

## 4. COMING IN THE CLOUDS

The next four sections will be launched from the words of our Lord Jesus Himself from that second "Sermon on the Mount of Olives". A few years ago your writer sat with his beloved wife where the Lord Jesus shared these blessed truths, pondering over the words shared with you today. It was a sacred time on a sacred spot. The Mount of Olives was where the Lord ascended up to heaven and to where He will return. Let us remind ourselves of one of the features of what the Lord said would take place "AFTER THE TRIBULATION".

*MATTHEW 24 v 29 – 30*

*IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TRIBULATION of those days.....they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

So the coming of the Lord Jesus to the clouds takes place "IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TRIBULATION". If one believes in the inspiration of the Word of God, the coming in the clouds can take place at no other juncture; it has to be after the tribulation. There is a glorious symmetry and harmony in all the Word of God. As we ponder the other scriptures that refer to this COMING IN THE CLOUDS, it is instructive to read the context of the verses that appear in our text (always remember a text taken out of its context can be a pretext!). When we do this, much is revealed as to the timing of events in the whole eschatological picture. We mean eschatology in its end-time sense, especially in relation to human destiny. In doing this over more than fifty years, nothing has been found that does not support the assertion of a post tribulation rapture.

### **DANIEL HAD THE SAME VISION**

Prophet Daniel was one of earth's choicest saints and was granted one of Heaven's greatest accolades, "Oh man greatly beloved". He lived a long life through a number of reigns, spanning both the Babylonian and Persian Empires. His adventures under God were as thrilling as any man who has ever lived and his spiritual insight second to none, for few had his incredible revelations. Daniel lived a long unblemished life, surely one of earth's most "perfect exemplars". His life was characterised by deep faith, acute revelation and discernment, coupled with a constant reverential fear and awe of his beloved Lord. His life makes one ashamed of the paucity of one's own devotion to our Lord and His glorious cause. This is what he saw concerning Christ's COMING IN THE CLOUDS.

*DANIEL 7 v 13*

*I saw in the night visions and behold one like the Son of Man came with the CLOUDS OF HEAVEN.*

From the context we learn that the one who came (our Lord Jesus), came to the Ancient of Days, the Almighty God Himself, who granted Him dominion and a Kingdom which would not pass away or ever be destroyed. This contextual detail confirms that the COMING IN THE CLOUDS would be after the tribulation, just prior to the Lord Jesus setting up His Millennial Kingdom.

### **PAUL HAD THE SAME VISION**

Six hundred years were to pass and then the Apostle Paul had a similar prophetic revelation.

## 1 THESSALONIAN 4 v 16 – 17

.....the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in THE CLOUDS.....

We have, I trust, shown to our readers satisfaction that this coming to the clouds takes place AFTER THE TRIBULATION. From the context we learn that also taking place at this juncture, after the tribulation, will be the sound of the seventh, the last trumpet and both the rapture and resurrection of the Saints, the elect of God. More on these glorious events later.

### **JOHN HAD THE SAME VISION**

Again, the context of our text displays the perfect harmony of all the Word of God. Revelation Chapter Fourteen is a classic Biblical synopsis, being both a brief summary and a general survey. It briefly covers what has gone before in the Book of Revelation and equally briefly what is to come later in the book. We must, just for now, content ourselves with one verse only.

#### *REVELATION 14 v 14*

*And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of Man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.*

In this section we have briefly viewed some of the events accompanying the COMING IN THE CLOUDS and have, through the studies, emphasised their position AFTER THE TRIBULATION. We trust our readers have not become weary of the capitalisation of these headlines or feel that your writer is "banging a drum". One is reminded of the character from one of Shakespeare's plays of whom it is said "Methinks he doth protest too much". Please be compassionate, understanding the deep burden that is held. With more than 90% entrapped by the pre-tribulation rapture delusion, it is just a humble attempt to re-dress the balance, if only a little.

### **NOT JUST THE LUNATIC FRINGE ARE DELUDED**

Another general comment is now presented. Countless tens of thousands have been bewitched, beguiled and seduced (all Biblical expressions) by such delusional deceits as the Emergent Church, purpose driven philosophies, so called "Christian psychology, Word of Faith teachings, Toronto, Pensacola, Lakeland et al. This is by no means an exhaustive list, just illustrative. Most of our readers would agree these are but a sample from the doctrines of demons that Paul so graphically warned of in his pastoral letter to Timothy.

#### *1 TIMOTHY 4 v 1*

*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;*

Sadly, so many of the most respected of Bible teachers of our time have come under the spell of the pre-tribulation rapture delusion. Only a few in the United States stand for the Bible truth in this matter and almost none in the United Kingdom. Would to God it was just the lunatic fringe referred to above that have been bewitched by the comfortable delusion. If only a minister, or better some group or organisation of ministers, respected and with a deservedly wide following, could have opened eyes to the peril facing the church that has been lulled into such a dangerous complacency. Instead we have a church that is totally unprepared for such horrors as the gallop of the four horsemen of the Apocalypse and the coming world religious conglomerate. Never forget these are

harbingers of a darkness never before experienced on planet Earth, and never, never forget that all this and more precede and just prepare the way for the full manifestation of Antichrist. May our dear Lord, for the sake of His beloved Church and His eternal glory, raise up such watchmen who, in the words of that lovely old hymn, can: -

RAISE A TRUMPET VOICE ON ALL THE WORLD TO CALL