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# **The Remnant of Christ's Ecclesia**

in opposition to the Dogmas of  
Papal and Protestant Christendom

A WITNESS TO THE TRUTH

and a warning against the deception in the last days  
foretold by Christ

**"Take heed ye be not deceived"**

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## At the Table of the Lord

### "THE LORD STOOD BY"

**F**OR OUR DAILY portion, we have the record of Paul, reminding once again of the hardships and persecutions he endured for the name of the Lord Jesus. At the time of his conversion, we remember God said to Ananias :

“ . . . he (Paul) is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles and kings, and the children of Israel : For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.” Acts 9 : 15-16.

Paul did carry the name of the Lord to the Gentiles, to kings, to Israel. He did it faithfully, seeking to make up for his earlier persecution of Jesus' disciples. In doing so, he did, indeed, “suffer great things.” He experienced misery, persecution, pain ; finally, we believe, death itself, for Jesus' name. It must have seemed at times a grievous burden ; yet, what great help he had to bear it. Perhaps as we read of Paul's sufferings, carried with patience and trust ; as we read of the help given to him, we can be helped today to bear whatever God requires in proving our faith. Like Paul, we may in a time of weakness feel ; Why should it be so heavy ; how can I possibly bear it ? Yet, we do realize that God knows our circumstances ; indeed, often guides us into them so that whatever may be placed upon us, He is aware and is permitting it. He, as a Father, overrules our spiritual and practical living to help fill needs. We, as Paul might have done, may cry out, Why, Why ! But, if we submit as Paul did, great help from God can be granted to keep us in His way.

Let us look more closely then, to these experiences of Paul, of which we have recently read. When seized by the elders and scribes of Israel, he was rescued by Roman soldiers who were occupying Jerusalem as conquerors. By them, he was saved from death at the hands of his own people who had falsely accused him to the Romans. Finally, he appealed to Caesar's judgment seat as was his privilege being a citizen of Rome. It was in God's purpose that Paul should go to Rome, and so he was helped to escape from the angry mob. On the way, he suffered shipwreck, was in great danger, but again was reassured by God because of the work given. When bitten by the viper, he did not sicken or die, witnessing to God's power on his behalf. After these things, he resumed his journey toward Rome, for having appealed to Caesar's judgement, it was necessary that he appear before the Roman Emperor to defend himself against the charges of the Jews. The Emperor at that time

(A.D. 62, according to the chronology) was Nero—a cruel despot who had no sympathy for those who belonged to Jesus.

Paul may have quaked in thinking about what was ahead as he came closer and closer to Rome—whatever will become of me, and shall I be able to bear it faithfully, may have been his thoughts ; yet he went, knowing it was God’s purpose and reassured by the message from His Father, Acts 23 : 11 :

“. . . *the Lord stood by him*, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul : for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.”

From this, Paul knew he would get safely to Rome to do the work appointed unto him there.

“The Lord stood by him,” we are told. The Lord was there to strengthen, to guide, to build up in the hard trials Paul had to face. To “*stand by*,” we find, means “to be close,” “to be at hand,” and God *was* close as Paul realized in hearing these words. Does not God “stand by” His people in many ways ? He was at hand as Paul sailed through the storm and landed safely in Miletus, unscathed and all the ship’s company saved from death with him. Can we visualize Paul’s thanksgiving to God as he found himself safely on dry land after so long and perilous a voyage. He would realize very surely that the Lord had, indeed stood by him.

As he came closer and closer to Rome, he would be exceedingly anxious what awaited him—how would Nero react ? will I be killed ? All kinds of thoughts may have passed through our brother’s mind ; fleshly thoughts, perhaps, bringing fear and doubt ; yet, Paul was able to put them away with the realization that “the Lord stood by.” Many experiences demonstrated this truth, and it happens to us also, brethren and sisters, *if* we move in faith as Paul did.

In Acts 28 : 14-15, we have read of one experience which was a clear evidence of God’s “standing by,” as he came to Puteoli. “. . . Where we found brethren, and were desired to tarry with them seven days . . . ” What a help it must have been to Paul as he was able to know the welcome help of brethren in the way. After seven days, Paul would take his leave of these brethren, renewed in strength and determination by the privileges of mutual help. He still faced the prospect of what lay ahead for him at Rome and “so he went toward Rome.” Verse 15 tells us :

“. . . when the brethren heard of us, they came to meet us as far as Appii-forum and The three taverns ; whom when Paul saw, he thanked God, and took courage.”

