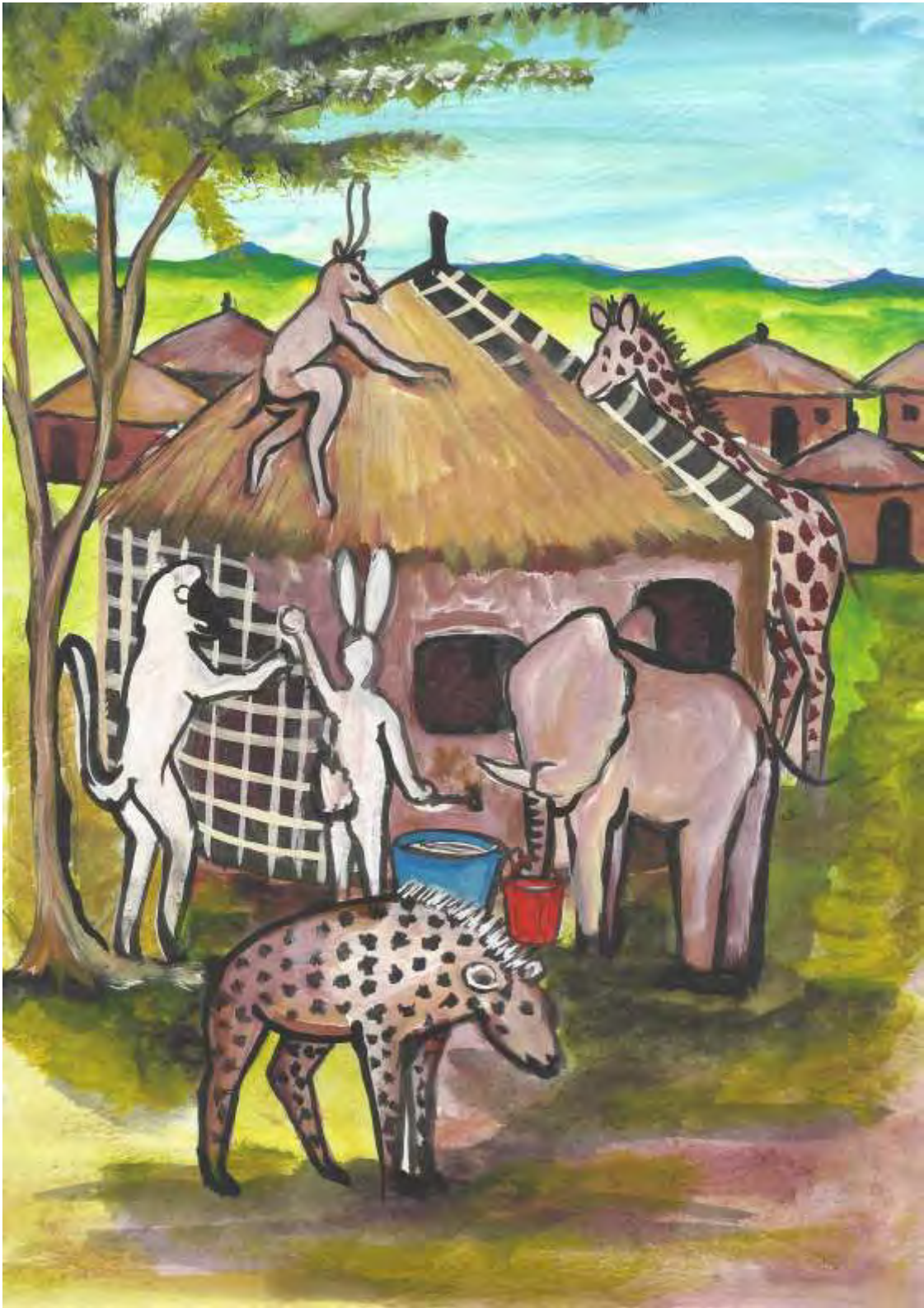
King Lion decided that he would do his best to make sure that Perfect would be full of citizens who would continue to behave kindly and righteously toward one another. He did not want the rebellion that had occurred in Heavenly to repeat itself in Perfect! When Hyena left Heavenly to reside in Perfect, he himself—King Lion—followed, and continued to order things in the village so that everyone would remain loyal to him and experience a good life.

