A STUDY ON THE RAPTURE

PART SIX: WHAT LIES AHEAD

God’s Indignation

Scripture is clear that there is coming a time when this period of ‘amnesty’, wherein God does not take into account the offences of mankind, will end. Then He will take all of these into reckoning and will demonstrate His indignation at their injustices! It will be a time of devastation and destruction, this day of God’s indignation when the fury of God is unleashed on all evildoers!

Eph.2:1-3 you, being dead to your offenses and sins, in which once you walked, in accord with the eon of this world, in accord with the chief of the jurisdiction of the air, the spirit now operating in the sons of stubbornness (among whom we also all behaved ourselves once in the lusts of our flesh, doing the will of the flesh and of the comprehension, and were, in our nature, children of indignation, even as the rest),

Eph.5:3-6 … all prostitution and uncleanness or greed-- let it not even be named among you, …and vileness and stupid speaking or insinuendo, which are not proper … no paramour at all or unclean or greedy person, who is an idolater, has any enjoyment of the allotment in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one be seducing you with empty words, for because of these things the indignation of God is coming on the sons of stubbornness.

Col.3:5-7 Deaden, then, your members that are on the earth: prostitution, uncleanness, passion, evil desire and greed, which is idolatry, because of which the indignation of God is coming on the sons of stubbornness-- among whom you also once walked, when you lived in these things.

By God’s grace, we who have died to sin in the death of Christ, are no more under condemnation. We have received the conciliation; we have been reconciled to God. We have peace with God.

Rom.5:10,11 being enemies, we were conciliated to God through the death of His Son, much rather, being conciliated, we shall be saved in His life. Yet not only so, but we are glorying also in God, through our Lord, Jesus Christ, through Whom we now obtained the conciliation.

Rom.6:6,7 …our old humanity was crucified together with Him, that the body of Sin may be nullified, .. for one who dies has been justified from Sin.

Rom.5:1 Being, then, justified by faith, we may be having peace toward God, through our Lord, Jesus Christ,

We present no qualification through intrinsic quality or expended effort. Good works are not at all involved in this salvation that we enjoy. It is not our ‘righteousness’ that saves us, but God’s righteousness given to us through the faith of Christ.
**Eph:2:8,9** For in grace, through faith, are you saved, and this is not out of you; it is God's approach present, not of works, lest anyone should be boasting.

Just as works, of whatever quality, do not qualify us, so also such works of any sort do not disqualify us from this salvation. Therefore, though we are advised to be clear-minded and watchful concerning our works, our success or failure in these is not reckoned against us for this. As such, Scripture assures us that we have been saved, already, from His indignation that is impending on the world.

**1Thes.5:6-10** Consequently, then, we may not be drowsing, even as the rest, but we may be watching and be sober.

For those who are drowsing are drowsing at night, and those who are drunk are drunk at night.

Yet we, being of the day, may be sober, putting on the cuirass of faith and love, and the helmet, the expectation of salvation, for God did not appoint us to indignation, but to the procuring of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for our sakes, that, whether we may be watching or drowsing, we should be living at the same time together with Him.

**Rom.5:8,9** yet God is commending this love of His to us, seeing that, while we are still sinners, Christ died for our sakes.

Much rather, then, being now justified in His blood, we shall be saved from indignation, through Him.

**1Thes.1:10** and to be waiting for His Son out of the heavens, Whom He rouse from among the dead, Jesus, our Rescuer out of the coming indignation.

It is certain that God's indignation is coming! What will the situation be for us, the ambassadors of His Christ? Are we to be left to fend for ourselves, abandoned in 'enemy territory'? We cannot come under God's indignation - but are we to be captured by the minions of the Enemy and become sacrificial pawns in this impending crisis? Are we to still continue preaching a contradiction, spreading the 'good news' of an existing peace and conciliation, during the period when God is venting His indignation on mankind?

Of course not! While our commission is being carried out, while the amnesty is in force, God will not initiate the next phase of His operation. Though the secret of lawlessness has been working, even from the time of Paul, it cannot bring its scheme into effect and culminate in the ascendance of the 'man of lawlessness', the Antichrist, until God recalls His ambassadors, and thereby withdraws His message of conciliation. He will then allow this wicked system to reach the zenith of its power and influence that He has pre-determined!

**2Thes.2:6-12** And now you are aware what is detaining, for him to be unveiled in his own era.

For the secret of lawlessness is already operating.

Only when the present detainer may be coming to be out of the midst, then will be unveiled the lawless one (whom the Lord Jesus will despatch with the spirit of His mouth and will discard by the advent of His presence),
whose presence is in accord with the operation of Satan,
with all power and signs and false miracles
and with every seduction of injustice among those who are perishing,
because they do not receive the love of the truth for their salvation.
And therefore God will be sending them an operation of deception,
for them to believe the falsehood,
that all may be judged who do not believe the truth, but delight in injustice.