Paul's brethren in Rome came to meet him at Appii-forum. If we look on a map, we find Appii-forum to be about 40 miles from Rome. The brethren from Rome came to meet Paul there. They could have waited for him at Rome and welcomed him in the city ; but, no, in love for him, probably knowing what he faced, they journeyed the 40 miles to meet him in the way. Forty miles is not a great journey today. It takes less than an hour in the car ; but in the days of Paul, such a journey on foot would have taken twelve to fourteen hours. These brethren went out of their way, spent themselves greatly, to be with Paul to help him, to comfort him. The result ? Verse 15 tells us :

“. . . when Paul saw, *he thanked God, and took courage.*”

What a lot these few words can convey ! “He thanked God.” Did Paul recognize that these brethrens’ coming was the work of God, that they were moved of God to come to Paul to extend help and strength ? Was this a very tangible evidence to Paul, to us, that the Lord *does* stand by ? Paul recognized this and *thanked God*. Brethren and sisters, is this our mind, to thank God as we feel Him standing by, as we are helped through faithful brethren going out of their way, spending of themselves ? There were brethren with Paul in his journey, for often we find the word “we” used, as if at least Luke, the writer of Acts, was with Paul in this perilous journey. The record tells us as a consequence of his brethrens’ love and encouragement, Paul “took courage.” He must have needed courage to face the prospect in Rome. God granted it, no doubt, in answer to prayer, by the appearance of his brethren there at Appii-forum. Can we imagine the joy, the strength he knew because of those of like-precious faith who were quick to come along side ? Was it God’s provision ? Was it God standing by ? Does He not do the same for us, brethren and sisters ? giving us courage to face whatever is required ? Do we perceive how much we need this, and are we grateful ; and receiving, realizing this can be our Father’s way of “*standing by.*”

It was to these same brethren in Rome that Paul had written two years before, Romans 1 : 11-12 :

“. . . I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift . . . that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.”

How much he *was* comforted two years later as he “thanked God and took courage.” Brethren and sisters, let us be aware of the need we have for each other, and let us thank God it is available because of His care for His Body !

How often we need strengthening ! Do we not all feel the need,

especially as we are shown that our own strength is not sufficient to enable us to get the victory over our flesh and its lusts. Paul would feel this very strongly as he took courage by the coming along side of his brethren from Rome. He was not alone in such a situation, for many have experienced God's standing by.

We read of Moses in Exod. 17, when he was instructed to hold up the rod of God ; and Amalek, Israel's enemy would be destroyed. Verse 11 tells us :

“And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed : and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.”

Can we enter into Moses mind ? His desire, his work, all his strength would be put into the task of holding up his hands so Israel could prevail. But, he was flesh, weak, Verse 12 tells us :

“But Moses' hands were heavy . . .”

How much this reveals. Moses couldn't do it, not through lack of desire or spirit, but through lack of strength. How he would agonize to hold them up (his hands), but inevitably, down they would come and the enemies of Israel would prevail. But, God stood by Moses also Verse 12 :

“. . . They (Aaron and Hur) took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon ; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side ; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.”

How much this experience would have helped Moses, making him realize his own weakness and that he alone couldn't do it, realizing too his need for Aaron and Hur as brethren who would come along side. Wasn't this a case of God's standing by through the office of Aaron and Hur ? Can we imagine Moses thanking God, and taking courage as he felt these willing hands supporting his own.

How grateful we should feel, brethren and sisters, as the Aarons and Hurs of our day come along side us, to help, to strengthen, to lift up the hands that hang down and strengthen the feeble knees. Do we also thank God and take courage ? If not, should we not do so ?

We read further as Moses went up into Mount Sinai to receive the Law at God's hands, he said to Israel, Exod. 24 : 14 :

“. . . Tarry ye here for us, until we come again unto you ; and, behold Aaron and Hur are with you : if any man have any matters to do, let him come unto them.”

Moses knew from experience that these were faithful brethren ready to come along side to help.

But, we remember when Moses was forty days in the mount, Israel, under Aaron, made a golden calf and worshipped it. Exod. 32 : 3-4 :

“. . . All the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron. And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool ; after he had made it a molten calf ; and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.”

A grievous failure on Aaron's part and hard to understand ; yet, all of us do show weakness at times, especially under pressure. Aaron needed someone at this time to come along side to correct, to chasten, to lift up *his* failing hands. Moses did so, interceded for Israel and for Aaron, and God heard and forgave for His name's sake. Here was Moses standing by Aaron, even as Aaron stood by Moses in his time of need. Does this help us, brethren and sisters, to discern how much we *all* need help, courage, reminding, for we all fail. God, in His mercy grants brethren who will do this. Is this not really the Lord standing by ? Are we ready to receive Him ? Do we thank God, rejoicing at the help ; do we take courage to go on, ready to face whatever is required of us by our God ?

