

The King Revealed: Luke 19-24

The moment arrives when the hidden King is revealed to His subjects. Most reject Him, but some accept. And in our lives we too have moments of testing when we are asked if we'll stay with Him in **suffering** or if we will not.

Jesus comes to Jericho, a town near Jerusalem and helps redeem someone who has spent his life abetting oppression. He arrives in Jerusalem, fulfilling prophecy by riding on a colt and being acclaimed by the crowds. He reclaims the temple space and teaches there to the consternation of His detractors. In the temple Jesus engages in verbal sparring with His opponents. He offers an alternative vision of God's purposes and Kingdom.

But the betrayal occurs and He is led to trial, crucifixion and death. All of His suffering tells us He **accompanies** us in our suffering: betrayal by a supposed friend, unjust arrest, abandonment and denial by friends, unjust court cases, unjust men in high places letting injustice be done, physical torture, all manner of physical pain, and identification as a criminal even when innocent. The lesson is that Jesus is with us, understands us, and bears all things for us. Perhaps more importantly, He is with anyone we know who is bearing unbearable suffering.

But then He teaches us that there is more to the story. He has **power** to change the story in astonishing ways. The resurrection is the surprising revelation that Christ is God, the powerful King, and simultaneously Someone who cares for us. As He astonishes, He shows us once again His extreme approachability. He walks with His disciples, He explains what has happened and its meaning in terms of the Scriptures, He eats with them, and He cooks breakfast for them. There is something so gentle and beautiful about a King who rules all, acting as a **Servant** to His friends.

But He is not only, and not merely, humble. As He ascends to heaven at the very end of the book, we once more see His glory, just as we did with the angels at His birth, at His Baptism, at the mount of transfiguration, and at the resurrection. He is the image of ultimate **glory** that all of our earthly images of the glorious seek to achieve.

Not only are we to obey Him as our King, we are to become like Him. We can learn to exercise power that comes from Him, and we can learn to be servants to those we care for and lead. We can learn to accept glory that He gives as He fulfills the promise to exalt the humble.

The King Revealed: Luke 19-24

Chapter 19: The King Triumphs

19:1-10 **The King Triumphs: Turned hearts**

Jesus shares new life with the tax collector, Zacchaeus.

I saw a sycamore tree today
And couldn't help but think of Zacchaeus.
Luke didn't have to mention the type of tree
Nor is it as common as the fig.

But all trees can be a subtle reminder of the cross
And this one has its branches wide open in welcome
A sign of the hospitality offered us.
The place of meeting
 And eating
 And transforming
A place to come and wait for You.

Free Verse

19:11-27 **The King Triumphs: Ten servants**

Jesus tells a story of using what God gives us wisely.

A venture capitalist went to Europe to do some public service for a while. He talked to three companies and invested in each of them. His European public service didn't last long—several journalists wrote negative pieces about him and undermined his reputation. When he returned home, he called the CEOs. With one the profits had gone through the roof and he was really pleased and offered the man a position running one of his conglomerates. Another company did very well, but the third had made no profits at all—in fact they hadn't even implemented their business plan. "I knew you'd be upset if we lost any of the money, and even if we made money, you'd take it all anyway." "Good grief! You could have done better putting it into CDs! I'm investing all this money with the company that made me money." When his secretary protested that company didn't need the money, he replied that at least that CEO would know how to use it. "Now get me those journalists on the phone, and I'm going to sue them for all they are worth!"

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19:28-40 The King's Triumphal entry

*The crowds acknowledge Jesus as the
"King who comes in the name of the Lord."*

Royalty to a greater Prince will bow
And we have One to honor with a feast.
Bring out all the best wine, the bread,
The meat sacrificed from noble beast.
The one we honor now is King of kings.
And bowing down before Him as He stands
With us is joy! Trumpets cry out!
The delighted crowd lifts up its hands!
Musicians play their flutes, drums and strings,
And join singers to honor Him in song.
The crowd cheerfully begins to dance,
And we, His kin, stand up so strong.
We honor Him with all our might.
For worshipping the King is joy and right.

