

IV. The Rapture: The 'Darkness' is left behind *

1 Cor. 15:51-58, Phil. 3:21, and 1 Thess. 4:13-18

At the conclusion of Section III, we have "considered the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus", *Heb. 3:1*, and have undoubtedly come to the realisation that, as believers in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we have actually become "partakers of the **heavenly calling**, ... for it became Him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many *children* unto glory, to make the Captain of their Salvation perfect through sufferings ... Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death... Wherefore in all things He beloved Him to be made like unto His brethren", *Heb. 2:10, 14 & 17*. He "was made in the likeness of men; And, being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross", *Phil. 2:7&8*, and as a consequence to His redemptive sacrifice we will, in like manner, be made unto His likeness: "Beloved, now we are the *children* of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that, when **He shall appear**, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is", *1 John 3:2*.

There is a multitude of references concerning the return of Christ to the Earth, which is in reality *biphasic* events, not a process, as follows: first, the 'private' return to the Church, namely: **The Rapture**, to be followed by His 'public' appearance in the so-called Second Advent or Second coming, *Matt. 24:29-31*, in order to establish the Davidic/Messianic Kingdom, as detailed in Section V, *Rev. 19:1-16*, when once again "His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives, ... and the LORD, my God shall come, and all the saints with Him", *Zach. 14:4&5*, when He will finally accomplish the world-wide conversion and spiritual regeneration, as detailed in Section VII.

Although the word '**Rapture**' is nowhere to be found in the Scripture, be it the *Kjv*, or indeed any other English translation, however, the term became rather popular from the mid-nineteenth century onwards, more

* "**Left Behind**" is a borrowed expression from the apocalyptic fictional series of 12 books by Tim Francis LaHaye and Jerry Bruce Jenkins, which started in 1995, that depicts the condition of the Earth and those 'left behind' after the Rapture. Although this glorious time for the Christian believers, the aftermath on Earth is unimaginable, as depicted in this fictional series, with potential **darkness** that will spread over all the Earth, which we will leave behind.

foreknowledge of God all other Dispensations failed. As a principle, grace is set in contrast with the Law: "For the Law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ", *John 1:17*, "For the Grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men", *Titus 2:11*. It commenced in *A.D. 29*, with the Death of Christ on the Cross of Calvary and His Resurrection, nearly **2000** years ago, and it is by far the longest dispensation in which we currently live and enjoy as Christian believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the real 'intermission' between the two phases of His Kingdom on Earth, but its effect will last throughout the Eternity. There is so much that can be written about the Grace of God, and here I would like to quote the concluding words of St. John's Gospel: "there are also many other things which Jesus did, if they should be written, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen", *John 21:25*.

Suffice it to say, that as humanity is plunged into an intolerable but quite characteristic perpetual *spiritual darkness*, and as "The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God". *Alas!* "They are all gone astray, they are all together become filthy, there is none that doeth good, no, not one", *Ps. 14:1-3*. This description was then paraphrased by St. Paul, who for emphasis says: "As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one, ..." then he enlisted the errors of their ways, and concluded with the real cause, for "there is no fear of God before their eyes", *Rom. 2:10-18*, so much so that "the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men", *Rom. 1:18*. Notwithstanding, in the eternal council of the Godhead, a plan for salvation was designed through Christ Jesus. And though God "will have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth", *1 Tim. 2:4*, it is quite regrettable that the majority of humankind remain in disbelief.