Not only will the ambassadors who are alive at that time, but also those who would have been put to
repose by then, will be snatched away physically from the scene of war!

**The Sequence At The Snatching Away**

This 'escape' from indignation is not left to us to engineer. Let us recall that God works out everything
for our good (Rom.8:28) so that everything that has been our experience is His doing! One thing has
still to be accomplished - our glory.

> Rom.8:30  Now whom He designates beforehand, these He calls also,
> and whom He calls, these He justifies also;
> *now whom He justifies, these He glorifies also.*

> Rom.5:2  through Whom we have the access also, by faith,
> into this grace in which we stand,
> *and we may be glorying in expectation of the glory of God.*

At present our earthly, soilish, bodies are severely limited in many ways. Though our spirit, the factor
that keeps us alive, disposes us towards virtue and tends towards life, our flesh disposes us towards
sinning and tends towards death. The dying factor, the penalty which was passed through to humanity
from Adam, inhibits and debilitates us. Until this weakness is removed, we remain in humiliation,
sinning and falling short of the glory of God!

> Rom.8:6-8  For the disposition of the flesh is death,
yet the disposition of the spirit is life and peace,
because the disposition of the flesh is enmity to God,
*for it is not subject to the law of God, for neither is it able.*
*Now those who are in flesh are not able to please God.*

> Rom.3:22,23  ... for there is no distinction,
*for all sinned and are wanting of the glory of God*

> Rom.5:12  ...through one man sin entered into the world, and through sin death,
and thus death passed through into all mankind, on which all sinned-

This situation will be changed. Death will be removed from our make-up to enable us to please God,
truly. Our weak, inhibited, bodies will be transfigured. For this we wait for our Saviour from heaven.

> Php.3:20,21  For our realm is inherent in the heavens,
out of which we are awaiting a Saviour also, the Lord, Jesus Christ,
*Who will transfigure the body of our humiliation,*
*to conform it to the body of His glory,*
in accord with the operation which enables Him even to subject all to Himself.
He will not delegate this responsibility to others of the celestial hosts. He will come in Person to summon us, His complement, and will snatch us away from this foreign country, where we live among people alien to our calling, to bring us back with Him to our real home. We must be changed from mortal to immortal, from corruptible to incorruptible, from miserable dying creatures to vivification and glory! And all in the twinkle of an eye!

**1Cor.15:51-55** Lo! a secret to you am I telling! We all, indeed, shall not be put to repose, yet we all shall be changed, in an instant, in the twinkle of an eye, at the last trump. For He will be trumpeting, and the dead will be roused incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal put on immortality. Now, whenever this corruptible should be putting on incorruption and this mortal should be putting on immortality, then shall come to pass the word which is written, Swallowed up was Death by Victory. Where, O Death, is your victory? Where, O Death, is your sting?

The snatching away was never hinted at to any of the other writers of Scripture! Paul, our apostle, received it directly 'by the word of the Lord' for our belief. The operation, though it be swift, will not be hurried and haphazard. There will be a precise sequence of actions.

**1Thes.4:15-18** For this we are saying to you by the word of the Lord, that we, the living, who are surviving to the presence of the Lord, should by no means outstrip those who are put to repose, for the Lord Himself will be descending from heaven with a shout of command, with the voice of the Chief Messenger, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ shall be rising first, Thereupon we, the living who are surviving, shall at the same time be snatched away together with them in clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And thus shall we always be together with the Lord. So that, console one another with these words.

These passages may be broken down into a series of events, thus: The Lord Himself will come for us, His body and complement. His is the office of the Chief Messenger of God. He will give a shout of command. He will sound the trumpet of God. At the last blast of the trumpet, the dead in Christ will rise first, incorruptible The living will be changed - corruptible to incorruptible, mortal to immortal. At the same moment these incorruptibles and immortals, will be snatched away together, And rising as clouds of believers, They will meet their Lord at last, in the air. They will be always together with the Lord.

The faithful take their places inherent in the heavens and are to judge messengers.
All these will take place before the ‘man of lawlessness’ is revealed and the Day of the Lord commences.

2Thes.2:1-5  Now we are asking you, brethren, for the sake of the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ and our assembling to Him, that you be not quickly shaken from your mind, nor yet be alarmed, either through spirit, or through word, or through an epistle as through us, as that the day of the Lord is present. No one should be deluding you by any method, for, should not the apostasy be coming first and the man of lawlessness be unveiled, the son of destruction, who is opposing and lifting himself up over everyone termed a god or an object of veneration, so that he is seated in the temple of God, demonstrating that he himself is God? Do you not remember that, still being with you, I told you these things?