

In this pamphlet, we will be taking a look at some of the things that relate to the 'SECOND COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.' Our Meditation shall be drawn from LUKE 17:20-37. We reproduce the text below for your convenience:

Verse 20.: "And when He was demanded of the Pharisees, When the kingdom of God should come, He answered them and said, the kingdom of God cometh not with observation."

Verse 21.: "Neither shall they say, lo here! or lo there! For behold the kingdom of God is within you."

Verse 22.: "And He said unto His disciples, the days will come, when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see it."

Verse 23.: "And they shall say to you, see here: or see there: go not after them, nor follow them."

Verse 24.: "For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day."

Verse 25.: "But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation."

Verse 26.: "And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man."

Verse 27.: "They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all."

Verse 28.: "Likewise also, as it was in the days of Lot, they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded."

Verse 29.: "But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and

destroyed them all."

Verse 30.: "Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed."

Verse 31.: "In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back."

Verse 32.: "Remember Lot's wife."

Verse 33.: "Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it, and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it."

Verse 34.: "I tell you in that night, there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left."

Verse 35.: "Two women shall be grinding together, the one shall be taken, and the other left."

Verse 36.: "Two men shall be in the field, the one shall be taken, and the other left."

Verse 37.: "And they answered and said unto Him, Where, Lord? And He said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together."

THE DAY OF THE SON OF MAN.

The phrase 'the Day of the Son of man' (verse 24) is a reference to the time period when God, through His Son Jesus Christ, is concluding the work of redemption in the earth. The phrase is thus related to what is commonly known as the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In verse 24, we are shown in a figure, the character of the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ toward HIS CHURCH in His day. We are told, "as the lightning; that lighteneth out of one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the

Son of man be in His day." The Lord as the sun of righteousness arises first upon those who earnestly look for His appearing, giving them the light and life of full redemption (Malachi 4:2). But then, as more and more people open unto Him, the fragrance of His saving knowledge will fill mankind, as it is written: "the knowledge of the glory of God shall cover the earth as the water cover the sea." (Num. 14:21; Isa. 11:9).

The Day of the Son of man is a Day of days. It actually covers the time period from the closing years of the gospel age until the closing years of the kingdom age "when He shall have put down all rule and power and authority" (I Cor. 15:24). We may more appropriately call it the Second Advent of Christ.

The scriptures reveal three phases in this time period. The beginning is designated in the New Testament by the Greek word "PAROUSIA". It means "PRESENCE" and denotes a time of great manifestation of the presence of Christ among the faithful ones. He works among the faithful ones to bring them to the fullness of salvation experience. So many of His people are unaware of this great work as the scriptures clearly indicate, moreso, the rest of the world. This period of time is likened to "the days of Noah" (verse 26) or "the days before the flood" (Matt. 24:37-39)

The second phase is referred to as "the day in which the Son of man is revealed" (verse 30). It is the day of the revelation of Christ, the day of His appearing (Colo. 3:4; I John 3:2). In that time period, what has been done in the secret (first) phase, which was hidden, is now made manifest. The glory of God will be manifested fully by those who have been brought into fullness of life. During this time period is the great tribulation that is to come upon the earth, the antitype of Noah's flood.

The third and final phase is the time of His reign over all the earth, the time of the establishment of the kingdom of heaven over the whole earth. It can be

demonstrated from the Holy Scriptures that we are in the first phase of Christ Second Advent, the Parousia.

Our burden in this pamphlet is to draw the attention of God's people to the things that pertain to the first phase of the Day of the Son of man and to show how this affects us. What is the Lord doing in the earth at this time? What is God saying to His people now?

#### THE LORD'S SECRET ACTIVITIES.

The first phase of the second advent of Christ is often likened to a night period. The symbol of the night is used to show that there is a lot of ignorance (darkness) concerning the activities of the Lord in the earth in that day. I Thess. 5:7 says "they that sleep (unconscious of, and hence, not involved in what the Lord is doing in their day) sleep in the night." In that night, there is nothing in the visible world to show that anything is taking place (remember verse 20 of Luke 17). The world remains as it has ever been, with mankind engrossed in their mundane and religious activities "...they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded, and knew not....." (Matt. 24:37-39).

