

Endnote

The place of 'ordo ab chao' in the A & A Rite:

I am never tired of expressing my deepest admiration, over the years, for the skillful compilers of our much-loved Masonic Ritual, most especially for adroitly using some celebrated expressions which are not only quite memorable but are also very meaningful to impart the important messages contained therein, and '*ordo ab chao*' is no exception. It is, of course the inscribed 'Motto' on all 18° Certificates of the Supreme Council of the XXXIII Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Rite for England and Wales, and is invariably translated in all modern Dictionaries as: 'order out of chaos'.

It is not my intention to enter into a detailed discussion on the historical background of the contribution that the A&A Rite has made to bring about the necessary order, amidst the chaotic flurry of Masonic Orders in the eighteenth century, and undo the de-Christianisation of the English 'Craft' Freemasonry in the early nineteenth century, suffice it to say that in line with the theme throughout this article, it might therefore be associated with another Latin phrase: *lux in tenebris*, which means 'Light from darkness', reflecting our beloved and beautiful Christian Order, represented in the Perfection Ceremony of the 18°, aka Rose Croix, so as to genuinely transform from the rough into perfect Ashlars.

May God bless you

Joseph F. K. Marzouk

3th August 2021

My chosen Hymn is in the 1922 Words of the poem written by Rhea F. Ross Miller (1894 – 1966), who had also composed the original music.

Interestingly, however, George Beverly Shea (1909 – 2013), who is best known for his 'Music Ministry' in association with the Evangelist Billy Graham (1918 – 2018) as the famous baritone soloist of the "Crusades", who one day whilst sitting at his piano in 1932, he found Rhea's poem but did not have her music, he there and then instantly composed his much-loved version, most especially in his own inimitable rendition.

1. I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold;
I'd rather be His than have riches untold;
I'd rather have Jesus than houses or land;
I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hand.

Refrain

Than to be king of a vast domain,
Or be held in sin's dread sway!
I'd rather have Jesus than anything
This world affords today.

2. I'd rather have Jesus than men's applause;
I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause;
I'd rather have Jesus than world-wide fame;
I'd rather be true to His holy name:

Refrain

3. He's fairer than lilies of rarest bloom;
He's sweeter than honey from out the comb;
He's all that my hungering spirit needs -
I'd rather have Jesus and let Him lead:

Refrain

Amen, Amen & Amen

the pinnacle of God's creation, being the only '*spiritual*' creature on the Earth, that is capable of an intellectual communication, not only with one another but also with the Almighty creator, who is likewise communicating with the human race in quite diverse manners, *vide infra*.

5. Fifthly, we will observe a common thread of widespread **darkness**, first encountered in the *physical* universe, which subsequently found its way, in the *spiritual* sense, within the human heart. In the case of the former, just look up the sky on a cloudless and moonless night, especially if away from urban light pollution, so as to appreciate how dark the universe actually is, but as for the latter, one only needs to tune in to any daily news bulletin, or read the many printed sources to realise how awfully dark the human race had become, being capable of inconceivable atrocious acts of inhumanity and of such shocking and unbelievably evil deeds of incredible heinous crimes.

6. Sixthly, in a striking contrast, "God is **Light** and in Him is no **darkness** at all", *1 John 1:5*. Indeed, He is altogether the source of light, for we know that "every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of **Lights**, with whom is no variableness, neither *is any shadow of turning*", *James 1:17*. According to the Scripture, the very first act in the creation narrative was that: "God said: Let there be **light**, and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good, and God divided the light from the darkness", *Gen. 1:3 & 4*. It is not at all surprising that subsequently His **Light** has invariably prevailed.

7. Finally, and most significantly, as the **light** of God had first overcome the **darkness** of the universe, which is lit up by the shimmering lights of the sextillion glittering stars, in like manner humankind is, collectively and individually, invited to be illumined by Him who says: "I am the **Light** of the World; he that followeth me shall not walk in **darkness** but shall have the light of life", *John 8:12*.

With this in mind, let us now, my dear friends, begin at the beginning:

I dare say you recollect the opening words of the creation narrative in the Scripture: "In the beginning God created the **heaven/s** * and the **earth**", *Gen. 1:1*, and that shortly afterwards, "God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God

* The Hebrew word for 'Heavens' is '*shamayim*', *Gen. 1:1*, which is wrongly translated in the *KJV* in the singular 'heaven', however, almost all the other English translations have correctly identified it as the 'heavens', in the plural, which is also the case in the Arabic Bible: '*samawat*', the plural of *Samaā*, a very subtle but significant difference, as we shall discuss very shortly.

Godhead; so that they are without excuse. Because *that*, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imagination, and their foolish heart was **darkened**", *Rom. 1: 19 - 21*, then follows a discreditable list of misdemeanours! "Uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie... And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient *or unseemly*; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers,... Who knowing the judgement of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them", *Rom. 1: 22 - 32*.

Indeed, we see the same behavioral pattern of disobedience, cheating, lies, rape, and murders, in every age and generation in the whole wide world today, "for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God", *Rom. 3:23*. Look again at the so-called 'first' families of the world, supposedly the crème de la crème of the civilized human society, be it the Royals or Prime Ministers in the UK, some are hunted down for the questioning of perverted behaviour, or the impeached Presidents of the USA, in one case not just once but twice, for high crimes and misdemeanours. But be not dismissive, for this is only indicative of the entire human race, for even though a few, e.g., Enos, in whose time "men began to call upon the name of the Lord", *Gen 4:26*, as well as Enoch and Noah who are said to have "walked with God", *Gen. 5:22 & 24 and 6:9*, they represented but the very few exceptions, and not because of their own righteousness but because they found grace in the sight of God, however, "be not deceived: God is not mocked", *Gal 6:7*. Let us not deceive ourselves either, because in the eyes of the Holy and Righteous God "we are all as an unclean thing, and *even* all our righteousness are filthy rags", *Isa 64:6*, which proved particularly challenging on the six successive epochs, which 'represent the six periods of the world's existence', as represented in 'the seven circles round which we have travelled', until the eventual spiritual restoration 'with the Second Advent of our great Emmanuel, when time shall be swallowed up in eternity, of which the seventh circle is an emblem'.