How often, as times were difficult, as his life was in danger, Paul would look back to the coming of those brethren to meet him at Appii-forum, and would remember their loving care and find renewed courage ; remembering, too, that it was, indeed, the Lord standing by. Let us, brethren and sisters, rejoice in God's provision for us as well, and take courage in these last days before Jesus Christ returns.

J. A. DeF.



## “Greet ye one another with an holy kiss”

(1 Cor. 16 : 20)

### with thoughts culled from a Bible Class Discussion

**T**HIS COMMAND given by the Apostle Paul has presented a difficulty for many, especially some fifty years ago.

During the discussion which preceded the 1923 Division when some in the Birmingham Temperance Hall Ecclesia argued that withdrawal from two who had joined the Special Constabulary should not take place, because this “offence” was not included in the *Constitution*, they supported the belittling of scripture by giving greater importance to a man-made *Constitution*. It was said that we are :

Commanded to “owe no man anything, but we do.”

That we are required to “Greet . . . one another with an holy kiss”, but we don’t.

Although the claim was that the Scriptures were the inspired word of God, these unfaithful men tore the divine writ apart by dismissing the present application of certain clearly stated commands.

These men were publicly rebuked by C. C. Walker at the time, saying he had never heard the Truth called in question in such a manner before. The plague of heresy had spread to such an extent that he was compelled either to stand almost alone, or change his views and tactics. This he did, much to his personal shame, and the loss of life of a multitude.

The question had been asked before the end of the last century just what was meant by the command : “Greet ye one another with an holy kiss.” The reply given at the time, perhaps “off the cuff”, was that it was not general in its application, just as the command, “Be diligent in business” did not require brethren and *sisters* to go into business. With due deference to the one who gave this answer, it must be said that a correct understanding of every command will show exactly how it can be carried out in the fear of the Lord.

Our endeavour should be to try to understand every command, seeking that help which can come from above. For does not the perfect Father desire that His children should “know” Him, understand His will, and be obedient thereto. How is obedience possible if His will is not understood ?

Perhaps it is hardly necessary to say what He means by being diligent in business. Every brother and every *sister* is in business.

in the Lord's business as shown so clearly in the parables of the "pounds". "Occupy till I come," said Jesus. The original of the word *occupy* implies exactly being diligent in the Lord's business, which some by *trading* gained ten pounds or five pounds, obviously a diligence in the Lord's business.

**"GREET YE ONE ANOTHER WITH AN HOLY KISS."**

Returning to the command, and it is a command, "Greet ye one another with an holy kiss", the faithful and submissive spirit will endeavour with much searching to find out how he can obey the command, and never seek to brush it aside.

It is immediately apparent that however the command is to be kept, it is a token of holiness, of separation from anything that would defile. With this view impressed upon the mind, a better understanding may be obtained by considering the other words in the command.

**THE DERIVATION OF "GREET"**

"Greet" in the Greek means "*to draw to oneself*", and is derived from the Hebrew "*asaph*". This also implies a drawing power, a gathering as seen in the Psalms :

"When my father and mother forsake me, then the Lord will  
*take me up.* (gather me—see margin—asaph) Psalm 27 : 19

This gives the tone and meaning of "*greet*"; as seen in God Himself, that when a man decides to forsake "houses, or brethren, or sisters, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands" for His name's sake, he is drawn by God to a holy relationship with Himself as Jesus said :

"No man can come to me, except the Father, which hath  
sent me *draw* him." (John 6 : 44).

This is shown by the new man in Christ being *greeted*. He is given the right hand of fellowship on behalf of the Ecclesia ; a clear token that such a one is separated from the world, and now enjoys a special relationship with the God of heaven, and with all those who are His. Such a precious token we shall see is implied in the word "*kiss*".

**THE MEANING OF "KISS" IN THE ORIGINAL AS DERIVED  
FROM THE HEBREW**

"*Phileo*" is the original Greek word translated "*Kiss*", and is derived from the Hebrew "*Philah*". This word which gives the underlying meaning of "*Kiss*" is very significant.

It means, "*to separate, sever, divide, and distinguish*", as seen in Psalm 17 : 7 :

*“Show (Philah) thy marvellous loving-kindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust in thee from those that rise up against them.”*

Here is a dividing by the man of God’s right hand, indicated now by the “calling out of a people for his name”, but finally to be shown in all the earth in the day of salvation, when “he shall sever the wicked *from* among the just.”