But it is in that night that the Lord comes secretly as a thief among His people. He comes to recover, cleanse, restore and ultimately perfect those of His people that are faithful unto Him. At the same time, He darkens the eyes and binds the hands and feet of the habitually unfaithful, casting such into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth (Please read Matthew 24:42-51).

At the beginning period of the Day of the Son of man (His Parousia), the church is found in a backslidden (apostate) condition, even though there are many within the church system that have a true heart towards the Lord. Truth had long fallen in the streets of Christendom. Many believers have corrupted the ways of God. Erroneous teachings and practices (like tares; Matt. 13:24-30) have been entrenched in Christian assemblies. Over the years of the history of the church, a system of religion has been

established that is a far cry from what the Lord and His apostles handed down to us. Denominationalism, human organisation, idolatry and man worship, witchcraft, hatred, strife and contention, filthy lucre, vain glory (titles), immorality and worldliness, have become the order of the day.

It is easy to see then, why the Lord, during His Parousia focuses His attention towards His people. If He must judge the world, passing it through great tribulations, then He must first set His own house in order. He sets out to recover all of His people that have ears to hear Him. He must cleanse them from their errors and evil ways. He must restore truth to His church (Isa. 59:25). Please read the whole of Isa. 59 especially verses 15-21, to see the nature of the divine reaction to the defection of His people.

We are living now at the end of time. The church age is closing up. The Lord is presently at work among His people in a special way. He stands at the door of every heart with a message, with something to say to His people (Rev. 3:20), if they will hear or if they will forebear (Ezek. 2:5). He warns His people of the destruction and tribulation that is sure to come upon all His enemies. All things that are not according to His plans, whether they be found in His people or in the world, shall be visited with judgement. He shows the way of escape. Some will hearken, but some will not. He is making the repentant ones to know they must forsake the religious order and systems they have made for themselves, lest they partake of the coming plagues (Rev. 18:4). He causes His people to know that there are perfection and glories He desires to bring them into which they cannot realize if they remain in the degenerate spiritual environment of the denominational church systems.

All these constitutes the activities of the Lord among His people in the night season. It is a season of mercy. Though darkness covers the earth and thick darkness appears to envelop the churches, the Lord arises with light upon all those that fear Him. Those responding to His voice are being prepared to partake

of His glory (Isa. 60:1-2). It is interesting to note that Noah preached for about a hundred and twenty years before the flood came. He spoke of a coming judgement. He warned the people of His day. Noah's ministry is illustrative of the way of escape open to all in the first phase of the Day of the Son of man (Verse 26).

#### MANIFESTATION OF DIVINE JUDGEMENT.

The activities of the Lord in the night seasons soon begin to manifest itself in visible judgement. Some among His people open their hearts to Him, hearken to His voice and are delivered from their backslidings. Others seem to harden their hearts and are left to continue in those things that please them. Vers 34 through 35 of our passage says,

"I tell you in that night, there shall be two men in one bed, the one shall be taken and the other left. Two women shall be grinding together, the one shall be taken, the other left. Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left."

The bed, the field, the mill at which the women grind, all speak of aspects of our spiritual services or labours. Two men in one bed, two men in the field, two women at the mill, are all companions labouring in the Lord's vineyard but with evidently different heart conditions.

In the midst of such activities (some faithful, others unfaithful, some with a true heart, others with greed and covetousness), the Lord opens the eyes of the faithful to see the vanity of labouring to build man's empire and leads them to respond to the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. They are led out of symbolic wilderness wanderings and brought into a place where they can more clearly hear the voice of the Lord. Thus we find being fulfilled in our day what the Lord Jesus predicted about the time of harvest (Matt. 13:37). The great sifting is now going on. The wheat class are sure to be progressively lifted in their heart and mind condition to a life fully pleasing to God, worthy of entering full union with Christ. The

tares class continue on in vanity, blind and deaf.

The deliverance of Lot from Sodom before the destruction of that city (Verses 28 and 29) is a picture of the deliverance of the willing hearted among the Lord's people from the fallen church systems of our day. Sodom is a symbol for organised unfaithfulness and spiritual harlotry in what was once a holy nation, a peculiar people (see for example, Isa. 1:10; Rev. 11:8). Another name for Christendom (in her departure from God and marriage to the world), is 'BABYLON' (Rev 17).