② Then came The Flood, which is but one such an epoch, and having entertained the poor spiritual state of the human race in Noah's time, that was the heralding pre-requisite which led to the cataclysmic event in the

remote past, sadly history repeated itself, for it represented the moral degradation in all subsequent post-diluvian generations. And as our minds were then opened to consider what does God really require of the human race; it should have reverberated as a warning to the oblivious humanity, so much so that the Lord Jesus have once said: "As the days of Noah were... before the flood, they knew not until the flood came, and took them all away, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be", *Matt. 24:37-39*. Alas! No lessons have been learned, and the **present-day** humanity, is likewise plunged into the **spiritual darkness** of moral bankruptcy, sin and death, and the spiritual degradation on Earth is unprecedented, and the human race as a whole, has again and again failed to steer the bark of this life over the seas of its erroneous passions, "for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God", *Rom. 3:23*. Moreover, despite the prediction that "the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up", *2 Pet. 3:10*, humanity is still not taking the impending disaster seriously enough! And as we continue to materially contribute to the unabated global warming, which is now upon us, it is stealthily leading, quite speedily, to the end of the world!

③ Nevertheless, God in His grace and mercy, has already designed The Redemption plan of Salvation and the gift of eternal life, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord", *Rom 6:23*, which He "promised before the world began", *Titus 1:2*, "For the grace of God that bringeth Salvation hath appeared to all men", *Titus 2:11*, at the Cross of Christ, on Mount Calvary, *c. AD 29*, nearly **2000** years ago, and in particular the 3 hours of **darkness**, which is the pivotal event in the entire history of the world, as **all** of the sinful humanity is lead back into the **light** of the 'New Covenant', which also encompassed all the past generations, as sealed by God, our heavenly Father, and Jesus Christ, our blessed Redeemer, "Being justified freely by His grace through the Redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God", *Rom. 3:24&25*, "according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the *eternal* counsel of His own Will", *Eph. 1:11*.

Indeed, God's grace and mercy reached out to the human race in every *Dispensation*, in an aptly and timely manner, initially in types and shadows, until the **Light** of God prevailed in the Divine design of the Cross of Calvary, where "Mercy and truth met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other", *Ps. 85:10*. Hence, every individual human being on Earth,

may have occurred near the place where the future Temple of Solomon was built, within the walls of Jerusalem, on "the threshing floor of Araunah (Ornan) the Jebusite", *2 Sam. 24:23 & 1 Chron. 21:22*, which David had purchased. It is believed to overlook Mount Calvary, or Golgotha, the Mount of crucifixion on a hill outside the gates of Jerusalem, *Matt. 27:33, Mark 15:22, Luke 23:33 & John 19:17*. And so, as Abraham was to give up his beloved son, Isaac, on mount Moriah where the *material* Temple was subsequently built, so did the Father give His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, on Mount Calvary, so as to build the *spiritual* Temple, "know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" *1 Cor 3:16*, "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you?" *1 Cor 6:19*. Quite a privilege and responsibility for the believer in Christ Jesus.

iv. The timing of the mountain climb in submission to the 'trial' is quite fascinating: "And Abraham rose up early in the morning ... and took Isaac his son ... saying I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you", *vs. 3-5*. Likewise, we know that Jesus was seized in the Garden of Gethsemane when it was yet dark at night, for they had "come with lanterns and torches", *John 18:3*. He was then brought before the Sanhedrin which was sitting illegally at night. And "when the morning was come, ... they led Him away, and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate", *Matt. 27:1-3 & John 19:14*, from whence He was taken to three mock Trials by Pilate, Herod and Pilate again in the early hours of the morning, beginning at sunrise, 6:00 AM, which was concluded by His crucifixion at "the third hour" when using the Jewish reckoning, *Mark 15:25*, or 9:00 AM, according to the Roman method of counting the time from 12 midnight, as is done today.

v. When "Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife", *v. 6*, Isaac, who was by then a strong young man, could have rebelled and refused the task, yet he was in total submission to his father. So was Christ also who "being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross", *Phil. 2:8*, "Who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him that was able to save Him from death and was heard in that He feared. Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things He suffered", *Heb. 5:7&8*.

vi. Three times we read how Abraham and Isaac were in total harmony: "And they went both of them together", *vs. 6, 8 & 19*, likewise three times in the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus "prayed saying: O my Father, if it be

nature will be tamed, for "the wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them... and His rest shall be glorious", *Isa. 11 : 6-10*. And there and then "the creation itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God", *Rom. 8:19-22*. "Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the Earth shall wail because of Him. Even so. Amen", *Rev. 1:7*.

In conclusion:

At Christ's first Advent, John the Baptist proclaimed: "the kingdom of heaven is at hand", *Matt. 3:2*, and in the well-loved prayer which our Lord taught His disciples, aka 'The Lord's prayer', He envisioned the Divine will "Thy Kingdom come, ... For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever Amen", *Matt. 6:10-13*, which is somewhat paraphrased from David's prayer of thanksgiving for the past and future Kingdom: 'Blessed be Thou LORD God of Israel, our Father ... Thine O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty, for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is Thine. Thine is the Kingdom O LORD, ... For all things come of Thee, and of Thine own have we given Thee" *1 Chron. 29:10-14*.

