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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 that ye be not deceived"**

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**AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD  
“IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD”**

Each week as we meet, the Word offers to us valuable information and lessons. The book of the Chronicles of the kings of Israel, the writings of Ezekiel, and those of John all reveal the position of God’s people, at periods separated by four hundred to five hundred years. First there is the record of Israel as it approached the height of its power and glory under David and Solomon. In Ezekiel’s time, four hundred and fifty years later, the ten tribes had been dispersed among the nations, and Judah was captive in Babylon, with Jerusalem soon to be destroyed. Moving along five hundred and fifty years later, in Jesus’ time, Israel was in subjection to Rome. These were widely separated times and also different situations, but in it all the hand of God was working to bring about His purpose. By looking at these different periods, can we not—almost two thousand years after Christ—be helped in our efforts and desires to be a part in that enduring and consistent purpose of God?

In I Chronicles 17, we have again listened to the promises to David, the man who ever had in mind God’s purpose and hoped to be included in it. He expressed to Nathan the prophet his earnest wish to build a house for God:

“... Lo, I dwell in an house of cedars, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD remaineth under curtains.”

I Chronicles 17:1.

Why was David concerned that the ark had no permanent and special place? The ark would be uppermost in his mind for he had recently brought it up from the house of Abinadab where it had been placed after being returned by the Philistines. At that time, David to his sorrow learned that because of his uncaredful moving of it, the ark must be handled only according to God’s directions. Thus doing so, he caused the ark to be brought in a correct manner, with reverence and joy, to Jerusalem where it was “set in the midst of the tent that David had pitched for it.” (I Chronicles 16:1).

This labor, after the acute sorrow over their initial failure, would be fresh in David’s mind. For he also thought of himself, as befitted a king, dwelling in a house of cedar and the ark abiding in merely a tent. Additionally, up to this time the altar for the burnt offerings and the tabernacle itself were situated in Gibeon, where was:

“... Zadok the priest, ... before the tabernacle of the LORD ... at Gibeon,  
to offer burnt offerings unto the LORD upon the altar of the burnt offering ....”

I Chronicles 15:39-40.

In later years when Solomon became king, he:

“... went to the high place that was at Gibeon; for there was the tabernacle ... But the ark of God had David brought up from Kirjath-jearim to the place which David had prepared for it: for he had pitched a tent for it in Jerusalem.”

II Chronicles 1:3-4.

So we realize that the ark, the cherubim and the mercy seat were at Jerusalem, and the tabernacle with the brasen altar was at Gibeon—some six miles away. David’s thought now was to bring them together in a temple he proposed to build. Had David done so at this time, not yet having received the pattern from God, he likely would have built it according to his own thinking and plans, not as God later directed. However, the Almighty made His purpose clear to David:

“... Thou shalt not built an house for my name, because thou hast been a man of war, and hast shed blood.”

I Chronicles 28:3.

Undoubtedly David’s mind was to honor his Father, but men, even very righteous men, do not think as does the Almighty. Through Nathan the prophet God reminded David:

“... I took thee from the sheepecote, even from following the sheep, that thou shouldest be ruler over my people Israel:  
And I have been with thee whithersoever thou hast walked, and have cut off all thine enemies from before thee, and have made thee a name like the name of the great men that are in the earth.”

I Chronicles 17:7-8.

David was a shepherd. Such a work would teach and gentle him in preparation for the work of shepherding his people. He had experienced God’s help in his early work of protecting the flock from the lion and the bear, and would ever remember this throughout his reign. The Almighty was pleased with David’s desire and spirit. Thus He promised him a son who would build a house, who would sit upon his throne, and who would also rule forever over the kingdom of Israel. That promised son would be God’s own Son and God would be His Father. These words were to come to pass after many days. Here indeed are the promised “sure mercies of David” yet to be truly and fully accomplished in God’s purpose when Jesus Christ returns to the earth, to set up that kingdom which will endure for ever. David’s reaction to God’s blessing is touching and tells us how well he perceived:

“... Who am I, O LORD God, and what is mine house, that thou hast brought me hitherto? ... for thou hast also spoken of thy servant’s house for a great while to come, ...  
What can David speak more to thee for the honour of thy servant?  
for thou knowest thy servant.”

I Chron. 17:16-18.

The Almighty did indeed know David, his heart and his spirit, and so blessed and honored him. David continued:

“Now therefore let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may be before thee for ever: for thou blessest, O LORD, and it shall be blessed for ever.”

I Chronicles 17:27.

What trust, what humble gratitude our brother revealed, not just in words but in works and thinking, striving always to keep God’s purpose and glory first in mind.

Now let us move on four hundred and fifty years later, as God spoke to Ezekiel in a vision as he stood in a valley to be wondered at—a valley full of dry bones. God asked:

“... Son of man, can these bones live? ...” Ezekiel 37:3.