Sonnet



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19:41-44 **The King Triumphs: Tragic City** *Jesus weeps over Jerusalem's stubbornness.*

I don't think we really understand
That this prophecy was fulfilled.
Jerusalem was completely destroyed,
I mean COMPLETELY.
No people—600,000 dead (at least).
No trees—all cut down.
No buildings—it looked as though it had never been inhabited.
No temple—a fire spread, prevented it becoming a pagan shrine.
No beauty left.

The revolutionary movement had four years of victory (66-70).
Then a 143-day siege starting at Passover:
120,000-200,000 inhabitants,
500,000 pilgrims trapped in the city, living in tents.
Then destruction.

Titus built an arch in Rome (which stands)
to commemorate his triumph.
The Jews commemorate the 9th of Av—two destructions of the
Temple and a litany of tragedies.

Why do we forget this history and talk about the future?
This is our past, our present, and our future.
We destroy cities—Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Leipzig, Dresden.
We shuddered at the destruction of life,
And two tall towers on 9/11.
But a whole city gone—

I think it's denial.
We don't want to believe that men can do this.
We localize evil in one person or a group of terrorists.
Yes, somehow every Roman was complicit in Jerusalem's end.
How willing are we to make the application?

Tisha B'Av is in a few days—I mourn over all wars
Past and Present.
100,000 killed and millions exiled in 586 BC;
Jerusalem's destruction in 70 AD;
100,000 as the Bar Kochba revolt was crushed in 135AD;
Jews expelled from England in 1290 AD;
Jews expelled from Spain in 1492 AD;
Deportation from Warsaw to Treblinka in WWII.

Lord, let us recognize Your coming and be spared.

Free Verse

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19:45-48 **The King Triumphs: Temple cleansed**
*Jesus exercises judgment on
the marketplace atmosphere of the temple.*

Outside – Christ is born

Inside – He's recognized as King

Outside – He flees for his life

Inside – He discusses deep questions with wise men

Outside – He teaches and heals

Inside – He reclaims the space

Outside – He is killed

Inside – He rips open the curtain

And invites us in...

Free Verse

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Chapter 20: The King Tested

20:1-19 **The King Tested: Authority questioned**

*The leaders demand that Jesus explain
by what authority He cleansed the temple.*

The journey to Jerusalem for Christ
Ended at the city's center where
His enemies had gathered in the temple.
He stepped within and He took back that place
By driving cheating merchants from their stalls.
And as He taught the people listened well
And so His enemies failed to see
How to kill Him as they wished to do.
"Who gave you the authority," they asked,
"To drive the merchants from this holy place."
"Let Me ask this first," said Christ to them.
"Was John's authority of God or man?"
They saw the trap. If "God" then He could ask
Why they did not believe. If "man" they said,
The angry people would react with stones.
"We do not know," they said. "So I'll not say."
So Jesus won the war of wits that day.

Then Jesus told the story of a farm
Where evil tenants beat the servants sent
By the owner to collect the rent.
When the owner finally sent his son
The evil tenants murdered him as one.
Jesus said, "The owner will then come
And kill them all and give the land to others."
The leaders knew He spoke of them in this
And wanted to arrest him then and there.
But they could not, they were afraid of this—
A riot would erupt from all who heard.

Blank Verse

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20:20-26

The King Tested: Sacred/secular authority

Jesus is challenged on whether He respects secular authority.

So they sent secret agents to that place
To ask a question that could trap the Lord
To say something to report to Rome.
“Should we pay taxes to this government?”
He saw the trick and turned the trick on them.
“Whose face is stamped upon the coin?” He asked.
“Caesar’s,” they replied, “Well then,” He said,
“Give him what belongs to him, and give
To God all the gifts that come from God.”
The people were content, for He had said
The lambs, the grain of temple sacrifice
Belonged to God, and nothing could be said.

Blank Verse

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20:27-47

The King Tested: Scriptural authority

Jesus gives insights on heaven and on the Scriptures.