And in the first heavenly scene in the book of 'The Revelation of St. John the Divine', this is the message of the Ascended Lord to the seven Churches: "Grace be unto you, and peace, from Him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven spirits which are before His Throne; and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the Prince of the kings of the earth. Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood. And hath made us Kings and Priests (a Kingdom of Priests) unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen", *Rev. 1:4-6*.

And when Christ shall take His rightful place and we shall see Him in His Kingly character, as "the Lion of the kingly Tribe of Judah, the Root of David, as He prevailed to open the scroll, ... and sat in the midst of the Throne as a Lamb as though it had been slain" ... we will prostrate ourselves and fall before Him in worship, and we'll "sing a new song, saying: Thou art worthy to take the scroll, and to open the seals thereof; for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God Kings and Priests (a kingdom of Priests) and we shall reign on the Earth", *Rev. 5:5-10*.

our submission to the God-given authority to fellow humans, and must be persuaded to "submit *ourselves* to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake; whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by Him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well", *1 Pet. 2:13&14*, for Jesus said: "render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's", however, we are still individually directly accountable to God, and "render unto God the things that are God's", *Matt 22:21*.

It is not my intention here to enter into a debate on the rights and wrongs of capital punishment*, suffice it to say that as the immediate past *Dispensation* failed, and as Noah and his now 'first' family emerged from the ark, around *2347 BCE*, it has become abundantly clear that the human's 'personal' *conscience* and the 'internal' *moral responsibility*, though they still ought to be exercised, they obviously needed to be augmented by some 'external' control and monitor, in order to maintain the standards of human behaviour. From the dawn of recorded history, 'governance' was codified, in the attempt to exercise the restraint of 'law and order' through the power of civil magistrates, e.g., the Code Hammurabi of Babylon, in *1755 - 1750 BCE*, which was subsequently consolidated further by the Law of Moses, on Mount Sinai, *c. 1445 BCE*. However, those two and all other Codes, have miserably failed as the root of these failures started to sprout fairly early on, as follows:

(i.) Noah, the 'New' father of the human race, soon after settling onto dry land introduced drunkenness and nakedness. It all started as he "began to be an husbandman, i.e., farmer; he planted a vineyard. And he drank of the wine, and became drunk; and he was uncovered within his tent", *Gen. 9:20&21*. Does not this incident clearly identify the root cause of all sorts of disreputable human behaviour? Drunkenness is one of the biggest anti-social problems leading to a wide range of misdemeanours. Psychologists classified this behaviour into 2 broad categories, namely: The 'Nutty Professor' exhibiting shameless disinhibitions, including: the use of superlatives, abusive language, public nudity, exhibitionism, promiscuity, etc ..., or the downright 'Mr Hyde' criminality, including: violence, bestiality,

* The highest function of any government is the protection of life and limb of fellow citizens, and to safeguard the sanctity of human life, as a gift of God, which cannot be rightly disposed of except as God permits. Therefore, God instituted a corporate relationship of the human race, so that some semblance of order is established in society. However, humankind failed to rule righteously, but perpetually exercised prejudice and rough justice, as well as deliberately misinterpreted the Divine command, and thus the responsibility of capital punishment capitulated to sectarian and authoritarian dictatorships and most especially into the hands of pariah and murderous States.

Earth, and the 'second' heaven is the vast **space** beyond, where all the celestial bodies are to be found in a constant motion. The combined 'first' and 'second' heavens are referred to as the 'firmament', *vide supra*, *Gen. 1:6-8*. Conceptually, they were jointly brought into existence in the second 'phase' of the creation. The firmament may, therefore, be safely described as those two distinct sequential regions, in the form of the limited atmospheric belt around the Earth, beyond which is the very expansive 'space'.

The atmosphere is approximately **60 miles** in thickness, it extends from the surface of the Earth to reach the edge of space. It is retained in position by the gravity of the Earth. Placed within its lower regions is the 'air' we breathe, which has a finely balanced gaseous content, and is renewed in the measured cycles of Oxygen, Carbon dioxide, Nitrogen, and water vapour, which sustains all plant and animal life on Earth. Therein also lies the rain-generating clouds, which constantly provide for the life-sustaining liquid water, *aka* the elixir of life^x. This crucial entity is a blessing from above, do we not colloquially say 'the heaven opened' when it rains, *Mal. 3:10*, especially when it does so heavily? As it had done in Noah's time. "the windows of heaven *were* opened", *Gen. 7:11*! In addition to air and water, the atmosphere maintains the property of atmospheric pressure, which is the essential indicator of the weather.

More significantly, in the uppermost regions of the atmosphere, *aka* **the stratosphere**, at about **22 miles (35.2 Kms)**, and beyond, above the surface of the Earth, there is a very special Oxygen compound, O₃, called Ozone, which was first discovered in **1913**, by two French physicists, Charles Fabry and Henri Buisson. It is quite essential to absorb most (~ **97 - 99%**) of the harmful ultraviolet solar radiation, an important protective function known as the Ozone Shield, the depletion of which threatens life on Earth, *vide infra*.

The 'second' Heaven is equally fascinating, so much so that David, amazed at God's creation, said: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard", *Ps. 19:1-3*. Although these immortal words were uttered over **3000** years ago, they still ring true in the **21st** century, as new information is constantly added and scientific discoveries never cease.

The universe is believed to have burst into being, which in the terms

^x P.S. Contrary to popular conception, the true 'elixir of life' is water, it is certainly not whisky.

of *Physical Cosmology* is expressed as the 'Big Bang', so that what started with a small singularity inflated over the subsequent billions of years to form the cosmos, which includes all the celestial bodies, namely: the stars, planets and moons, as well as the asteroids, meteors and comets, *etc....*, in the form of massive galaxies. Interestingly, the already expansive universe is said to be still expanding, before it will eventually implode.

