

## 497 One Mediator

The news channels have been swamped with coverage of the selection of the next leader of the Conservative Party and hence the next Prime Minister as well. The candidates involved recognise that our country is facing numerous serious problems, and each does his or her best to come up with news-grabbing solutions to be applied once the “he” or “she” is in power; Absalom’s tactics in currying favour at the city gate come to mind (II Samuel 15.1-6)!

We step back from the media barrage and seek to understand where the Lord is up to in the light of the many prophecies which He has granted to us within His Word.

The next significant event, clearly foretold and now surely imminent, is the bodily resurrection of the saints who currently “sleep in Jesus”, with the “rapture”, the seizing-away, of the true Church “to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore, comfort one another with these words” (see I Thessalonians 4.13-18). May all Christ’s “faithful sheep” be ready and prepared.

This removal is to be followed by the 7-year period of “great tribulation”, which starts with the ultimate antichrist figure signing a covenant with Israel, which is apparently fine at the start but is soon horribly different (Daniel 9.27). This tribulation involves divine judgments upon Israel, the apostate church and the Gentile nations for their sinful rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ. A false trinity will be active (of Satan as “the great dragon”, with the beast and the false prophet (Revelation 12.9; 13.1,6,11). All people will be obliged to bear the “mark of the beast” on the forehead or right hand – or else (Revelation 13.16-17).

Even so, some will come to faith in Christ during these terrible years, though many will be martyred (Revelation 20.4). At the end of the tribulation there “shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven ... all the tribes of the earth shall mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds with power and great glory” (from Matthew 24.30). Judgments follow (Matthew 25.31-46), when Jesus the King is finally sitting on the throne of David (Isaiah 9.6-7): God’s kingdom will indeed have come, and God’s will shall indeed be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (egs., Psalm 89.3-4 / Jeremiah 33.15-18 / Matthew 6.9-10; 19.28 / Revelation Chapter 20).

And then, “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and earth were passed away; ... the holy city, new Jerusalem ... Behold I make all things new ... It is done, I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end”. Praise God, this is when the end of the journey, the eternal state, will have been reached, with all its Father-wrought, Jesus-achieved, Spirit-empowered wonders, glories and blessings for those whose names “are written in the Lamb’s book of life” (from Revelation 21.1-6,24-27; 22.3-5 / I Corinthians 15.24-28).

But until these promised times of the Lord’s final victories are upon us, the Lord makes clear that things will get steadily worse rather than steadily better – as we see happening all around us right now. We need not be surprised when the Christian path is difficult, for in following Christ as Lord and Saviour we are inevitably out of step with the world and its priorities.

So in the light of the broader spiritual picture that we are given in God’s Word, we keep our eyes open as to what is going on. We realise that most politicians may well be trying their best, and as such they deserve our prayerful support for as long as their conduct merits such support.

We realise also that the “mainstream” media and social media have become utterly overblown. We have just seen the great hype concerning two days of hot weather and wild fires in parts of the country in recent days. Interestingly, various biblical words were used to describe events, (apocalyptic, Armageddon, hellfire), along with frequent mention of our old “friends”, Mother Earth and Mother Nature, but with not a word about our Creator. The hot weather and wild fires were a perfect excuse to promote the climate change / global warming / “it’s all our fault” mantras. By contrast, and with deep thanks, we know that the Lord has never revoked Genesis 8.22.

Some of the warming of the earth may well be due in part to human activity – frankly, no-one knows how much or how little. But we understand that the Lord is allowing such problems to gather pace as His clear warnings over the need to return to Him, through Christ, while there is still time.

Almighty God is in charge: He knows what He’s doing; He knows to where He is taking His creation; and meanwhile He has told us all that we need to know. There remains “one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave himself as a ransom for all, to be testified in due time” (from I Timothy 2.5-6).

Presidents, Prime Ministers and people ignore this Mediator at their peril.

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