Men who doubted resurrection asked
About a woman married seven times
But Jesus said, "Marriage is for earth.
There will be none in heaven for those raised."
"But now, there is proof of resurrection,
Tho' Abraham and Isaac, Jacob long
Ago had died, God spoke of them to Moses.
And so they all are still alive to Him."
"Oh, well said!" said some who hated Him
Because they too believed in life in heaven.
Then Jesus asked a question of them all
And explained His true authority.
Could the people hear the truth from Him?
He was from heaven, was God's only Son,
Was heaven's King who knew heaven's ways.
"Who is Messiah? Is He David's son?
Or is he someone far beyond that King?"
David called him Lord. Does that not say
That He is someone higher, stronger, greater?
Then in the presence of the crowds to hear
He taught His friends to see through the proud.
And so indicted those who hated Him.
"Look out for those who dress so very well
And love to have the public bow to them.
They love to sit in honor at a feast.
But afterwards they'll go and cheat the poor.
And then they cover up with a long prayer
So greater pain will be theirs to bear."

Blank Verse

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Chapter 21: The Return of the King

21:1-4 The Return of the King: Sign of the poor
Jesus commends the generosity of a poor widow.

They received us in their home
 Fed us
 Taught us
 Cared for us
We gave them so very very little
 Their generosity was deep
 And we were too young to fully understand
But now I do
 We of the middle class
 Were the guests of people with no money
Please bless them
Give us another chance to bless them

Free Verse

21:5-29 The Return of the King: Signs of the times
Jesus prophesies regarding the end times.

If we see sorrow and suffering
As birth pangs
They can fill us with
 Gratitude
 Anticipation
 Excitement
 Expectation
As we wait
 With tears (heartbreak)
 With groaning (screams, anger)
 With longing (deep, deep pain)

 For the moment
Of new life
 Joy (surprise)
 Exhilaration (laughter)
 Connection (touching)
 Peace (silence)
 And love.

Free Verse

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21:29-38 The Return of the King: Signs of the tree
Jesus warns to be aware when the end is coming.

Trees in scripture are complicated
Adam's tree is symbol of our sin
Abraham's tree is a place to meet with God.
Moses' tree is a call to repentance
Daniel's tree is the pride of a King.
Isaiah's tree is a root from dry ground.
Jesus' tree is a symbol of time.
The trees of the Kingdom are lush and green.
The tree on which Christ died removed our sin.
The trees of paradise heal the nations.
Trees in Scripture are complicated.
They bear the image of Christ
Crucified for our sin
Resurrected for our healing
Reigning over a perfect Kingdom.

Free Verse

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Chapter 22: The Capture of the King

22:1-6 The Capture of the King: Sharing a plot *Judas agrees to betray Jesus.*

The Festival, Unleavened Bread, drew near.
The priests and teachers of religious law
Were very active plotting Jesus' murder.
They feared a riot if they killed Him then.
Then all changed when Satan entered Judas,
A man so close to Christ and one of twelve.
He went to discuss with leading priests
And all the captains of the temple guard
The best way he could now betray to them
His friend, his teacher, Jesus Christ the Lord.
They were delighted he would help and said
They'd give him a reward to find a time
When crowds were gone and they could take Him in.

Blank Verse

22:7-30 The Capture of the King: Sharing a meal *Jesus shares the Last Supper with his disciples and inaugurates the first Eucharist.*

The Festival, Unleavened Bread, arrived,
The time to sacrifice the lamb had come.
So Jesus sent two men ahead and said
"Now go prepare the meal, so we can eat
The Passover together." They asked Him then
Where to go. "Jerusalem," He said.
"When you arrive a man will carry water.
Follow him. Where he enters find
The owner, say, 'The Teacher needs a room
To eat this holy meal now with His friends.'
He has a room upstairs set up for us.
That is the place. Prepare our supper there."
They went and found it all as Christ had said.
So at the proper time the twelve and Christ
All sat down together at the table.
Then Jesus said, "My friends I have looked forward
To this time with very deepest longing,
Anxious now to eat this meal with you
Before My suffering begins tonight.
I will not eat this meal again until
All is fulfilled and I am known as King."