However, even with today's best technology, approximately 85% of all matter in the universe remain undiscovered, it is quite appropriately given the hypothetical descriptive term: ***Dark matter***, which is also thought to be associated with an unfalsifiable energy, also aptly named: ***Dark energy***, that is said to contribute nearly 70% of the total energy in the currently 'observable' universe. In like manner, in the center of most of the galaxies there are supermassive ***Black holes***.

You get the drift! We are literally still very much in the ***dark*** about this inscrutable universe, with major gaps in our knowledge. For therein are many 'known unknowns', which are things we know we don't know, and even more 'unknown unknowns', i.e., things we don't know we don't know.

It must also be recognised that our current knowledge is limited, it applies to the 'observable' Universe only, when the emitted light of the respective celestial bodies reaches the Earth and is detected either by one of

revealed to us by the Lord Jesus Christ in the eight parables, for He said: "It is given unto you to know **the mysteries of the Kingdom of heaven**", *Matt. 13:11*. Nevertheless, thereafter He openly declared the necessity of His death and resurrection as a prelude and key to His Kingdom, which leads us to the Cross, and in the foreknowledge of God, but not yet disclosed, we hear Pilate, who found no fault in Him, and following a challenging and controversial discourse with the then contemporary Jews; saying to them: "**Behold your King!** But they cried out: Away with *Him*, away with *Him*, crucify *Him*! Pilate saith unto them: Shall I crucify **your King?** The chief priests answered: We have no king but Cæsar. ... And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the Cross. And the writing was: **JESUS, OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS**. ... and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin (*jesus nazarenus rex judæorum* usually abbreviated to **INRI**). Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate: Write not, the King of the Jews; but that He said: I am King of the Jews. Pilate answered: What I have written I have written", *John 19:1-22*.

During the ensuing **1992** years, (*A.D. 19 - 2021*) in the aftermath of the Cross and the Resurrection, the Gospel of Christ is preached world-wide, and the "Mysteries of the **Kingdom of Heaven**", *Matt. 13:11*, especially "the great mystery concerning Christ and the Church", *Eph. 5:32*, were established and made known to us, for "ye are a chosen generation, a **royal priesthood**, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of **darkness** into His marvellous **light**", *1 Pet. 2:9*.

The 'mysteries of the Kingdom' will be fully revealed when the Saviour of the world shall return, for "the same Jesus", the long-awaited Messiah, will once again return to that same "Mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem A Sabbath Day's journey", from whence He ascended to heaven after His glorious resurrection, *Acts 1:11&12*, "And His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east", *Zech. 14:4* and His holy saints with Him, who will, as predicted, "live and **reign** with Christ a thousand years, ... they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall **reign** with Him a thousand years", *Rev. 20:4-6*.

At His **Second** Advent, He will bring about universal **peace**, as it was predicted in the Angelic announcement at His first Advent: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth **Peace**, goodwill toward men", *Luke 2:14*, which will only be fulfilled in the forthcoming Millennial Kingdom, when "He shall speak **peace** unto the heathen: and His dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth", *Zech. 9:10*. Even the wild

a. The first triad, consists of three *past* noteworthy events, in which cataclysmic episodes of *physical darkness* brought about the most profound *spiritual Light*, which we chiefly commemorate to the glory of God, namely: The Creation of the world, and most especially the human race, *Gen. 1:2, 26&27*, Noah's Flood, *Gen. 6:5 - 8:13*, and The Redemption of humankind, *Matt. 27:45&46*, *Mark 15:33&34*, and *Luke 23:44-46*, wherein the case for the '**New Covenant**' is made.

b. The second triad, consists of three *future* eagerly-anticipated majestic and Royal events, namely: The Rapture, *1 Cor. 15:51-58*, *Phil. 3:21*, and *1 Thess. 4:13-15*, The Kingdom, *Rev. 20:1-3*, and the Day of God, *2 Pet. 3:12*. Therein an unavoidable consequential *physical darkness* will undoubtedly be manifest to all those left behind after the Rapture, followed by an unmissable *spiritual Light*, in the whole Earth, during the Millennial Kingdom of peace, which will make the case for universal *spiritual* renewal "according to His promise, we look for **new heavens and a new earth**, wherein dwelleth righteousness", *2 Pet. 3:13*.

Regrettably, *spiritual darkness* pervade the successive generations of human existence on Earth over **7** significant *Dispensations*^{*}, which were thankfully influenced by the *Divine light* of the **7** corresponding *Covenants*^{*}, that will be concluded when the long-awaited '**New world order**' is finally established, for God decreed that the ultimate solution for all the problems of the current Godless world lies squarely with the making of the "New heavens and a new earth", *Isa. 65:17 & 66:22*, *2 Pet. 3:13* and *Rev. 21:1*, 'when time shall be swallowed up in eternity'. And as we have all travelled, around the **7 white** circles, painted on the **black** floorcloth, in the First Point, we will presently attempt to unpack, *in extenso*, all the here mentioned epochs. But first, I must beg your forgiveness if you find this treatise uncomfortably long,

* A *Dispensation*, or 'age' is a period of time, during which humankind is tested with respect to the obedience to, and stewardship of, some specific deposit of a Divine revelation concerning God's Will, embodying what is required of the human race as to our conduct, which was exercised in 7 consecutive periods, namely: Innocence (*Gen. 1:28-3:6*), Conscience or Moral Responsibility (*Gen. 3:7 - 8:14*), Human Government (*Gen. 8:15 - 11:32*), The Promise (*Gen. 12:1 - Ex. 18:27*), The Law (*Ex. 19:1 - Acts 1:6*), The Kingdom (*1 Sam. 16:13 & Rev. 20:4*) and The Church (*Acts 2:1 - Eternity*).