The “*holy kiss*” must express this underlying principle. It will show the holiness of that fellowship by which ultimately God’s choice will be vindicated before all the world.

The meaning of the word “kiss” is not confined to the present-day understanding of it, but is extended to cover any mark of friendship, by word or act, such as a warm handshake accompanied by words implying a close relationship. The guiding principle in these things is lest any kind of “greeting” gives the impression that there is “holiness” where such does not exist. This is particularly seen in the promiscuous use of the salutation—

**“BROTHER”**

As a greeting the word “brother” has a special significance. It is a holy mark of a special relationship, and certainly is not merely a “New Testament courtesy” as stated by the late leader of the Temperance Hall group. It is one of the many and perhaps the most important form of giving the “holy kiss”. Clearly, it cannot be given to those who claim to be the brethren of Christ, but are astray because of having denied some principle of the Truth, and consequently belong to the Synagogue of the Satan. Can those who are adversaries of the Truth be “brethren of Christ”? If the salutation “brother” is used to all the members of the various sects of Christadelphia, in which a host of errors is countenanced, none of which is supposed to alienate from Christ, what a dreadful position is seen—just look at some :

- Adam not the first man.
- The flood did not destroy all.
- The Bible only partially inspired.
- Christ possessed of a different nature from ours.
- The enlightened rejector, who defies God, not to be raised to Judgment.
- The doctrine of fellowship denied ; being reduced to nothing more than a set of rules for the association in a sect ; and having no reference as to whether God is involved.

As will be known by most readers there are many other heresies prevalent. God is not in all their thoughts ; otherwise they would not

dare to address the members of the many sects of Christadelphia, and those who are at one with the world with the holy salutation, the “holy kiss”—“brother”. Jesus has plainly said :

“My brethren are those which hear the word of God and do it.”  
(Luke 8 : 21).

To address those as “brethren” who deny the word of God, means a denial of Christ, with the imperilling of the salvation promised by Him ; and failing to bring to the attention of those so addressed their hopeless position as before Christ, that they might be warned and repent.

W.V.B.



## “Purged”, yet not “Purged”, when repentance is impossible

**H**AVING READ of the lewdness and infidelity of Jerusalem, so bad that it led to its fall to Babylon, we must not be tempted to think there is no message for us. The writer to the Hebrews is at pains to make a similar point by using the failures of still earlier generations, under Moses, as a message of warning for the present. However, before making detailed reference to Hebrews may we take note of a very telling passage in Ezekiel 24 : 13 :

“In thy filthiness is lewdness : because I have *purged* thee, and thou wast *not purged*, thou shalt not be *purged* from thy filthiness any more . . . ”

Here is a judgement that is arresting in its finality, a limit to forgive—even for those called and washed. An end to the number of chances given, because of failure to appreciate, or act upon the calling, and the service, to which they had been called. Is it impossible that there could be a modern counterpart of Israel’s infidelity ; doting on and chasing after the alien desirable for superficial advantage ? What is the difference from unfaithful Israel, in principle, if all one’s working hours are spent mixing with the alien, engaged in their service and conversation, but if that were not enough, all the spare time is similarly spent—in either serving the flesh or fraternising with the alien ? Does this rise up to the washing with which we were originally purged ? Is it a following on to a new

life in Christ, and being a new creature ? We remember the very sobering words of the Lord Jesus Christ recorded in Luke 14 : 33 :

“So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.”

These words warrant some very careful thought on our part, for it is evident that any one trying to carry on with one foot in the Truth and the other foot following the same pursuits as the world, simply will not be counted as a disciple by Jesus. That, surely, is just what is meant by saying that if Israel did not follow up their original purging, they would not be cleansed any more. The calling is of God, and the washing is of God, but the response subsequently, is to be in the heart of the one *purged*, seen in the decisions we make, and our submission. The response sought by Jesus in forsaking all that we have, if we can be called His disciple, is not seen in leaving home or family or occupation necessarily, but that all these things are denied priority in our hearts. If all worldly connections are not denied, then it follows that we are not really *purged* ; with that dreadful threat that the time will come when even opportunity will be taken away :

“Thou shalt not be *purged* any more.”