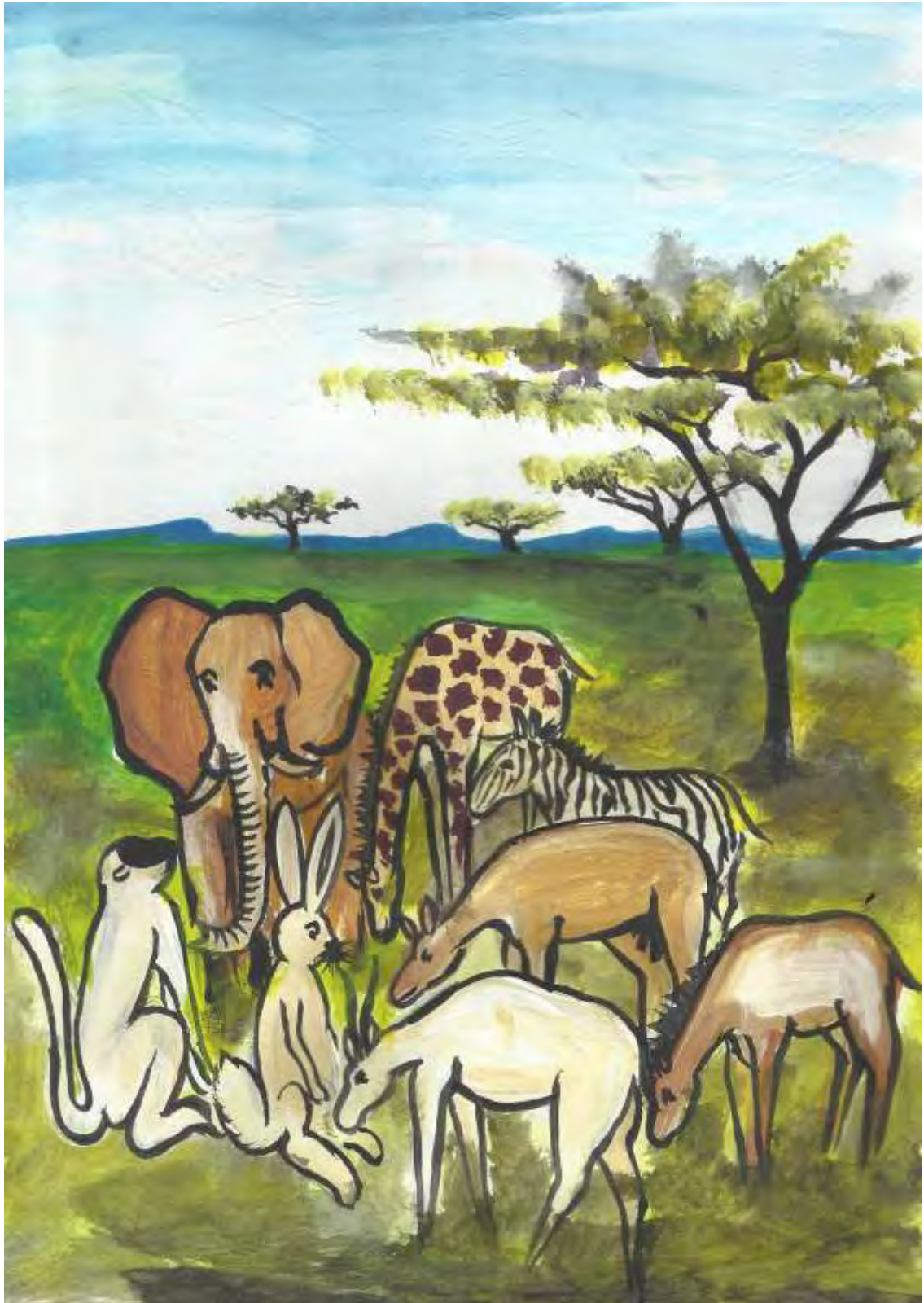
Hyena, however, held a grudge against King Lion and wanted nothing but to destroy him—and Perfect. What would be better than turning the citizens of the village against their good King and his laws, to recruit them for his planned battle to overthrow King Lion? Hyena was still very embittered that his evil intent had been made public when in his former home. Since everyone in Perfect was loyal to King Lion, though, Hyena knew he would have to be very crafty. King Lion was a smart chief, after all.

As Hyena was building his house in this new village, some of his neighbors came to help him cut sticks and mix mud. While they worked, they spoke to Hyena, a stranger to them, about what a wonderful place Perfect was: “Here, Hyena, you will not find any stealing. You can plant your maize, and it will grow strong, and when you harvest it there will be not an ear missing!”

Hyena asked, “But what if one doesn’t have enough food? Surely it would not be wrong to take an ear of corn from his neighbor’s field. And why would anyone mind, since the citizens of Perfect are all such good people?”

Antelope commented, “Here, if you are sick, you can be sure that your neighbors—and perhaps even King Lion himself—will visit you with some soft foods and tea.” To which the crafty Hyena replied, “Certainly, that is very nice. I will be happy to live in such a place. The giving of gifts, though, must be returned in kind, and I am not a man of means. It would almost be better if my neighbors were not so generous.”





