

"THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S" (1 SAM. 17:47)

WAR CRY

THE SALVATION ARMY

EASTER 2002



*The Light
of the world*

The sculpture “The Coming King,” says artist Max Greiner, is the result of inspiration, dedication, research and prayer. It is a message for our time. The composition depicts the moments after Christ’s second coming and prior to His dynamic charge through eternity with the armies of God.

Greiner did not set out to create Christian artwork. In the fall of 1983, he and his wife Sherry had a thriving art business. Greiner’s bronze sculptures and oil paintings of wildlife and nature were selling for thousands of dollars. Life seemed perfect. But then Sherry was diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. And then the economy crashed, bankrupting art collectors—Greiner’s main source of income. Greiner called out to God for an instant miracle. God chose a slower process.

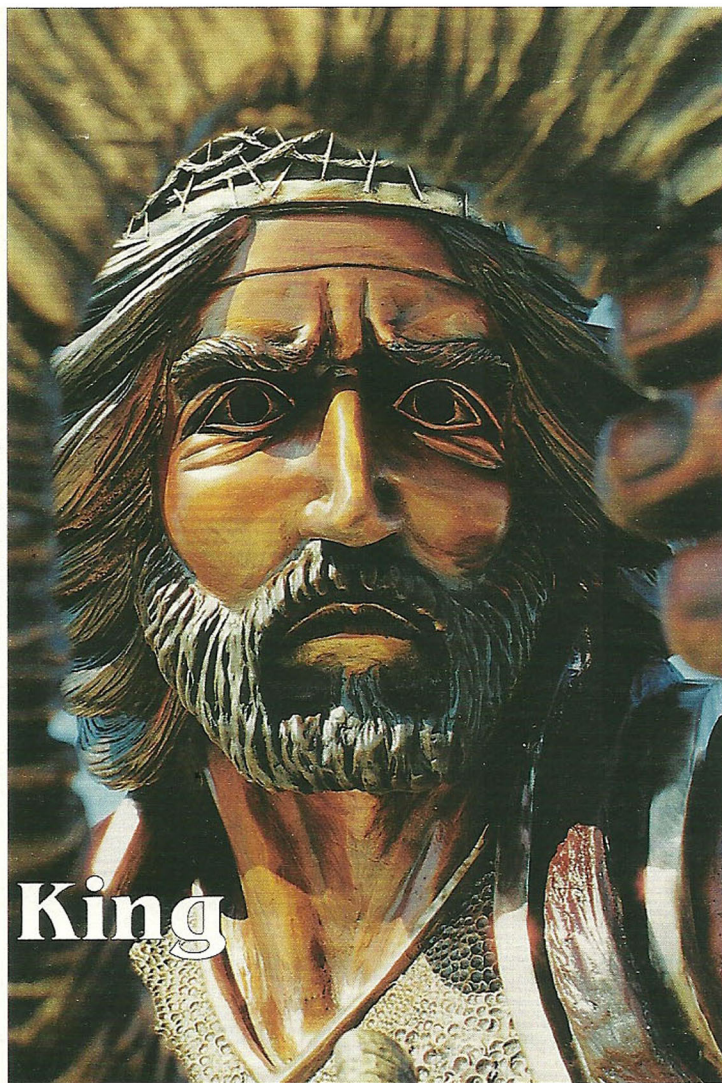
Greiner decided to read the Bible from cover to cover, something he had never done, despite having been saved in a Southern Baptist church at the age of seven. “God used this difficult season of my life to change my priorities,” says Greiner, “to sculpt me, to chip away the parts that didn’t look like Jesus.”

Then, in the spring of 1986, Greiner felt God call him to create

The Coming King

Christian artwork. At first he did nothing, not seeing how this could solve any of his problems. But finally, after more prodding by the Holy Spirit, Greiner created his first Christian sculpture, “Divine Servant.”

“Like the little boy who brought his five small loaves and two small fishes to Jesus,” says Greiner, “I stand in amazement of the ways God has multiplied my small offering, which is now touching millions of people for Christ around the world. If we obey, God will use each one of us uniquely.”



On June 8, 1998 Greiner was giving a tour through his new art studio, still under construction, to Dick Schuman, a Church of the Nazarene evangelist and pastor from Oklahoma. As they walked upstairs, Schuman asked Greiner, “What’s next, ‘The Coming King’?” As he spoke, Greiner looked down to his future sculpting area and instantly had a vision of a life-size sculpture of Jesus in

Max Greiner, Jr., born December 16, 1951, knew by the age of seven that God had made him an artist—the same year he accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior. A fourth-generation Southern Baptist, Greiner is the oldest of four children. He graduated in 1974 from Texas A&M University with an Environmental Design degree and married Sherry Sargee in 1975. Greiner first practiced architecture and then advertising before he began his fine art career in 1978. Initially, all of Greiner’s art was secular in nature.