So we can see from these early chapters in Hebrews, the fault of the many in Israel who are specifically held up as examples for us ; who thought they could be God’s children and satisfy their own fancies. There was no doubt about the calling of Israel out of the darkness of Egypt, nor of the original purging when they were baptised in the Red Sea and in the cloud, and given the Holy Law at Sinai. As God said “When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.” But the trouble came, when, as Ezekiel puts it, they had been thus *purged*, their response or reaction was not as though they had been *purged*. It was, in fact, hardness of heart, which means lack of submission, and failure to make those crucial decisions in favour of God’s will. Here is the message for us and all those who have been called :

“Wherefore (as the Holy Spirit saith, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation in the day of temptation in the wilderness . . . )

Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called today ; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”

(Hebrews 3 : 7,8,12,13)

This hardening, as v. 13 says, comes through the deceitfulness of sin, and is otherwise called in v. 12 “An evil heart of unbelief.”

What is this hardening of the heart ? It is usually much more subtle than a blatant renouncing of God, but is usually simply a failure, amounting to a refusal to face His requirements and make necessary changes or adjustments. The apostle makes it quite clear that we should take heed, lest any of us fall the same way. We have not so far been tested or proved in such a spectacular way as Israel of old, but the way for us can still be very hard and wearisome. Those with whom Moses had to suffer were quick to complain against God. Because love and trust were lacking there was no submission, but a hardened attitude that made for continuance in wrong doing.

Another year of opportunity for us has gone. We will have begun this year no doubt with certain things needing to be recognised and corrected which were left over from last year. A question we might like to think over is ; Will all the same things, or possibly a few more besides, be carried over into this year, still unrecognised, and still uncorrected ? The prospect for 1974 from a wordly point of view, looks bleak. There is no reason to suppose we shall have an easier time of it, unless we are taken and placed with the true sheep at the right hand of Christ at His judgment. But what will be our position in His sight if we arrive at that time with a back-log of unrecognised and uncorrected faults ; that means unrepented ? Faults which have carried over from last year, and the year before, or possibly before that. Such is likely to be the case if we are hardened through the deceitfulness of sin making us blind or unresponsive, or both. This is a danger which is common to every one of us. In view of the limited time that we have to show a heart willing to respond to the original *purging* that God bestowed on us, the appeal comes down to us "Today if ye will hear His voice harden not your hearts", as when our fathers provoked God in the wilderness, and like those to whom Ezekiel spoke : the *purging* that God wrought in the beginning was not continued, by a further ready response. So it was said : "*Thou shalt not be purged from thy filthiness any more.*" Meaning no more forgiveness and no reprieve.

At what stage have we arrived ? the door is not shut ; opportunity is not ended. What can we acknowledge or offer to God, and change in ourselves while we have these precious days—today— if only we will hear His voice ?

A.E.I.



## Who are the wise who shall inherit glory?

John 5 : 28-29 we read :

*“Marvel not at this, for the hour is coming in which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice. And shall come forth, they that have done good unto the resurrection of life and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation”.*

**A**S WE READ these words we begin to think just how near are we to this great event? For some it will be a time of joy for those who receive the approval of the appointed judge the Lord Jesus. For the others it will be a time of sorrow as the judge disapproves of their works and they are turned away from His presence.

We are bound to be apprehensive about such an event, but we can take comfort in the fact that the judgment will be righteous. If we are condemned it will be our fault. We have the assurance at v. 24 that if we hear the words of the Lord Jesus and believe on Him that sent him, that we shall have everlasting life and will not come unto condemnation, but that we are “passed from death unto life”. The judgment is inevitable but such is the promise that is, if we fail not we shall secure the reward.

To such then, whilst we are naturally apprehensive of this great event we can have this assurance. Such is Faith, such can be our confidence in God our Father. Such is the first necessary step in faith for says the Apostle writing to the Hebrews :

“They that come unto God must believe that He is and that He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

It is this same God, our Father who has borne witness to the Coming of His Son, through whom He will accomplish His purpose.

“I have greater witness than that of John.”

Say’s Jesus in our reading. “For the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me.”

Yes, at His baptism came the witness, “This, is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.”

But in spite of the works, Jewry in the majority would not accept the witness of His works. “You have not the Word of God abiding in you. Search the Scriptures, they speak of me. You have not the Love of God in you, I am come in my Father’s name and ye receive me not.”

Such in brief brethren and sisters, is the indictment against the Jewry of His day. It is not hard to imagine what their position will be when the judgment comes. It will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon, who did repent at the words of Jonah. How much more

would they have repented after seeing the works of God through His son. (Matt. 11 : 20-21).

Jesus made it plain, that those who received Him, received also He who sent him. Those who did not were already passed into condemnation.