By the time Hyena's house was built, certain doubts had begun to turn his neighbors' thoughts away from the community of Perfect and all the good that King Lion and its citizens were doing. Indeed, if Hare had more than Turtle and Turtle was hungry, was it really wrong for him to grab an ear of maize off a stalk in Hare's field as he walked by? And perhaps Hyena was right—receiving a gift or a favor would certainly obligate one to another. And what if he had nothing with which to repay the good deed? It might be better to serve oneself instead of being so concerned with others.

These thoughts, and others, went round and round in the heads of Hyena's good neighbors, and before too long the thoughts became words. They began to talk to their neighbors, asking questions and wondering if the Perfect way of life was really the best. Soon, feelings of doubt and discontent fell over the atmosphere of Perfect.

It wasn't long before neighbor began to speak against neighbor. Each one looked out of the corner of his eyes to see if he could catch his friend doing some evil—for of course, no one was good all the time, not even in Perfect! They began to build fences around their fields of maize and use dogs to protect their homes and possessions. Some still tried to do good and enforce King Lion's just laws, but much was done in such a sneaky manner that it was difficult to know who was good and who was bad, and who had committed the wrong deeds that were observed.

Epilogue

This allegory is loosely based on the true biblical story of the battle between God and Satan. God created all things in Heaven and on Earth. Initially everything was in perfect harmony. Earth was a perfect place where dominion was granted to man—the culmination of His Creation, and where God walked with man. However, man was deceived by Satan and he (God’s enemy) became the rightful ruler of this world. Man therefore became enslaved to him, and Satan began building his army to unite in rebellion against God to overthrow him.

God returned to Heaven and in his stead sent prophets to guide men in His perfect ways. But most men continued to reject his ways and follow the ways of Satan, sin and the world. God ultimately sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, as a ransom to free man from his bondage to Satan, sin and the world. Satan accepted Christ’s sacrifice (we presume with the intent to deceive man yet again), but was unaware that since Jesus was without sin, Death had no power over him. As a result, Jesus plundered Hades and rose from the dead.

While on Earth, Jesus taught the perfect laws of Heaven. He rescued men from enslavement and gave them an opportunity to walk in freedom from sin. Through faith, repentance, and water baptism for the forgiveness of sins, man could be born again in the Holy Spirit and enter the Kingdom of God. Henceforth, the Kingdom would dwell on the Earth within the hearts of its citizens.

But the citizens of the Kingdom would suffer greatly at the hands of governments (the Dogs) and eventually religious institutions (Barns) guided by the theologians (Hippos). (Constantine, Augustine, Anselm, Luther, and Calvin were the most influential at supplanting the Kingdom of God with something different.) However, throughout history, there always existed a remnant who remained obedient to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

The Powerful Hippo (Founder of Islam) emerged as a challenge to both the followers of Jesus’ teachings and cultural Christians alike. The Catholics and Protestant Reformers likewise were guilty of many atrocities against the loyal followers of Christ, at their time called the Anabaptists. But the Anabaptists persevered under great pressure at the hands of these persecutors. In the end, it was not the governments or the religious zealots who crushed the Anabaptist period of Kingdom Christianity—it was peace and complacency, with accompanying infighting amongst themselves.

In the wake of the collapse of the Anabaptist zeal, Protestants shifted closer and closer to Biblical truth. Awakenings and revivals resulted in missionary movements not seen for some time. Cultural Christianity was steadfast in the developed world and rising in the remotest lands. But secular humanism, entertainment, and other institutions and vices were on the rise. Cultures were changing, and fast, in the 20th century. With the shifts in culture followed changes in the churches as well—not many of them favorable.

However, in the latter decades of the 20th century a wave of discovery was underway; the proliferation of Ante-Nicene (early Church) and Anabaptist writings was stirring the hearts of many sincere church-going Christians. At the same time, the missionary house church-planting and discipleship movement was underway in much of the world. Historic Anabaptists, the renowned “quiet in the land” also were rediscovering their roots. These concurrent movements reignited a fire for true historic Kingdom Christianity and Kingdom expansion.

The balance of the book is simply the author’s speculation of where things will go from there. Time will tell!

The intent of this book was to write a simple story that would teach history, and that will serve as an impetus to launch a desire for discovery in the reader. I pray you will be led to research more and find the truth. For too long, a false history has been presented to us, and we have blindly accepted it. I urge you to not trust anyone, but rather go to the primary sources for yourself. May the Lord God Almighty give you wisdom in your journey.