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He took a cup of wine and prayed and said,
“Please take and share it now among yourselves.
I will not drink this wine again until
The day the Kingdom of our God has come.”
He then took a loaf of bread and prayed.
He broke it into pieces and He gave to each
And said, “This is my body given now for you.”
He said, “Do this to remember Me.”
After supper then He took another cup.
“This wine is token of God’s covenant
Agreement sealed with blood—My blood—to save,
The blood that I will now pour out for you.
At this table there is one who sits
As though he is our friend amidst us all.
But he’s the man, the one who will betray.
I must die. It is God’s plan. But still
How terrible for him who does betray me.”
The men began to ask among themselves
Who could ever do this deed so foul.
Yet soon they argued who would be the best
And greatest, loyal to this coming Kingdom.
Jesus said, “My friends, please listen now.
In this world the kings and men of greatness
Order those who serve them to obey,
And they are called ‘the friends of people.’
With you the men who are the greatest ones
Should bow and take the very lowest rank.
The leader should be like a servant now.
Look at Me at table here with you.
Normally the master sits, the servants
Stand and serve. But I have been your servant.
Yet you have remained My friends in trial.
I grant you the right to eat with Me
When I come to my Kingdom. You will sit
On thrones to judge the hearts of men with Me.”

Blank Verse

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22:31-38 **The Capture of the King: Sharing a prediction** *Jesus predicts Simon Peter's denial.*

The friends now knew that Jesus' doom approached,
And Christ asked them to look and find a sword,
As the darkest night of fear encroached.

Hoping they would soon defend their Lord,
They looked for swords and found that they had two,
Laborers' tools, hidden in their hoard.

They worried how to see this matter through
Since Peter said that he would gladly die
Or be imprisoned ere the day was new.

But Christ had told him sadly with a sign
"Before the rooster crows tomorrow morn,
Three times, dear friend, your Lord you will deny."

Since Peter's heart was very deeply torn,
All his fear and senses were alert.
He took a sword that he had never worn.

Out into the night so strangely girt
Went Peter now, determined to be true,
And in the garden used the sword to hurt.

But Christ spoke out for peace and stopped him, too,
And Peter saw his Lord be taken in,
So followed Him unsure now what to do.

And this became the time of his great sin,
That he denied his Lord and did not die,
So his heart was broken then within.

And Peter knew the truth he did deny
Yet this sin did not affect us all,
For Jesus won the fight our peace to buy.

Yet Peter is a hero who stands tall,
For one day he died gladly for his Lord,
And faithful courage he has taught us all.

Today we know we need not wield a sword,
But readily receive it for our Lord.

Terza Rima

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Gazing at Christ: Meditations on the Gospel of Luke ~ Elaine Elliott

The King Revealed: Luke 19-24

22:39-53 **The Capture of the King: Plot fulfilled**

Jesus is betrayed and arrested.

As He said this a mob led by Judas now came.
Judas Iscariot was his name.
And he stepped close to Christ and greeted the same
And the cross drew closer.

“How can you betray Me,” asked Christ “with this greeting
The One who was promised by God as your King,
One like the Son of Man.”* And His friends’ hearts were sinking
And the cross drew closer.

As Christ spoke the other disciples could hear
And knew what would happen and asked in their fear
“Lord should we fight? We have some swords here.”
And the cross drew closer.

One of them slashed at the ear to the right
And cut off the ear of a servant that night
Yet Jesus said, “Stop resistance, don’t fight.”
And the cross drew closer.

He touched where the ear had been and He healed
And so to the captains and priests was revealed
A Healer who God’s great power could wield
And the cross drew closer.

Then Jesus asked, “Are these swords meant for Me?
Am I a dangerous man if I’m free?
I was daily in public where all could see.”
And the cross drew closer.

They knew the answer, they knew His true worth.
He said, “This is your moment when evil finds mirth,
And the power of darkness now reigns on the earth.”
And the cross drew closer.

Anapest Tetrameter

* See Daniel 7:13, 14

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22:54-71 **The Capture of the King: Prediction fulfilled** *Simon Peter denies Jesus.*

Peter followed far behind
As Christ was led within.
His accusers in the house
Had hearts in deepest sin.

And Jesus' friends left Him alone
As all of us have done.
And all our sins He did atone
And great victory won.

The guards lit a fire outside
And Peter joined them there.
A servant girl then noticed him
And she began to stare.
"This man right here was with the One
That you guards just brought."
And Peter said, "No ma'am that's wrong.
Not me. I know Him not."

Someone else then looked and said
"You're with the One we got."
And Peter said quite firmly back,
"No, man, I'm not!"

An hour later someone else
Insisted it was so.
But Peter said, "What are you saying?
I don't even know."