In conclusion

As we have now finally arrived at the second '*Triad*' which will unveil the upcoming history of the world and the impending large-scale extinction of the unbelieving human race, for the Righteous and Holy God will finally put an end to all the sin and wickedness on the Earth, which is currently inhabited by **7.8** Billion people; but He is also gracious and merciful, and out of the estimated **115** Billion people, that has ever trod the Earth, many Billions, including the innumerable innocent children, will fill the Father's house and will take part in the forthcoming future events, only because of "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, *who*, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich", *2 Cor. 8:9*.

them, and show them the manner of the king who shall reign over them", and even when Samuel enumerated a whole list of acts of misdemeanour, corruption, nepotism, and abuse of power, *1 Sam 8:9-18*, nevertheless they foolishly still accepted and in utter stubbornness they answered Samuel: "Nay, but we will have a *human* king over us", *1 Sam. 8:19*, and so, Saul was anointed king of Israel! *1 Sam. 10:1*. And he proved to be man of blood and violence, whose reign was a constant warfare on every side. He was also frequently visited by an evil spirit, and became quite crazy and mad. Finally, he became irate and very jealous of David, his then chief warrior and son-in-law, and who subsequently became God's anointed King. But Saul harboured hatred and vengeance towards David, and repeatedly attempted to kill him. It is no wonder that God refused Saul to continue to rule over His people, Israel, for "Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying: It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king; for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel, and he cried unto the LORD all night", *1 Sam. 15:10&11*. However, "The LORD said unto Samuel: How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill thine horn with oil, and go; I will send thee to Jesse, the Bethlehemite; for I have provided me a king among his sons", *1 Sam. 16:1*, and from henceforth the days of Saul as King of Israel were numbered, and the rest is history, as they say, for the Kingdom of God was henceforth established on earth, although it is as yet not manifest.

Sadly, but not surprisingly, history repeated itself. Indeed, more than **1050** years elapsed since the 'elders of Israel' in Ramah refused God to be their King and did not know what they got themselves into, in like manner 'the chief priests of the Jews' at Gabbatha behaved exactly in the same way, for "they know not what they do", *Luke 23:34*.

This refusal of the Lord's kingship, was again demonstrated fairly early on at the first advent, for "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying: Repent ye; for the **Kingdom of Heaven** is at hand", *Mat 3:1&2*, Alas! "*Jesus* came unto His own, and His own received Him not", *John 1:11*, and this rejection extended all the way unto Mount Calvary, so that when Pilate rather by inspiration "saith unto the Jews: **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", *John 19:14&15*. And again, as "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*

fulfilled, consequently, therefore, it has also overlapped with the subsequent dispensation of the Davidic Kingdom.

6. Sixthly, the Dispensation of *'The Kingdom'*, i.e., The **Davidic** Kingdom, historically it began *c. 1011 BCE*, which overlapped the Mosaic Dispensation. It started with God's rejection of Saul, the first king of Israel, as He chose David to rule instead, who was received as King, initially over Judah in Hebron, then eventually over the whole of Israel, with Jerusalem as the capital. This kingdom lasted, albeit divided after the reign of King Solomon, for **425** years, until it came to an abrupt end, although only temporarily, at the Babylonian captivity in *586 BCE*, and it will remain in absence until the restoration for the Messianic reign, in the future Millennial Kingdom, of the greatest son of David, the Lord Jesus Christ, as will be discussed in more details in Section VI, *vide infra*.

However, I believe that it might be profitable to entertain the Kingdom as it was in the past, in order that we are better enabled to appreciate more the one which is to come in the future, as follows.

The first occurrence of the word 'Kingdom' in the Scripture, with reference to the Divine rule, is in *Exodus 24:6*, which marked the beginning of a new relationship with the human race, namely the Theocratic Kingdom of the Almighty God. It began when "The Lord called unto Moses out of the mountain saying: "Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my Covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people; for all the earth is mine; And ye shall be unto me a **Kingdom of Priests**, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel", *Ex 19:3-6*, Alas! Yet again humankind in general, and the chosen people of God, in particular, would not, or rather could not, keep our side of the relationship with our Divine maker, for only in just few generations we refused that God should rule over us, interestingly it was coincidentally also about **425** years following their liberation from their Egyptian bondage, when "All the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, and said unto him: ... Now make us a King to judge us, like all the nations... And the LORD said unto Samuel: Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee; for they have not refused thee, **but they have rejected me**, that I should not reign over them", *1 Sam. 8:4-7*. They asked for a *human*, not God, to rule over them and despite the warning: "Howbeit, yet protest solemnly unto