What of us in this far-off day nearly 2,000 years since these great times of witness took place.

This morning, we have once again remembered some of the work the Lord Jesus came to finish. We have remembered His sacrifice for us in faith. We know that His work is yet unfinished, for only the first phase has been accomplished.

We have, in the figure of our baptism, been buried in Him and risen to newness of life in Him. This marked the beginning of our walk in The Faith.

Throughout the Prophets, the Gospel record and the Apostles writings, we are told that the second phase of the work of Christ upon this earth will be at a time of trouble such as never was.

Then says Daniel, "At that time, Michael the Prince that standeth for the People of God shall stand up."

The day of the Lord, says Amos will be dark. After the tribulation of those days says Jesus. "The sign of the Son of man shall be seen. He will come with clouds, the elect will be gathered. They will be perilous times, says the Apostle Paul, and so are the signs of the times revealed in the Scriptures of Truth.

Do we see the beginning of these things in the year that lies ahead. True, there has been troubles throughout the history of Mankind. But somehow the present signs seem very ominous. Many of them are being fulfilled to the letter. We are approaching the acid test of our faith, can we stand the strain. Shall the Son of Man find the faith upon the earth when He comes, asked Jesus. We know there are many sects claiming to be the Faith, yet only one can be the Truth. Yes said Jesus, "Obey my commandments, by this shall men know that ye are my disciples." The one command he stressed was, the love of His servants for each other. By this shall the Truth be revealed. Do we fit in with this brethren and sisters ?

The Angel who spoke to Daniel, uses the same words as Jesus when he referred to the resurrection. Then He says, "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, they shall turn many to righteousness, as the stars for ever."

The word for *wise* here, is in the margin, rendered "teachers" this we note, puts the first part of the verse in line with the second part. ie "They that are teachers shall shine etc., and turn many to righteousness." The use of this rendering, reminds us of yet a

further passage from Isaiah and cited by Paul in his letter to the Romans.

“How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of Peace and bring good tidings of Good things.”

Such teachers to shine must necessarily have the Light of the Truth. Their feet if they are beautiful must be straight feet walking only one way. Such was Jesus the Faithful and True Witness, such were His Apostles whose words we are able to consider for our strengthening in the faith. For says Paul, Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.”

To the Jews of his day, Jesus said “search the scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life and they are they which testify of me.”

Did they accept this ? We know they did not.

Later Jesus said to them, “Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you even Moses, in whom ye trust. He wrote of me, but if you do not believe his writings how shall you believe my words.”

For us brethren and sisters the witness has been extended, for we have in addition the testimony of the Apostles.

“But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

also verse 27 :

“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”

Here brethren and sisters is love in action. In these dark days as our brethren and sisters are getting older and naturally weaker, they need the help and comfort of those who are strong in the way. The one thing held up before Israel, “Remember when you were in Egypt, remember the widow and the fatherless.”

In Christ we are the mothers and the fathers of each other, to help those that are in afflictions of this life. This is our duty.

To keep ourselves unspotted from the world with all its enticements, we have got to hate such a garment says his brother Jude. We have nothing to fear from any judgment if we have obeyed the Word of God.

Remember, we do not walk alone, for the Lord Jesus, through The Spirit is the *Paraclete*, the comforter alongside. He, says Jude is

able to “keep us from falling and present us faultless before His Father and ours.

“Before the presence of His Glory with exceeding JOY.”

J.S.R.



## “The Signs of His Coming and of the end of the World”

### THE FALL OF TYRUS

*“ . . . because that Tyrus hath said against Jerusalem, Aha, she is broken that was the gates of the people : she is turned unto me : I shall be replenished, now she is laid waste :  
Therefore thus saith the Lord God ; behold I am against thee, O Tyrus . . . ”* (Ezekiel 26 : 2-3).

**T**YRE OF OLD, which made a covenant with Solomon, in helping to build Jerusalem changed its policy with Israel to further its own interests and therefore merited and received the judgments of God. What of the latter day Tyre ?

It has deserted its ally after promising a national home for the Jews, and seems to be moving towards a position where it will be quite pleased to see Jerusalem’s downfall as long as its own commerce prospers.

God’s design for the future, and the protection of His purpose is thereby overlooked. But see how Britain is suffering. A monetary and energy crisis hangs over it like a sword of Damocles. It cannot escape divine retribution in shelving its obligations to Israel. For a time the latter-day Tyre may appear to get the reward which it has sought for its treachery.

