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January, 2007

His Glory Coming to His Royal Mountain

The ship has landed

Every new year, there is a special celebration and award given to the first ship to enter the port of Montréal. Radio Canada reported that the name of the first ship to arrive in Montréal in 2007 is GLORY! The ship entered port at 12:13am and docked at 3:30am, January 1st.

God often uses the natural to speak of the spiritual. For example, with his encounter with the Samaritan woman, Jesus spoke with her about the natural water ("give me a drink" John 4:7) and used that to get into the spiritual ("Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." John 4:10)

Through the name of the ship, God is telling us that this is the year His glory is coming to Montréal.

As my friend Joel Spinks aptly put it, "It seems God is using every conceivable means to tell us what He is about to do in Montréal."

This is very exciting news. But it comes with a caution as well. As my friend Michael Gertsman reminded me, we must consider this prophetic event in the light of Jesus' own predictions concerning the end times. In His parable of the wheat and the tares, Jesus illustrated that at the same time that the righteous (the wheat) are growing in number and maturity, so also the wicked (the tares) are growing in strength and number. While God has given us a wonderful promise concerning the coming of His Glory, He has also cautioned us about the simultaneous increase of evil. This is apparent in the ship's time of arrival: 12:13 am. Twelve (12) is the number of righteous government; thirteen (13) represents the antichrist. (As an aside, it is interesting to note that in the Jewish date for this year, 5767, when we add the first two numbers, five and seven, we get the number 12, and when we add the second two numbers, six and seven, we get 13. This gives us, again, 12:13.) The same number showed up again in the news that the first baby born in the province of Quebec was born in Longueuil at 12:13 am January 1st. Coincidence?

Why Montréal?

The commission to establish the city of Montréal was given to Jérôme le Royer in 1630 in a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. Jérôme and his wife were devout Christians from France who, together with Paul de Chomedey de Maisonneuve (a soldier in his thirties who commanded the expedition), and Jeanne Mance (a nurse), were convinced that they had

received their mission from God. He had made it clear to them through dreams and visions. Jérôme le Royer summed up their purpose as follows: "The plan of the Montréal Associates is to work purely for the glory of God and the salvation of the Natives..." * Montréal: the microcosm Montréal is among the most ethnically diverse cities in the world, boasting representation from nearly every nation world-wide. Indeed, this island city is almost a microcosm of the world. This means that as God's glory comes here, it will also flow out to touch the nations.

The name Montréal is from the French words "Mont Royal" or in English, "Royal Mountain". From the earliest days this mountain was dedicated to God. It is His Royal Mountain.

Montréal has a nick-name as well, the City of Saints. Over 120 streets in the city are named after Christian saints—righteous men and women of God who left a legacy of faith behind them. In other words, these street-names are not mere reminiscences of old dead people. Each street sign points to the reality of a revolutionary lover of God, many of whom gave their lives for their devotion to God.

2007 marks the 40-year anniversary of Expo '67, Montréal's World's Fair. Over 50 million people from all the nations of the world came to Montréal to attend the Expo at a time when Canada's population was only 20 million--setting a record for World's Fair attendance that still stands today. The theme of the fair was "Man and His World." Each one of the fair's 50 million visitors was impacted by the values that were communicated through it, values that were predominantly centered on the "glory of man". So it was that Montréal influenced the world with its message of secular humanism. However, the number 40 speaks of the completion of one generation and the beginning of another. Also, it is the number of releasing into destiny. (For example, the people of Israel spent 40 years in the desert and at the end of the 40 years the new, younger generation was standing on the shores of the Promised Land getting ready to enter it.) I believe that this year, 2007, Montréal will once again have the opportunity to influence the world with a message, and that this time the message will be a release of the Glory of God!

Lord, we welcome your glory!

* Jerome le Royer's original quote uses the term "savages". To avoid the negative connotations of this word, we have changed it to "Natives".