Greiner has worked on a variety of forms, styles and subjects, including wildlife, nature and people. However, since 1986, the majority of Greiner’s art has focused on the Creator, not the cre-



ation. Greiner’s work includes drawing, painting, sculpture, jewelry, architecture, photography, writing and gift designs. Each piece includes a personal testimony. Greiner’s artwork has raised tens of thousands of dollars for charities. His pieces can be found in many prestigious institutional collections, and is included in the private collections of Dr. Billy Graham, Dr. James Dobson, Dr. Bill Bright, Dr. Charles Stanley, Coach Bill McCartney, Dr. Paul Crouch, Benny Hinn, Jesse Duplantis and Pope John Paul II. Commissioner John Busby, National Commander, has a version of “The Divine Servant” on his desk. Greiner gives God all

the credit for his abilities and accomplishments.

Artist Max Greiner, Jr. created "The Coming King," under what he acknowledged is God's inspiration, so the world would have a better visual image of Jesus Christ returning in glory as the "Lion of Judah." It was Greiner's desire to please God, to create a piece understandable in all languages and to be scripturally accurate.

- The white horse used as the model was a champion Arabian stallion in prime condition. The Arabian is the oldest breed of horse, first used in Egypt.

- The *shofar* or ram's horn trumpet—the "Last Great Trump"—will be blown by Jesus Himself at His return. The model for the *shofar* was the Marco Polo ram, one of the largest sheep in the world, found in Afghanistan.

- The inner garment is patterned after the one-piece, seamless woven garment worn by Jesus before His crucifixion. It has the four *tzitzit* tassels attached to the corners, as specified by Scripture. This garment represents Christ's sacrifice on the cross. God told Moses to instruct the Jews to make tassels on the four corners of their garments so they would always remember the commandments and name of God. The windings on each *tzitzit* equal the numerical value of the Hebrew words *YHWH Echad* (Jehovah is one). It is the *tzitzit* which will lay across the thigh of Christ during His return and will be understood by the Jews.



- Jesus Christ is returning to earth not as the Sacrificial Lamb but as a mighty warrior, the Lion of Judah. The moment depicted in the sculpture is the instant before Jesus blows the *shofar* and raises the sword in His right hand to begin His charge through eternity to earth.

- The sword of God represents the Word of God. Jesus will speak into existence the events of His Second Coming. In Christ's right hand is a two-edged long sword, the "iron scepter" of His authority to rule the nations. The long sword, which features two leaping lions, the *ichthus* (fish symbol) and the Earth, is raised like a banner to signal the beginning of the charge back to Earth.

- Crowns represent authority. Jesus will return with all authority to judge and make war. His crown is fashioned after a seven-parapet fortress. The depicted symbols represent Christ's authority and power, crowns within a crown.

- The title "King of kings and Lord of lords" is written in Hebrew across the bottom of the robe. The red robe represents blood and royalty.

- The towel used by Jesus to gird Himself while washing the disciples' feet represents His servanthood and humility.

- Jesus Christ will return in the clouds above the east gate of the temple in Jerusalem for all to see.

the clouds riding a white horse. Schuman and Greiner prayed that God would confirm if this was, indeed, a divine commission.

A stranger walked up to the artist's booth at the Christian Booksellers International Convention in Dallas, Texas in July 1998. The man said his company's board had just voted to commission Greiner to create a life-size sculpture of Jesus with four or five other biblical characters, and had allocated up to \$400,000 to pay him. Greiner thanked him, but explained he needed to pray about the offer, because he believed that a month earlier God had called him to create "The Coming King." He and Sherry prayed that God would give them a clear word as to which project Greiner was to do. God didn't take long to answer.

After the show that day Greiner and Sherry walked excitedly with

thousands to the exit to board buses back to the hotels. Suddenly, 50 yards away, a man turned and yelled out, "Greiner, God has told me what your next sculpture is supposed to be—Jesus Christ returning in glory on a white horse!"

Greiner immediately began to pray and plan for the creation of a slightly bigger than life-size (105 percent, 18 feet tall) bronze sculpture, even though he did not know who would pay for it. Greiner eventually sculpted several sizes of "The Coming King" in both wax and clay. The finished sculptures are available in several mediums. The bronzes are cast at Eagle Bronze, a Christian-owned foundry in Lander, Wyoming.

The Greiners lift up the name of Jesus wherever they go, and find that this sculpture helps draw people to the Savior and king.