At Kuwait the Oil Exporting Arab Nations have proclaimed a change of mind, they have decided to increase the production of oil again, but only to “favoured nations” that support their cause. Britain is one of those favoured nations. Holland who has been more honourable and consistent, and refuses to be blackmailed is not ; therefore at the time of writing Holland is approaching a period of petrol rationing, and thinks its European partners in the E.E.C., including Britain and France, should pay more than lip service to their so called common obligation to each other. But can

honour and truth be expected from nations and leaders in such a world as this? It seems obvious that Britain and France, and now Belgium, not to speak of Japan, which has voiced political support for the Arabs, will seek the path of the "favoured nation" to the detriment of other things whether just or unjust. But Holland may come out of the crisis better than at first appears. She has certainly not been left destitute. This lowland country has very large reserves of natural gas, and being a nation with courage and fortitude inbred by centuries of fighting the encroaches of the sea upon territory below sea-level, may gear its transportation and production to the use of gas instead of petroleum, which in the long term may bring it greater prosperity.

Meanwhile the Arabs continue to raise their voices about the injustices that Arab peoples suffer. Emphasis particularly being placed upon the Palestinian Refugees, who it is said undergo the privations of camp life. One would think that with all the vast revenues the oil exporting nations receive for their natural resources and taking into consideration their voicing of the common Arab brotherhood, there should be no Palestinian problem at all. They have the land and they have the wealth to solve the problem in a moment. But they do not have the will. So the Palestinian camps remain, where to a large extent an indolent life is lived, supplied for by funds from the United Nations Relief and Workers Agency. It is not a prosperous existence nor a comfortable one, but the ration of food to such camps, though at a minimum, is more secure than in India or Ethiopia. Furthermore though a vociferous section in the west commiserate over Palestinian sufferings, and blame the Jews, little attention is paid to the Palestinians own lack in failing to make the best of their situation. Though bath and washing facilities, admittedly communal, are available at the camps, disease is continually being brought to the attention of the doctors who have to cater for the health of the refugees, as a result of the Palestinians going for months without bathing or washing. The Palestine guerilla organisations do not likewise get the degree of adverse publicity and world condemnation one would expect for their wanton exploits, such as the terrible massacre at Rome airport last December, which quickly seemed to be forgotten.

The fact is that latter day Tyrus and others like her are far too absorbed in prospering their own commerce to pursue a more vigorous line of political action in denouncing the wrong and upholding the right. But where is the commerce of Tyre going? At the time of writing it is in decline, with short time working, and the threat of mass unemployment. The balance of payments is swinging more alarmingly into the red, and an international monetary crisis could fall upon the world at any moment. Such is the delicate bal-

ance between prosperity and disaster which men and nations have formulated for themselves by their policies in these evil days.

But if the nations think a decline in Israel, or a breakdown of that nation may solve their problems, they will find they are very much mistaken, as also the false prophets which are arising who are anti-Israel orientated.

Note the following excerpt from a recently published statement by a man who claims to be a prophet, and who has quite a following :

“Israel will soon be invaded and conquered and America destroyed by a combination of world powers led by Russia, according to the Bible and OUR OWN RECENT REVOLUTIONS. The Bible even names the countries that will participate and the route of their invasion ! The Bible says this is the only way the Arab-Israeli war can be ended and a final agreement reached on the Arab lands and an international pact made concerning the city of Jerusalem. Because Israel will never willingly withdraw from the Israeli-occupied Arab territories and has said flatly she will never give up Jerusalem, and because the Arabs have said they will never be satisfied with anything short of an Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories including particularly Jerusalem, nothing less than forced intervention by one of the super powers can solve the situation.

Since Israel is an American colony and America's only beach-head in the Middle East aimed at the Arab oil fields, and America cannot survive without the oil which the Arabs are determined not to give her unless she makes Israel give up Jerusalem and the Arab territories and let the Palestinians back in, which she will never do, America will fight for the possession of Israel and Arab oil, (See our letter No. 277, “The Real War Goes On !”)

Neither Russia, Asia nor Africa nor even Europe could possibly tolerate such high-handed aggressive belligerent American armed intervention in the Middle East to achieve her own ends for the protection of Israel and conquest of the Arab oil fields, and thereby complete American domination of the entire Middle East and North Africa to the very borders of Russia.

Since the Arabs are now agreed, united and determined —backed by Russia, Asia, Africa and Europe—that America must persuade Israel to withdraw or America will get no more oil from the Arabs ; and since America will never force

Israel to do this, and her economy will collapse without the oil, America herself will feel forced to fight for Israel and Arab oil.