Each of these **7 Dispensations** corresponded respectively to **7 Covenants**^{*}, as follows: Edenic (*Gen. 2:16*), Adamic (*Gen. 3:15*), Noahic (*Gen. 9:16*), Abrahamic (*Gen. 12:2*), Mosaic (*Ex. 19:5*), Davidic / Messianic (*2 Sam. 7:16 / Luke 1:33*) and the New or Jesuit Covenant, (*Heb. 8:8*).

* A *Covenant* is a sovereign pronouncement to humankind, a Divine *magna carta* if you like, by which God establishes a relationship of mutual responsibility, on God's side, an 'unconditional' obligation in His unrestricted declaration: "I will ...", which is never abrogated, but it requires a 'response' from humankind, leading to a blessing for the obedient and discipline for disobedience.

rape, revenge pornography, and murder. Both attitudes are exhibited in a wide spectrum and variation within the present-day society, the world over.

ii. Ham, the second son of Noah, typified the despicable human societal mischief, namely: violations, voyeurism and gossip, for when he "saw the nakedness of his father, *he* told his two brethren without", *Gen. 9:22*. One only needs to listen to any news bulletin or leaf through the broadsheet or tabloid newspaper to appreciate the extent of the downward spiral of human misdemeanours and abusive gossip!

iii. Finally, the seeds of racial discrimination were planted, regrettably attributed to the misinterpretation of Noah's prophecy, the so-called 'curse of Ham': "a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren", *Gen. 9:24-27*. Ever since, prejudice and intolerance have mushroomed, which spread amongst subsequent generations, in all stages of the history of the world, the creed and the colour have become an obsession amongst the entire humanity, or rather the lack of it, more especially in the supposedly 'civilized' societies of the so-called 'developed' countries. Thus, under the misguided white supremacy, racial inequality and the loathsome evil of slavery and human trafficking, prevailed. Such hatred was typically demonstrable in the historic holocaust and the current abhorrent anti-Semitism, all of which is still reeling even to our day and generation.

Notwithstanding, 'Sin' within human nature could not be suppressed by *human governance*, and the post-diluvian humankind, not unexpectedly, did not keep its first estate, that of being made in the likeness of God, and yet again proved over the generations that they: "were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only LORD God", *Jude 4*. And it was, therefore, predicted that an atoning 'sin offerings' were to be needed still, for which reason, God instructed Noah: "of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female; and of beasts that are not clean by two...", *Gen. 7:2*, and hence a surplus of clean beasts, which are the only ones accepted for substitutional sin offerings, should be made available! Indeed, the very first act which Noah did, after he was brought forth from the ark, was that he "builded an altar unto the LORD, and took of every 'clean' beast, and of every 'clean' fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar", which was initially in thankfulness, praise and worship for the happy and safe deliverance from the deluge, "and the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in His heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake", *Gen. 8:20&21*. Subsequently, they were needed in atonement for sin, and God saw that they

Scripture, correctly translated, there are many descriptive references of the 'Heavens', in the plural. In the *KJV*, the first is in *Deut. 10:14*: "Behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens is the LORD's thy God", which was quoted, *verbatim*, by King Solomon in his prayer at the Dedication of the Temple at Jerusalem: "Behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee; how much less this house that I have builded?" *1 Kings 8:27 and 2 Chron. 6:18*.

Nevertheless, there is only one explicit reference which mentions a numeral with respect to the heavens, it appears in the 2nd Epistle to the Church in *Corinth* and the Christians in the surrounding Province of *Achaia*, i.e., modern-day Greece, which was penned by the Apostle Paul whilst he was in *Macedonia*, around *AD 57*, probably influenced by the contemporaneous culture of the time and place, he wrote, almost certainly referring to himself: "I knew a man in Christ, above fourteen years ago, whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell; God *only* knoweth; such an one caught up to the *third heaven*", *2 Cor. 12:2*, he then continued in his discourse, explaining in v. 4: "how that he was caught up into *paradise*, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter". As such, he clearly equates the '*third*' heaven with *paradise* which was in fact the same term that we heard from the Lord Jesus whilst on the Cross, as He "said unto him (i.e., the penitent thief) 'verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in *paradise*'", *Luke 23:42*. It is therefore, quite safe to consider that the '*third*' Heaven is the place where the spirit, (N.B. not the soul), of the faithful believers 'when at last delivered from the burden of the flesh, shall wing its ethereal flight to the unexplored expanse of Heaven'.

Notwithstanding, when the Lord Jesus said: "In my *Father's House* are many mansions", *John 14:2*, was He referring to a different place than *paradise*? Here, I make no apology not to enter into any speculation as to whether the *Father's house* and the *paradise* are spatially different or temporally divergent, because it will be futile: "for we *now* know in part ... But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away" (*1 Cor. 13:9&10*), so to put it simply, we just don't know!

Forasmuch as there is a '*third*' heaven, it is quite natural and perfectly legitimate to ask the following questions: how many more, and what and where are the other Heavens! The answers, however, will also be a matter of conjecture and speculations, nonetheless they are still quite fascinating.

It is suggested, however, that the '*first*' heaven is the *atmosphere*, which is that vital and life-preserving circumferential gaseous ring around the

of *Physical Cosmology* is expressed as the 'Big Bang', so that what started with a small singularity inflated over the subsequent billions of years to form the cosmos, which includes all the celestial bodies, namely: the stars, planets and moons, as well as the asteroids, meteors and comets, *etc...*, in the form of massive galaxies. Interestingly, the already expansive universe is said to be still expanding, before it will eventually implode.