rex judæorum). Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate: Write not, The King of the Jews, but, He said, I am King of the Jews. Pilate answered: What I have written, I have written", *John 19:19-22*. For, indeed, "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised and we esteemed Him not", *Isa. 53:3*. And as the chief priests who had declared Cæsar as their King and refused Jesus, the Son of God, they approvingly handed Him to the Roman soldiers who cruelly "led Him away into the hall, called Prætorium; and they call together the whole band", *Mark 15:16*, to make a spectacle of Him, "And when they had plaited a crown of thorns, they put it upon His head, and gave Him a reed in His right hand; and they bowed the knee before Him, and mocked Him, saying: Hail, King of the Jews!" *Matt. 27:29*. And when on the Cross, the chief priests mocked Him too, "saying: If thou be the King of the Jews, save thyself", *Luke 23:37*, and again "Let Christ, the King of Israel descend now from the Cross, that we may see and believe", *Matt. 27:42*. There and then, Daniel's prophecy of the seventy weeks of years, i.e., one "week" to indicate seven years: "And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, **but not for Himself**", *Dan 9:26*, literally shall have nothing of regal glory which was rightly His, which was accurately fulfilled when He died on the Cross in *A.D. 29/30*, without restoring the Kingdom, for the time being, until He will come again in the second Advent for the establishment of His Kingdom upon Earth.

Indeed, the time will soon come when finally, "He shall see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied; by His knowledge shall my Righteous Servant justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities. Therefore, will I divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong; because He hath poured out His soul unto death; and He was numbered with the transgressors; and He bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors", *Isa. 53:11&12*. And having "made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men, And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father", *Phil. 2:7-11*.

⑦ Seventh, and finally, the Dispensation of Grace, or the period of Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ i.e. The Jesuit. It was instituted because in the

④ Rapture

throughout history, has the potential to be brought back into true fellowship with God, thankfully this is still extant, "Therefore, thou art inexcusable, O man; ... or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and long-suffering; not knowing that the patience of God leadeth thee to repentance *?" *Rom. 2:1-4*.

④. Then, at The Rapture, the milliard believers in Christ Jesus, 'who faithfully and sincerely put their trust in Him', will be transported away from this temporal scene of **darkness**, death and decay, unto the Mansions of **Light** in eternal bliss and glory, for "the dead in Christ shall first rise, and we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air", *1 Thess. 4:16&17*. And as we wait for His imminent return for us, and I genuinely believe that this glorious event will take place very soon, even in our time, and therefore we ought to lead our lives with this prospect in mind, as St. Paul wrote to Timothy to avoid covetousness, and the many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in *spiritual* destruction and perdition, "But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called ... that thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ", *1 Tim. 6:9-14*, "And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure", *1 John 3:3*. But the Rapture will consequently leave in its wake a trail of unimaginable chaos amongst those left behind on Earth, because by then a void or any remaining real moral compass must become noticeable. The 'Trials and the great Tribulations' will then follow and will undoubtedly overwhelm the Earth, for a period of **7** years, which are absolutely essential for the purpose of cleansing the Earth from evil, in preparation for the visible return of Christ Jesus to reign upon the Earth.

5. Nevertheless, The Kingdom, aka The Millennium Kingdom, *vide supra*, which will immediately follow, is a Kingdom of peace and rest, when the currently demonstrable **darkness** of the human 'government' will be transformed into the perceptible **Light** of the "Kingdom of heaven", *Matt. 3:2*, for the Lord Jesus Christ shall return to Earth, as the long-awaited Messiah, and "in His times He shall show, who is the Blessed and only Potentate, the King of Kings, and the Lord of Lords", *1 Tim 6:15*, for He shall reign for a 1000 years, *Rev. 20:4*. He is presently eagerly awaited not only by the Christian

* The English word 'Repent' is a translation of a Greek verb '*metanoēō*', which means to have another mind, or to change one's mind, in this sense it genuinely refers to *spiritual regeneration*.