The rest of the world will be forced to destroy America to stop her, and invade Israel to enforce a settlement and an end to this perpetual irreconcilable war between American-Israeli interests in the Mideast and the conflicting interests there of Russia, the Arabs and the rest of the world. So the Bible (so writes this false prophet) tells us the whole conflict will be settled by the destruction of America and the invasion and conquest of Israel by Russia and other supporting world powers, and it will have to happen soon because neither America nor the rest of the world can go much longer without the vital Arab oil! A young new world order under a young new world leader will then unite the world in peace and plenty, rising like the Phoenix from the ashes of the old, until God Himself takes over in His Kingdom of Heaven on earth!

If Europe would survive to help rebuild a new world, she must not only declare herself independent of American-Jewish pro-Israeli influence in the war, which is far from settled, but she must also sever her ties with America and insist that these American Military bases be removed, or she must needs suffer great destruction along with America in the removal of America as a threat to world peace and survival. For behold, there shall come a deliverer out of Zion (Jesus?) which shall save my people (the Christian Palestinian Arabs?) the true Israel, the true Prince of God and man, and not them which be pretenders and usurpers to My Throne!"

Is it not amazing that the "false prophet" quoted above, having arrived at some understanding of what the scriptures has foretold, should advocate that the latter-day Tyrus adopt measures, which, as indicated in Ezekiel's prophecy, are only to its condemnation.

Here is evidence that the words of Jesus' warning are coming to pass, "*MANY* false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many." . . . "Take heed that no man deceive you." (Matthew 24 : 4 and 11).

The simple and yet profound evidence for all to see is that the re-born nation of Israel is a miraculous act of God. A sign of His ultimate purpose for Israel in fulfillment of His ancient promises. But this God-given sign is largely ignored or not given the attention it warrants.

The day however will certainly come when the forces of the Great Powers will indeed be in conflict over the Israeli question. The situation however will not be resolved by the armies of the nations.

“Tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him : (i.e. the Northern Power) therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy . . .

Yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.”  
(Daniel 11 : 44-45).

There is no nation, or power, or government on earth that realises that through the resurrection of the dead a new nation will be born as in a moment, and as part of Israel, will restore the kingdom, and establish the Reign of God for ever, through Christ.

D.L.



## **News from the Ecclesias**

“*PENTRIP*”, Black Rock, Portmadoc.

Breaking of Bread : Sundays, 11-30 a.m.

Bible Class : Mid-week.

It has been decided to give up the advertising on Criccieth station as not being the best medium, especially in winter time. It is thought that to advertise in the local papers would be better, copies of which travel to relatives of the local people living in all parts of the world. Enquiries have also been made re advertising in local shops. It may be that in this way Bible study may be encouraged and some may yet seek for the Truth. It has been good to enjoy the peace and quietness of the country, away from the pagan feasts which prevail so much at this time of the year.

per D.L.

*NEWTOWNARDS, CO. DOWN, Northern Ireland.*

Breaking of Bread, Sunday 11-30 a.m.

Sunday School 2-0 p.m.

Bible Class—Wednesday evening.

We were all glad to have with us for a few days Sister Lois Bouchet. Her presence on Sunday morning was helpful and her company through the week enjoyable. The New Year brings hopeful signs on the earth to us all, and the reminder of the urgent need that we be ready.

J.P.

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*EDEN, NEW YORK : Grange Hall, Church Street.*

Sundays : Breaking of Bread 11-30 a.m. Sunday School 1-30 p.m. Bible Class : Midweek, Forestville, Hamburg and Orchard Park. Alternative week : Revelation Study.

The Sunday School Party is planned, God willing, for February 23rd, 1974.

As the shaking in His house continues, it is a time to examine one's heart. Are we doing all possible to honour God? The return of the Lord Jesus to gather together those who have struggled to honour Him seems very near. Let us draw closer together, to help one another in that struggle that each one may know the blessing in store for the faithful of all ages.

J. A. DeF.

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*MANCHESTER : Memorial Hall, M.A.P.S. Building, Albert Square, Manchester.*

Sundays : Breaking of Bread 11-30 a.m. Lectures on the first Sunday in the month. Wednesday : Bible Class 7-15 p.m. Milton Hall, Deansgate.

In the endeavour to proclaim the "good news" the lecture this month is entitled : "The gospel the only glad tidings for man. The power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth".

Interest continues, although small, nevertheless what could be more important than bringing even one from death to life.

Letters of appreciation and denunciation of the magazine have been received. How true are the words of the Apostle that *the* Truth to some is the "savour of life unto life": to others "of death unto death."

W.V.B.