Impossible, one might say; all flesh, all life was gone. But the prophet, waiting in faith, answered: “O Lord GOD, thou knowest.” And thus he was told:

“... these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: ...”

Ezekiel 37:11.

Indeed the position of Israel did seem hopeless: the ten tribes were dispersed, Judah was in captivity, Jerusalem was in ruins. Yet God had His purpose in mind, His promise to David as well as to Adam, Noah, and Abraham. God then spoke as to those dry bones:

“... Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; ...”  
Ezekiel 37:5-6.

The illimitable power of God would do this. Pausing to think on this, the mind goes back to Eden and the power of God in the beginning:

“... the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”  
Genesis 2:7.

It is the Almighty's very breath which created life, and concerning the end of life, we are reminded:

"Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit (breath) shall return unto God who gave it."

Ecclesiastes 12:7.

Only God, the bestower of life, has power to give life and to take it away. In his work for God, Ezekiel was permitted to witness this power:

"... as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone."

Ezekiel 37:7.

With a noise and a shaking these scattered bones came together, "bone to his bone". How remarkable, yet it was not merely a random joining, but each bone united to its proper mate to form the framework of a complete body. And continuing:

". . . the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them."

Ezekiel 37:8.

Here was the form of man but yet no life. Ezekiel further prophesied at God's command:

". . . and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army."

Ezekiel 37:10.

And then, through Ezekiel, God spoke further words of hope to those of His people who would hear in faith:

". . . ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, And shall put my spirit (breath) in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD."

Ezekiel 37:13-14.

This figure of hope is to be fulfilled when Jesus returns, bringing about the resurrection and granting life eternal to those whom He judges to be acceptable. Those so blessed shall indeed be an "exceeding great army"—kings and priests to reign with Him over all the earth. In the very beginning God spoke and life was; in the end God will speak and eternal life will be granted to those dried bones gathered to His Son.

There is more, as the Almighty further spoke to Ezekiel concerning the vision of two sticks, Israel and Judah, to be joined again into one nation:

“... I will make them one nation . . . and one king shall be king to them all . . .

And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd . . . and my servant David shall be their prince for ever.”  
Ezekiel 37:22,24,25.

David will be there as a prince, and the greater Son of David, Jesus, will reign as king over all the earth. The Almighty speaks further:

“Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore . . .

Yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

Ezekiel 37:26-27.

Thus will the promises to David—those unfailing, sure mercies—be fulfilled.

How will all this come about? We have read this morning in the book of John of the One through whom this divine plan will be realized:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (. . .) full of grace and truth.”  
John 1:1,14.

The Word of God made flesh was Jesus who came, the Lamb of God, fulfilling His purpose as John the Baptist recognized:

“... Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”  
John 1:29.

Of those who look to Him as the Lamb, the Word of God, the promised son of God, John tells us:

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe in his name:

Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”  
John 1:12-13.

This Word made flesh was Jesus Christ, of whom God often spoke: “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” He continued to “well please” His Father right to the moment of His death as He cried out in triumph, in agony, conquering His fleshly nature: “It is finished”. We have remembered this victory here at His Table this morning. The greater

Son of David came in God's time and purpose, lived, obeyed, died, was resurrected, and now sits at God's right hand waiting for the total fulfillment of these promises to David.

We cannot but believe this will come to pass soon. Nevertheless, it is in God's hands, and we must wait in patience and faithful obedience, knowing that the Word of God cannot fail. What help we are given, Brethren and Sisters! The wonderful fulfillment in part, has been seen when Jesus lived upon the earth in the flesh. Without doubt we can look forward to the total fulfillment. The house of God will be built, a King shall reign over an everlasting kingdom, and the dry bones of faithful believers will be assembled, the spirit of life breathed into them, and they shall indeed become an exceeding great and joyful host.

*J.A.Def*



### **IT SHALL NOT RETURN VOID**

Our readings in Ezekiel are of great interest, revealing how the prophet endeavored as a watchman to bring God's word to a rebellious people. We are shown the severity of their disobedience as Ezekiel saw in vision the man with the inkhorn about to mark those few in Jerusalem who had remained faithful in the midst of great wickedness:

"... Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that are done in the midst of it." Ezekiel 9:4.

Those who abhorred the abominations done in Jerusalem and sought to walk in God's way were those to be saved. Ezekiel was sent to rebuke those not marked, the majority who followed not God but their own carnal inclinations:

". . . The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceeding great, and the land is full of blood, and the city full of perverseness: for they say, The LORD hath forsaken the earth, and the LORD seeth not." Ezekiel 9:9.

Those who had faithlessly assured themselves that God could not see their evil deeds had made Jerusalem an abomination with their flagrant idolatry. Ezekiel was to be a watchman, admonishing Israel as in vision their wickedness was revealed:

"And he brought me to the door of the court; and when I looked, behold a hole in the wall.

Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall: and when I had digged in the wall, behold a door.

And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here.

So I went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, poured upon the wall round about.”

Ezekiel 8:7-10.

God who knows the hearts of all, instructed Ezekiel to record his experiences for our warning as well, for the fleshly mind is no different today, nor was it in David's time when he said:

“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God.”

Psalm 14:1-2.

The foolish who say there is no God do not believe in His presence with man or in the power of His word to accomplish all that has been promised. They have either forgotten or never known His Truth which can release the understanding and obedient man from the bonds of the grave. And so David questions:

“Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD?”

Psalm 14:4.

“The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.”

Psalm 10:4.

God must be in our thoughts and hearts if we hope to walk in His ways. If one is dull of conscience, convincing self that He cannot see our doings, then how strong the temptation for fleshly thinking to overcome the spirit man. Even when fully aware of divine oversight and with best intentions, we often fail because we are flesh. It is only His great mercy which allows recovery through the provision of the Lord Jesus as our Mediator and Intercessor. He alone can bring our repentant prayers to the Father, and with forgiveness, effect a renewing of the spirit man within. Therefore we are urged:

“Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”

Isaiah 55:6-7.

How grateful His children should be that faithful men as David, Isaiah and Ezekiel were moved to record these messages of hope for our help and that God in mercy should abundantly pardon no matter how grievous the failure. His great and sure purpose with this earth involving His people and how they are to become perfected and included in that purpose must be always remembered. Though they fail often, being flesh, He forgives often. Why is this? Because He “knoweth our frame, he remembereth that we are dust” (Psalm 103:14). He does understand and in mercy reveals through His prophet:

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

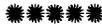
For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”

Isaiah 55:8-11.

He has made known this purpose, its wonders and glory. His promises concerning it are sure. His kingdom will come, an everlasting joy and praise to Him, the Almighty Creator. Lest we should doubt, let our minds now be impressed with the power of His word—“it shall not return unto me void but it shall accomplish that which I please . . .”.

*M.C.S.*



**PARTIAL INSPIRATION—the trouble of 1885 (continued)**  
**Letter to R. Roberts from C.F.C. of Falmouth**

“I am deeply grieved at the new turn things have taken with reference to brother Ashcroft. Be assured of my hearty sympathy under the very trying circumstances. Learning of the nature he advocates ‘puffeth up’, and instead of the truth being helped, we should have an inrush of the clever and proud of this world. Ward Beecher’s idea would be acted upon—namely, that if Christ had gathered to his side polished Athenians instead of unlearned fishermen, the cause of Christianity would have made greater progress. The adherents of the truth are sufficiently educated to understand God’s laws. To advocate learning of the kind suggested, would lead to

striving about words to no profit. I think this affair will stem the tide of mere head knowledge which has lately set in. The issue of the "Lightstand" was most opportune. I felt relieved at once; and more so to find you were determined to stick to the old colours. It is the tone that prevailed when first I was in the truth, and I am rejoiced to see it again. Not that there has been inaction, but we seemed to be getting into rather comfortable times; nice, but dangerous. This matter will arouse the zeal of all true brethren, with, I trust, the result of a community anxious to do the will of God, and who will welcome our absent Lord, at, we hope, his speedy re-appearing."  
(to be continued)



### A BIBLE CLASS

"As rivers of water in a dry place"  
Isaiah 32:2

In context the verse under consideration speaks of a future Kingdom to be ruled in perfect righteousness, unlike any ever known upon the earth. It will be a place of peace and refreshment for its inhabitants, as rivers of water and the shadow of a great rock can provide relief against the heat of the day.

"Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment.

And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land."

Isaiah 32:1-2.

This Kingdom will be governed by Christ and His Saints, reigning over the faithful of the reunited twelve tribes of Israel as well as all who embrace the God of Israel. This Kingdom which will encompass the entire world, will be governed with judgment and justice as its immortal rulers carry out God's purpose. Under His hand the desert will blossom; growing abundantly without the curse which God brought upon it following Adam's disobedience:

"... cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee;"

Genesis 3:17-18.

In the midst of this bounty, Christ and His Saints will officiate in the re-established temple at Jerusalem, from whence will flow that life giving

water from under the altar, returning the goodness and beauty that was there prior to man's disobedience in the Garden:

"And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him."

Revelation 22:1-3.

A time like Eden, with fruit and water in abundance for man and beast, manifesting God's blessing to nourish and heal His people. In a dry land one would expect a minimal amount of water, but where God is the Overseer, never ending waters will quench the thirst of earth and man.

Another aspect of the blessings of this Kingdom is explained further in our chapter:

"And the eyes of them that see shall not be dim, and the ears of them that hear shall hearken.