However, even with today's best technology, approximately 85% of all matter in the universe remain undiscovered, it is quite appropriately given the hypothetical descriptive term: **Dark matter**, which is also thought to be associated with an unfalsifiable energy, also aptly named: **Dark energy**, that is said to contribute nearly 70% of the total energy in the currently 'observable' universe. In like manner, in the center of most of the galaxies there are supermassive **Black holes**.

You get the drift! We are literally still very much in the **dark** about this inscrutable universe, with major gaps in our knowledge. For therein are many 'known unknowns', which are things we know we don't know, and even more 'unknown unknowns', i.e., things we don't know we don't know.

It must also be recognised that our current knowledge is limited, it applies to the 'observable' Universe only, when the emitted light of the respective celestial bodies reaches the Earth and is detected either by one of the fixed terrestrial observatories or by some powerful orbital telescopes, e.g., The Hubble Space Telescope.

Bearing in mind that the distances involved are astronomical, which are measured in terms of light-years, and given that one light-year is a galactic distance equivalent to 5.88 trillion (5.88×10^{12}) miles, accordingly, and without stating the obvious, what is presently observed on earth, has in fact taken many light years to reach us, and thereby it must have already been in existence, at the very least, for a considerable length of time, indeed many billions of years. By way of an illustration, the light from the Sun, the nearest star to us, takes approximately 8 Minutes and 20 Seconds to reach the earth, which is only about 93 Million miles away, hence the sun is always actually risen 8 minutes and 20 seconds before the hour of sunrise is recorded. Likewise, all the galaxies we now see have actually existed long before their light has reached us. It must, therefore, be appreciated that there is quite a lot more out there, still waiting to be discovered when more light eventually reaches the Earth.

The true age of the universe is, therefore, unknowable. It is estimated

were shadows of what was yet to come in the sacrifice of Christ, with this difference: "it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins ... by one offering *Jesus* hath perfected them forever", *Heb. 10:1-14*.

④ Fourthly, the Dispensation of **'The Promise'**, i.e., the **Abrahamic**, which started when God called the then 'Abram', *c. 1950 BCE*, to be His instrument of blessing to all humankind, for through him God has stored an unconditional threefold promise of blessings, viz., Personal, National and Global, *Gen. 12:1-3*:

a. **Personal Promise**: "Now the LORD had said unto Abram: Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee;... and I will bless thee, and make thy name great: and thou shalt be a blessing", *Gen. 12:1&2*. He was therefore included in the "great cloud of witnesses" in the Sphere of faith, for "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of *promise*, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same *promise*; For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God", *Heb. 11:8-10*. And after he passed the most severe of all tests, *Gen. 22*, and was found not wanting, he received the *Promise*: "That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies", *Gen. 22: 7*.

b. **National Promise**: "And I will make of thee a great nation, ... And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee", *Gen. 12:2&3*. Hence, when God visited Abraham and Sarah who were "old and well stricken" at the ages of *29* and *90*, respectively, and *promised* that Isaac will be born even when both of them were "past age", they believed it because they "judged Him faithful who had *promised* (*Gen. 13:14-17, 17:1-9, 16-21 & 18:10-15*). Therefore, sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable", *Heb. 11:11&12*.

c. **Global Promise**: "And in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed", *Gen. 12:3*. Abraham is, of course, mentioned in the two genealogies of our Lord Jesus Christ, *Matt. 1: 1-16 & Luke 3:23-38*. In fact, he is prominent in the first verse of the New Testament, as we read in "The Book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham", then the first name to

be mentioned is "Abraham begot Isaac, ..." *Matt. 1:1&2*. Proceeding onwards not only was Jesus Christ born of the seed of Abraham, and "Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in Him", *Gen. 18:18*, "And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed", *Gen. 22:18*.

In Isaac, *Gen. 22:2-19*, we have an unmatched type of Christ, in whom the promise of blessing for the whole world is fulfilled. Therein are **7** typical lessons as follows:

i. As Isaac was to Abraham: "thy son, thine only son Isaac whom thou lovest", *v. 2*, so is Jesus Christ to the Father. Twice we heard the Father's "voice from heaven saying: This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased", *Matt. 3:17 & 17:5*, at His baptism and on the mount of transfiguration, respectively, in the Gospels according to St. Mark and St. Luke the former was even more personal: "Thou art my beloved Son; in Thee I am well pleased", *Mark 1:11 & Luke 3:22*. Such love is repeatedly declared in the Gospel according to St. John: "The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into His hand", *John 3:35*, and "The Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things", *John 5:20*. And in the week before His crucifixion Jesus openly declared: "As the Father hath loved me, so I loved you", *John 15:9*, and finally speaking intimately to the Father in His High Priestly, intercessory prayer He concluded: "That the world may know that Thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved me ... For Thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world ... I have declared unto them Thy Name, and will declare it, that the love with which Thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them", *John 17:23-26*.

ii. As Abraham was 'tested' to give up his son: "Take now thy son ... and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of", *v. 2*, in the nick of time he was prevented to do so, because "God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man", *James 1:13*, however, the Father sent Jesus "to give His life a ransom for many", *Mark 10:45*, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus: Who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time", *1 Tim 2:5&6*. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life", *John 3:16*.