God's great judgement awaits Christendom! Rev. 18:5 says,

"...her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities, therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death and mourning and famine, and she shall be utterly burnt with fire; for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her." (Verse 8)

But before this judgement begins to break forth in visible measures upon Babylon, God stands in mercy to recover and save all that have ears to hear Him. Arising from this divine concern, is the event of a great gathering unto the Lord.

#### THE GATHERING UNTO THE LORD.

In verse 37 of our passage, the disciples wanted to know where those that are delivered out of the confused religious order of today are to be taken to. Yes! Out of the denominational systems. Out of the symbolic Sodom. Out of Babylon. But "where Lord!" they inquired. And the Lord answered, "whithersoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together." The word "BODY" is the Greek word "SOMA". It means the body as a sound whole, the healthy body.

There is a true body that the Lord is raising up today. Let it be known that this work of gathering to Himself a people has been on for many years. A pure work of the Spirit in this regard can be testified to

in many nations today. God is at the lead, at the Head. Hundreds of thousands are gathering unto fellowship with the Lord and with one another (II Thess. 2:1; Psalm 50:5). The Lord Himself directs their work in truth (Isa. 61:8) teaching them His plans and purpose at this time of the end. He is preparing them for the glory that is to be revealed. Open up to the voice of His call.

God, through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (the greater than Noah) is building an ark in the earth today! And, where this body is, there the true saints and seekers after God are to be gathered. It is this body that will reveal the fullness of the glory of the Lord as mentioned in Romans 8:19. Through this body, God's plans and purposes for this age are to be consummated.

There are two events that are to signal the end of the first (secret) phase of the Day of the Son of man, and beginning of the second phase, His appearing. This may be clearly seen in typical judgement of Noah's day. First is the entering of Noah into the ark. Second is the coming of the flood. The first speak of God entering His rest in the church. The fulness of God comes to dwell in this body that He is preparing for Himself at this time (Psa. 132:8; Matt. 8:20). The second event is the coming tribulation that shall overthrow the ecclesiastical (religious) and political kingdoms of this world. The present order of things in our world will be destroyed with fervent heat (II Peter 3:10). The social, moral, political, economic order of today shall give way; ruined completely under judgement. The kingdom of God and of His Christ shall be installed upon the ruins of the kingdoms of this world (Rev. 3:10; 11:5).

If you must escape the judgement that is to come upon Christendom and upon the nations, you must be where the SOMA is, where God by His Son is raising up a true BODY unto Himself. You must hear and hearken to the voice of the Son of man at this time and be taught of Him (Rev. 3:10). You must deliver your soul from Babylon.



The Lord has shown that no amount of revival meetings or conferences can heal Christendom. We may weep for Babylon, we may howl and take balm for her pains, if so be she may be healed (Jer. 51:9). But God will have us know that Babylon cannot be healed (Jer. 51:9). She is mad upon her idols of money, titles, false and erroneous teachings and practices by means of which she holds God's people in a religious captivity (Jer.50:38) The commandment of the Lord is for us to forsake her! (Jer. 50:9) and we should do so without looking back (Luke 17:32). Remember Lot's wife!

Those that gather unto the Lord in His Parousia are described as 'EAGLES' (Luke 17:37). Eagles have this ability to see afar off. These saints are made to see that there is a judgement about to break forth. They know inwardly that there is something beyond what they are seeing in the church systems and their hearts are drawn to seek the Lord. May you prove to be an eagle indeed. May the Lord open your eyes to see beyond the veil. May you be delivered out of the city of religion at this very appointed time. May your flight from the city not be in the winter period of great tribulation (Matt. 24:20). May you avail yourself of the mercy of the Lord towards His people at this hour. The time to respond is NOW!

Please note that there are several places of fellowship in several cities, towns and villages (including where you are) where like-minded Believers in Christ gather together unto the Lord at least twice weekly - If YOU will pray and ask, the Lord will direct you to one in your immediate locality.

My Beloved Brethren, until some other time when the Lord brings us your way again, remember this is the light in the evening time trumpeting God's final call so PLEASE BE FAITHFUL TO PASS IT ON TO OTHERS THAT THEY ALSO MAY RUN WITH IT.