As he spoke a rooster crowed
And Jesus turned to look.
And Peter left that wretched place,
And with his tears he shook.

The guards began to mock the Lord
And play a childish game.
They hit Him and asked Him to tell
Each cruel hitter's name.

And Jesus' friends left him alone
As all of us have done.
And all our sins He did atone
And great victory won.

Ballad

The King Revealed: Luke 19-24

Chapter 23: The King Tried

23:1-25 Trial of the King *Jesus tried before Pilate.*

This is the archetype mistrial
It happens over and over
— Men spend years on death row until student projects or DNA
reveal their innocence
— Political dissidents are under house arrest or in prison so
the tyrant can relax
— The mob moves to lynching very easily
So Christ really understands
— Irregular procedures
— Sloppy police work
— Biased or bribed witnesses
— A cowardly judge, more worried about the PR fallout than
justice
— Passing the buck
— Giving in to the mob

Free Verse

23:36-43 Crucifixion of the King

Jesus carried His cross in the crowd,
But He fell and faltered and failed,
So they seized on Simon of Cyrene,
A country man, to carry Jesus' cross.
The women behind Him wailed and wept.
Jesus warned the women, "Don't weep for Me,
Weep for yourselves, weep for your children.
Bless the barren who bore no child.
Make mourning for the mountains to fall.
Cry for cover from the cusp of the hill."

Now, green and growing and great,
The tree is taken and torn.
What may this mean for man
When it's dry and dull and dead?

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Two criminals also carried their crosses
And came with Christ to be crucified.
The place they put the posts
Was Golgotha, grim and gruesome,
A scarred and scoured skull.
They set Him solidly in the center,
And crucified Christ with criminals.
“Father, oh Father forgive them,”
He cried as they cast lots for His clothes.
Some people stood and stared.
Rulers sneered and said, “He saved others,
So surely He can save Himself,
If he’s Christ, the King, the Chosen One.”
The soldiers, too, stood and scoffed.
Offering a vial of vinegar, they vilified Him,
Jesting, “Oh Jewish King, just
Save Yourself,” the soldiers said.
One criminal insulted Christ and cried.
“Save Yourself!” He scoffed, “Save us!
Christ the King,” the criminal said.
“Stop and see,” the other said.
“His sentence should not be the same.
Our deeds deserve this death.
He did nothing and should not die now.”
To Christ the King the criminal said,
“Christ, when You come to Your Kingdom,
Remember me. Recall me. Recognize me.”
“I tell you the truth that today,
You’ll come to My care and comfort,
In My presence and place of paradise,”
Said Christ.

Free Verse

The King Revealed: Luke 19-24



The King Revealed: Luke 19-24

23:44-49 **Death of the King**

At the sixth hour, the sun
Became dark and doom came down
For the sun then stopped its shining,
'Til the ninth hour. Now at noon
The temple curtain was torn in two.
Christ called out, "Father I commit
My spirit to You." Silence.

In solemnity
The centurion who saw this said,
"He was righteous. Righteous."

He rose
And praised God and prayed. Some panicked,
Bowed and beat their breasts and left.
While the women watched and waited.

Alliteration

23:50-56 **Burial of the King**

Joseph, a Jewish leader, was just
Waiting and watching and wanting the Kingdom.
He pled for the privilege with Pilate
Of taking the body to bury and bless it.
Reverently, righteously, he took royalty
Down and dressed it in linen, placed it deep
In a tomb. Tenderly, he took
It into the rock so rugged to rest,
While the women watched and waited.

Alliteration

The King Revealed: Luke 19-24



The King Revealed: Luke 19-24

Chapter 24: The King Triumphant

24:1-12 **Empty tomb of the King**

Long ago, early Sunday morning
Some women came up to a rock-hewn tomb
Taking spices they prepared for Christ.
They found the heavy stone was rolled aside,
And they went in but couldn't find our Lord.
The frightened, puzzled women tried to think
What could have happened to the body now.
Suddenly, two men appeared to them
Clothed in dazzling robes of brilliant white.
The women, terrified, bowed low to them.
These angels sent from God then asked the women,
"Friends, why do you look here in a tomb
For Jesus Christ, the One who is alive?
He isn't here! He is risen and alive!
Don't you recall what He had said to you
Back in Galilee? 'The Son of Man
Must be betrayed into the hands of men,
And crucified by them, by wicked men.
I will rise after three days.'"
Then the women did recall these words of His
So they rushed back to town to tell the men—
Eleven friends—and all the rest who cared,
What they had heard from messengers of God.
The women who had waited at the cross
Were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary
James' mother, and several more.
They told the men what had occurred to them
But the story sounded like a nonsense tale,
So none they told believed what they said.
And Peter ran to look, and at the tomb
He stooped to see the empty linen wrappings
And he went home still pondering on this.