iii. The 'planned' offering of Isaac was as follows: "Get thee into the land of Moriah...upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of" *v. 2*. It

possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, **not as I will, but as Thou wilt**", and again "O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me except I drink it, **Thy will be done**", "and *He* went again, and prayed the third time, saying **the same words**", *Matt. 26: 39, 42 & 44*. "Then said I: Lo, I come, in the volume of the Book it is written of me, to do Thy will, O God", *Heb. 10:7 & Ps. 40:8*.

vii. Finally, the essence of this *Dispensation* is The Promise of blessing to the whole world, which is fulfilled through Abraham's greatest son, for "He saith not: And to seeds, as of many; but as of One: And to thy seed, which is Christ", *Gal. 3:16*, who is here represented by Isaac when he spoke unto Abraham, his father, and said: My Father, ... Behold the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said: My son, God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering", *v. 7&8*. On the one hand, Abraham was then prevented from laying his hand upon Isaac as he lifted up his eyes, and looked and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by *his* horns; and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered *him* up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son", *v. 13*, but on the other hand, the Father "spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all", *Rom 8:32*, "Wherefore, when He cometh into the world, He saith: Sacrifice and offering Thou wouldest not, but a body hast Thou prepared me; ... By which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all", *Heb. 10:5 & 12*. "Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows, ... He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed, ... and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all ... It pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He hath put Him to grief. When Thou shalt make His soul an offering for sin, ... He shall see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied".

Here I suggest to pause and devoutly read the whole of *Isaiah 53*, as we always do during the symbolic **33** days travel around the **7** circles in the dark room in the First Point. This was also "The place of the Scripture which the *Ethiopian eunuch* read: He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened not his mouth; In his humiliation his judgement was taken away; and who shall declare his generation? For his life is taken from the earth. And the eunuch *asked* Philip: I pray thee: of whom speaketh the prophet this? Of himself, or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth and began at the same Scripture, and preached unto him Jesus", *Acts 8:32-35*. And as we pose the same question 'I particularly commend to your meditation the beauties of the New and Better Covenant, that we may the more completely appreciate its excellence'!

Although this dispensation of 'The Promise' is officially superseded by The Mosaic, with the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai, God's promises to Abraham and his seed are not annulled, they did not terminate there, as both the Old and New Testaments are full of post-Sinaitic promises concerning Israel, the Church and the Kingdom, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

⑤. Fifthly, the Dispensation of 'The Law', i.e., the Mosaic, which is too broad a subject for the present very brief discourse, however, it began with the giving of the law to Moses on Mount Horeb in the wilderness of Sinai, *c. 1443 BCE*. It came about because the previous two dispensations have both failed, yet still providentially extant, namely: the stick of the 'external' monitor of 'Human Governance' and the carrot of the immutable 'Promise' of God. However, after the failure, particularly of the dispensations of the 'internal' moral responsibility and an 'external' human monitor, it became clear that it proved necessary to have a more superior 'external' monitor of Divine source, hence The Law. However, it also became clear that no one could fulfil the Law, symbolized by Moses breaking the Tablets. And in a quite scholarly discourse, Paul the Apostle, in his Epistle to the Romans, *Chapters 7 & 8*, has incontrovertibly proven that because 'the Law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good - that sin by the commandment might become exceedingly sinful. For we know that the Law is spiritual; but I am carnal, sold under sin', *Rom. 7:12-14*, in plain English, the Law identifies sin but does not give the power to overcome it, "because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the Law of God, neither, indeed, can be", *Rom. 8:7*, therein he repeatedly admitted, on behalf of the entire humanity, that "the good that I *should* do, I do not; but the evil which I would not *do*, that I do, ... Oh wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of death?" *Rom. 7:19&24*.

Nevertheless, there are three divisions which form 'The Law', each is essential to the other two, namely: *The Commandments* which, of necessity, express the Righteous and perfect Will of God, *Ex 20:1-26*, *The Judgement* which governs the social life of the Israelites, *Ex 21:1 - 24:11*, and *The Ordinances* which directs the religious life of the Jewish people, as an holy nation and a kingdom of priests, *Ex 24:12 - 31:18*. The latter gave, in the High Priest, a representative of the people with the LORD God, and in the Sacrifices an atonement for their sins, especially on the most important day of the Jewish calendar, *viz.*, the Day of Atonement, *Lev.16*, but all the above was in

anticipation of the Cross, on which Jesus "Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God", *Rom. 3:25*, for in the eyes of God, even in the olden times, was on the Cross, not the Levitical Sacrifices "For the Law, having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect", *Heb. 10:1*, as they were the shadows of better things to come, of which Christ Jesus was the real thing, who made full and complete redemption.

Accordingly, the Law was given as a preparatory discipline, for it has conclusively proved the inveterate sinfulness of the human nature, so that it is made absolutely clear that whatever 'good works' we do we still fall short of the holiness of God. "Wherefore, then serveth the Law? It was added because of transgressions, ... Is the Law then against the promise of God? God forbid", *Gal. 3:19-21*, and so St. Paul rightly gave this verdict: "For I was alive without the Law once: but when the commandment came sin revived, and I died. And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death", *Rom. 7:9 & 10*, "For whosoever shall keep the whole Law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all", *James 2:10*. In other words, the Law was the undisputed vehicle to stop any chance of human boasting in good works. Therefore, "if there had been a Law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the Law. But the Scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe ... Wherefore the Law was *only* our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster", *Gal. 3:21-25*. "For we know that the Law is spiritual; but I am carnal, sold under sin", *Rom. 7:14*.

