**R977 Rumination for Oct. 15, 2023**

The **T**heme: **Till He Come** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

The **T**ext: *As often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death* ***till He come****.* I Cor. 11:16

The **T**hots:

*“Till He come”.* Let us not be confused with the Doctrine concerning the Second Coming of Christ. Consider…

1. **The Signs and The Two Stages of the Second Coming of Jesus –** Mt. 24:1-4

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|  | Stage 1 – The **R**apture:  His **R**eturn for the Church. | Stage 2 - The **R**evelation: His **R**eturn for Israel. |
| 1. | It is **S**wift and **S**udden, I Cor. 15:52 *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.* | It is in Public View. Rev. 1:7*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.* |
| 2. | *The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven…* I Thes. 4:16, 17 | *The LORD…shall come, and all the saints with Thee.* Zech. 14:5 |
| 3. | *to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord****.*** I Thes. 4:17 |  *And His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives,* Zechariah 14:4 |
| 4. | *I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.* Jn. 14:1-3 | *…when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God…Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power;* II Thes. 1:7-9 |

1. **The Second Coming in Relation to the Saints in the Church – The Rapture:** **I Thes. 4:13-17**
2. The **C**ompany to be Raptured – the **C**hurch.
3. Those *asleep in Jesus* – the dead in Christ. I Thes. 4:13, 14

*But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren…For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus* [i.e. the spirits and souls who went absent from their bodies when they died and went present with the Lord, II Cor. 5:8]

1. Their bodies will be **R**esurrected from the grave and they will be **R**eunited with their souls and spirits.
2. To be **R**aptured from the earth. I Thes. 4:16

*For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first*

1. Then they will be **R**eunited with their Lord - *to meet the Lord in the air.*
2. Those still Alive when He comes will also be **R**aptured with them and together they shall be **R**eunited:

*Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

***Therefore comfort one another with these words.***

* 1. **The Company to be Rescued and Restored *– Israel!***

[**Note*:*** *Israel will not take part in the Rapture of the Church.]*

1. Israel’s **R**ebellion – they **R**ejected their Messiah and Sent Him to be Crucified. Jn. 19:15

*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 Caesar.*

1. Israel’s Great **R**etribution – Mt. 24:15, 16, 21f

*Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.*

*For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.*

1. Israel’s **R**escue with the **R**eturn of their Messiah – Mt. 24:29-31

*"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.*

*Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

*And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*

1. They will then be **R**estored to their Earthly Kingdom that was promised to Abraham: Gen. 12:2-3

 *I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

The Church will not go through the above unprecedented tribulation but will await their Lord’s Return before this occurs. Until then, they will continue to Remember the Lord in His Redeeming work for the Church until He comes and meets them in their Rapture.

***As often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come. I Cor. 11:16***

*See, the feast of love is spread, Drink the wine, and break the bread;*

*Sweet memorials, till the Lord Calls us round His heavenly board;*

 *Some from earth, from glory some Severed only, Till He come.* E. H. Bickersteth, Jr.

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK. R. 977**

1. Do you believe it possible that Jesus is coming soon, within our life time?

Just two Saturdays (Sabbaths? Cf. Mt. 24:20) ago, on 7th October, South Israel bordering the Gaza Strip woke up to a rain of thousands of rockets launched by HAMAS which penetrated Israel’s defence system. This was coupled by their intrusion by air and sea bringing unprecedented destruction to that part of Israel and sending shock waves through the whole of Israel (and the whole world), 50 years to the day after the October 1973 Arab-Israeli war that has been etched into our memory of what happened then across the Middle East.

Jesus prophesied that Israel, God’s people, would one day be subjected to such attacks never heard of in the past and will never hear of again in the future. And this recent assault could just be a small predecessor to what is coming and will come.

Compare the Lord’s prophecy on the signs of the Lord’s Coming –

Matthew 24:3 (NKJV): *Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be?* ***And what will be the sign of Your coming****, and of the end of the age?"*

Matthew 24:15-31 (NKJV):

*15 "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. 18 And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. 19 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!*

*20* ***And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath****.*

*21* ***For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.***

*22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. 23 Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. 24 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.*

*25* ***See, I have told you beforehand.***

*29 "Immediately* ***after the tribulation of those days*** *the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.*

*30* ***Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven****, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and* ***they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven*** *with power and great glory. 31 And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*

Only the Jews (Daniel’s people) and Gentiles, not the Church, will have to go through this unprecedented Great Tribulation. Do you not think what is happening now is a sign that what was predicted above could happen? – for one thing, that Israel could be preserved through all these thousands of years to this very day when we can see some of these signs being fulfilled in them, when many of their contemporary civilisations had disappeared from the scene? **REFLECT**

1. Now consider what happens when He comes for His church, His saints that *sleep in Jesus*?

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NKJV):  *But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren,* ***concerning those who have fallen asleep****, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.*

*14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him* ***those who sleep in Jesus****. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16* ***For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven*** *with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God.* ***And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air****. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

Study the passages in Nos. 1 and 2 and note that the two “comings” of the Lord (His coming for Israel and for the Church) cannot be one and the same? **REFLECT**

 *Jesus is coming! The dead shall arise, Loved ones shall meet in a joyful surprise,*

 *Caught up together to Him in the skies Jesus is coming again!* Dan. W. Whittle