Blank Verse

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The women came unto the tomb
And found the stone was rolled aside.
Puzzled, frightened, filled with gloom,
The women came into the tomb,
Wondering how the Christ could hide.
The women came out of the tomb
And knew the stone was rolled aside.

The Lord had risen from the dead
Very early Sunday morning.
This is what the angels said,
“The Lord has risen from the dead,
Why are your hearts still filled with dread.
Why continue now your mourning?
The Lord has risen from the dead,
Very early Sunday morning!”

“He isn’t here! He is alive!”
They recall He’d said He’d rise
And to believe, the women strive:
“He isn’t here? He is alive?”
They run to town. When they arrive
They tell the men the great surprise
“He isn’t here! He is alive!”
Then all recall He’d said He’d rise.

Triolet

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24:13-34

Explanation of Scripture by the King

Jesus appears to the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

Jesus joins the men on the road to Emmaus,
But it is dark,
The forms of the men obscure among the trees.
The Scriptures say God kept them from recognizing Him.

The men reported the story of
Jesus' life, arrest, and crucifixion.
They reported the missing body,
But they still didn't believe.

Jesus explained that the
Scriptures predicted
His suffering and His glory.

They reached their home in Emmaus
And begged Jesus to accept their hospitality.
And the moment He broke bread,
They recognized Him.

Tanner captures the spiritual
By painting wonderful faint forms.
There is his angel at the annunciation,
Jesus walking on the water,
And a painting he kept for himself
Of angels singing to the Shepherds.

In the same way
Tanner painted this moment
That so mixed mystery with the mundane.

The faint form of Jesus
Can be seen in the chair
The moment
He disappeared.

There is appropriate shock on the disciple's faces.

Lord, in the middle of the mundane of my life,
May I see the mystery
And be shocked into recognition
That you have been with me.

Free Verse

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24:35-49 **Entering the upper room by the King**
Jesus appears to the disciples.

Mystery and the mundane

Jesus cooks breakfast on the beach

He arranges a huge haul of fish

Jesus eats at an Emmaus inn

And then He vanishes

Jesus appears and they think He's a ghost

He eats a piece of broiled fish to reassure them

As we thank You for our meal

May we remember this

Free Verse

The King Revealed: Luke 19-24

24:50-53 **Entering heaven by the King**

Jesus ascends to heaven.

The King had come to rescue His own friends
And wandered with them in His tent
And took them to their home where as their hero
He won victory for them. This meant
For them a life of peace and hope and joy
And the King built a palace in the city
And ruled His people well. But they rebelled
And sent Him out. A rival without pity
Fought, killed and cruelly took them out.
But some returned to the land again
Against all odds, to build once more their homes,
The city and the palace, and waited then.
And so the people's humbled hearts did yearn
Longing for the King to now return.

Longing for the King to now return
Were faithful followers within the land
So when He came they knew at once their King
Because their open hearts could understand.
But He came in disguise and many men
Knew Him not, and, angered by His deeds,
They captured Him, and put Him in a cell.
But He escaped the city and He then leads
A secret band, eager for the day
When all would once more love Him as their King.
Some went into the city and in this way
Resisted evil, and reminded all
The righteous hero King should rule the land.

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“The righteous hero King should rule the land,”
Said many more. “We were very wrong.
Remember how our lives were safe with Him.
Our city was so beautiful and strong.”
So one day the King returned to them
And slowly entered through the lofty gate
Along with many mighty soldiers riding,
His power and His majesty so great.
And every enemy fell and bowed,
Humbled now to see His mighty band,
And He took residence in state again
As the honored ruler of the land.
And all was well as the story ends,
The King had come to rescue His own friends.

Linked Sonnets