

Literature -2

3. In Darkest England was a social analysis by William Booth and was addressed to society in the hope of improvement with the use of the Gospel and all Christian means.
4. The Late Great Planet Earth by Hal Lindsey served as an apocalyptic work addressed to "mankind" and admittedly, by foes and friends, alike, had a powerful impact on the urgency concept of world affairs and conditions.

These works represent four different varieties of literature, in many ways addressed to different classes of people, but marked with a common appeal. Our thought is that if we can learn something of this it is possible it will improve our own impact under the Providence of God.

D. Our Procedure

We will take each of the works in the order given, tell something about it and its author...something of the intentions visualized for the work and something of its influence so far as we can make an estimate. Our final step will be to offer some observations and conclusions for each work and these, maybe, we will pull together in a giant summary at the end.

II. DISCUSSION

A. LEX REX, THE LAW AND THE PRINCE, a dispute for the Jus Prerogatives of King and People (1644)

1. The author:

Samuel Rutherford is more famous for his "Letters", written to his parishioners from prison 1636-1638. His dates are 1600-1661. He was a Scots clergyman and on the nonconformist side, imprisoned in Aberdeen for two years at the king's disposal. With the coming of the insurrection he was appointed a commissioner to the Westminster Assembly (1643) and while there produced in 1644 LEX REX. Understanding the political embattlements of that day is fundamental to understanding the concepts of the book, I think. The book created no small stir and with the reestablishment of the monarchy (1660) Rutherford was in great trouble...but died before he could be suppressed or forced to recant of whatever.

2. Of the Book itself:

In precis form, it was a challenge to the Divine Right of Kings and any other political system. Government should be based on the Bible and all men equally subject to it. To obey a bad government is rebellion against God..to defy it is harmonious with the Divine will.. The binding function in government is the "covenant" to which all parties are enjoined (and is essentially biblical) and the recognition of the equality of men (as social creatures responsible to God). The believer is given three lines of recourse when governments are wicked: 1) protest 2) flight and 3) force. (The first two of these are like the concepts of Menno Simons.) Anarchy is not the answer, government in accord with God is. My opinion is that LEX REX is strong in logic and appeal and weak in exegesis