The dispensation of the Law was eventually brought to its close, in the sacrificial death of Christ Jesus, for He had also once said: "The Law and the Prophets were until John (the Baptiste); since that time the Kingdom of God is preached ... And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the Law to fail" *Luke 16:16&17*, and in His ever-popular Sermon on the Mount, in which He set out the Principles and the Rules of His future Messianic reign in the Millennial Kingdom, He said: "Think not that I am come to destroy The Law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you: Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the Law, till all be fulfilled", *Matt. 5:17&18*. Indeed, The Law was a time-era, for in Christ all its ordinances, types, shadows, and provisions are

the sin of the world", *John 1:29 & 36*. There and then a forthright declaration was made: "thou (i.e., Satan) shalt bruise His heel (i.e., the promised seed of the woman, Christ, The Son of God, who was made flesh)" *Gen. 3:15*. Therein was the first intimation of the promise of a redeemer, which was represented by the first substitutional Sacrifice to make the coats of skin.

2. Secondly, the dispensation of **'Conscience and Moral Responsibility'**, i.e., the **Adamic**, which is claimed to be the bedrock of all 'civilised' societies, and though this is officially succeeded by the Dispensation of **'Human Government'**, it is still extant and overlaps all other dispensations. However, although the personal human moral responsibility must continue to be exercised for the good of any society, it could not be relied upon to meet God's expectations, for even amongst those who claim the moral high ground, they still fall short of God's perfect standards, because in His sight "all our righteousness are as filthy rags", *Isa 64:6*, and in the words of the Lord Jesus: "He that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone", *John 8:7*. Herewith, so to speak, was God's end-of-term assessment at the official termination of this dispensation: "every imagination of the thoughts of *his* heart was only evil continually", *Gen. 6:5*. "Throughout the history of the human race, each and every individual has quite comprehensively failed, and by our own admission: "every mouth may be stopped" and all the world may become guilty before God ... There shall no flesh be justified in His sight; for there is no difference. ***For all have sinned***, and come short of the glory of God", *Rom. 3:19 - 23*.

From early on, soon after the commencement of this ***'Dispensation'***, the human nature was exposed, and Cain and Abel represented the divergent voices of ***conscience and moral responsibility***, exemplified in their offerings: "In process of time, it came to pass that Cain (whose name means: *acquisition* who "was a tiler of the ground", and so he) brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, (whose name means: *exaltation* or *that which ascends*), he also, brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering, but unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect", *Gen. 4:2-5*. The former is an example of the mere worldly man of the Earth, whose misguided and false 'religion' was not only destitute of any sense of sin or the need for atonement, as it were he depended on his own efforts and 'good' works, which also had no impact on his conscience and morality, accordingly he became "very wroth and his countenance fell", and in his jealousy and 'anger' planned for violence and engineered a heinous crime, in that he killed his own blood brother, and

Rapture

believers for the Rapture but also by the faithful "remnant" of the chosen People of God, *aka* the Messianic Jews, who will "come out of great tribulation, *having* washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb", *Rev. 7:14*. For there and then the Angelic proclamation, first pronounced at the birth of Jesus, the Son of God, the most celebrated Son of King David, will be ultimately fulfilled: "And He shall reign, over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His Kingdom there shall be no end", *Luke 1:33*. The whole world will be blessed by Christ's reign, because *Satan* will cease from corrupting and troubling the people and will also be prevented from deceiving the nations. However, after the thousand years *the devil* "must be loosed a little season", *Rev. 20:3*, and once again, in a last ditch effort, *Satan* and his hosts will war against God, *Rev. 20:7-10*, but he will be defeated and his fate is sealed in eternal damnation, and will no longer be the 'prince of this world', as he "will be cast out", *John 12:31*, and like his two evil followers, the Beast and the False Prophet, all the powers of *darkness* will finally be "cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone" *Rev. 19:20*, not to be heard of ever again. The former faithless humanity totally failed to please God, and being blinded by corruption and moral degradation of the unethical ignoble *darkness*, hence the 'New' Divine 'World Order' will be forever rescued from the 'Chaotic' hands of humankind of the "present evil world", *Gal. 1:4*, and "" will be ushered in, and the true "Prince of Peace", *Isa. 9:6*, will take His rightful place as "King of Kings and Lord of Lords", *1 Tim. 6:15 & Rev. 19:16*.

6. To this end, the making of 'The New Heavens and a new Earth' has become unquestionable, not because God changed His original plan, but because His 'intelligent' creatures to whom He has given a free-will, have abused this privilege, be it in heaven where "the Angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, He hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgement of the great day", or on the Earth where "even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire", *Jude 6&7*. For that very reason, "He that sat upon the throne said: Behold, I make all things new. And He said unto me (*St. John the Divine*), Write: for these words are true and faithful", *Rev. 21:5*. Indeed, the Lord said before He departed to the Cross: "Heaven and Earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away", *Matt. 24:35, Mark 13:31 & Luke 21:33*, for we know that "the heavens and the earth which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgement and perdition of ungodly men, ... but the day of

the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat; the Earth also, and the works that are therein, shall be burned up", *2 Pet. 3:7&10*.

(7.) Therefore, "*Seeing*, then, that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness. Looking for and hasting unto the coming of The Day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless", *2 Pet. 3:11-14*. "For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come", *Heb. 13:14*, and our lives also should truly reflect that "our *citizenship* is in heaven from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ", *Phil. 3:20*.

In conclusion:

We ought to strive for a constant *spiritual regeneration**, and share in this prayer of the Psalmist: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me", *Ps. 51:10*. And listen to the homily of the Ecclesiastes Preacher: "Remember, now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain; In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened. And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of music be brought low; Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and the fear shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets; Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it", *Eccles. 12:1-7*.

* The word "regeneration" comes from the Greek word *palingenesia* meaning renewal or new birth, i.e., re-creation, which should apply both **spiritually**, in the Christian's life, and **socially** in the re-creation of the new 'World Order' at the restitution when the Kingdom comes.