The heart also of the rash shall understand knowledge, and the tongue of the stammerers shall be ready to speak plainly."

Isaiah 32:3-4.

This speaks of greater healing than that of physical infirmities, for in the Kingdom of God His word will be universally applied as law, understood by all, and administered by Christ and the Saints as righteous arbitrators. There has never been real justice in the world because of man's fleshly reasoning, as evidenced by these words spoken in Isaiah's day:

". . . this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits:"

Isaiah 30:9-10.

This was man's thinking hundreds of years ago, and the same devious reasoning is seen today. In the Kingdom age, men will be judged not by their peers but by the power of the Holy Spirit discerning falsehood and wickedness, meting out a just recompense to any who despise God's law.

David looked forward in hope to the Kingdom age. He had a clear understanding of God's protection and care given during his probation and

so as a thirsty man in a dry land reached out to Him as the only source of life and strength. He knew of the life giving river that is to flow from God's temple, refreshing the land with its living waters, and could rejoice in hope as he wrote:

"There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.

God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early." Psalm 46:4-5.

"They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.

For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light." Psalm 36:8-9.

Man must have water or die—similarly without the life giving hope of Israel, death will be the inevitable end for those rejected at His judgment seat. Those approved, clothed in the white linen of righteousness will enjoy the blessings of eternal life for they:

"...shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

Revelation 5:16-17.

Even now as we know an earnest of these rivers of water in a dry place, let us more thoughtfully value God's grace seen in the covering provided by the Lord Jesus as the only means of redemption.

M.C.S.



### OF WATER AND OF THE SPIRIT

In the Christadelphian (January 1992) the following is stated:-

"Alongside belief in the infallibility of scripture, and as a twin pillar in this foundation of faith, is the belief that the scriptures themselves—these divine and infallible arbiters of truth—are able to make a man "wise unto salvation" (2 Tim. 3:15) Man is not dependent upon something outside of, or additional to God's Word to lead him into all truth. - - - To deny, as we do, "that a man cannot believe without possessing the Spirit of God." (Doctrines to be Rejected, No. 25), is not to deny the development of the spiritual mind, or the present working of God in conformity with His revelation - - -."

May we venture an additional focus. For example it is declared "- - - how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach,

except they be sent? - - . But they have not all obeyed the gospel - - . so then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10) The eunuch of Ethiopia is an example of this, to whom Philip was sent, who questioned “Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I except some man should guide me?” (Acts 8), (and in this connection God surely does not call through or “send” Apostates). In this divine working the Spirit of truth is obtained, (which students of scripture, even by lifelong study, fail to attain without God’s help, though they may be very knowledgeable). Absence of this Spirit means a placing under the water is a mere immersion. But when the Truth is accepted and believed the Spirit has truly entered the mind (“- - the Spirit, which is the word of God:” Philippians 6:17). This of course, depends upon SINCERE and REPENTANT minds responding to the Spirit. Those so blessed are “born of water and of the Spirit.” (John 3:5) They rise out of the water, to “walk in newness of life,” serving “in newness of spirit.” (Romans 6:4 & 7:6)

One further point we would like to bring to our reader’s attention is the necessity of recognising that the Spirit can be lost where there is neglect of the Truth and wrong inclination. We need to perceive that a state can indeed be reached when the “new man” is completely overwhelmed by the mundane. Then it is not possible to recover, for “- - - it is impossible for those who were once enlightened - - - made partakers of the Holy Spirit - - - if they shall fall away, (i.e. go beyond a certain position), to renew them again unto repentance - - .” (Hebrews 6:4-6)



### **THOU SHALT KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD**

Today we continue reading of God’s purpose revealed through Ezekiel, a prophet and a watchman to Judah and Jerusalem. In chapter 16, there is a strong condemnation of Judah, comparing her to a harlot, or worse than a harlot, disgusting to the Almighty. And so He spoke to His watchman:

“Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations.”

Ezekiel 16:2.

An abomination is something hated and abhorred. His people, Judah and Jerusalem, turned aside to this. Should not rather these things which God loathes also be hated by His people? Idols, false altars, questionable pleasures, which honor themselves but use His name, must be especially abhorrent to the Almighty. Looking to Ezekiel’s time, God, having taken Israel to Himself, spoke to her:

“ . . . I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, live;”

Ezekiel 16:6.

Under God's mercy Israel did live, or as the word means—was saved and became His chosen people. They prospered under His merciful care, did grow into a kingdom, renowned among the nations (verses 13-14). However, in time they came to trust in their own beauty (verse 15) and were condemned for their falling away:

“ . . . I will even deal with thee as thou hast done, which hast despised the oath in breaking the covenant.”

Ezekiel 16:59.

Indeed, God truly dealt with Israel: the ten tribes were dispersed by Assyria; Judah at the time of Ezekiel's warning was subject to Babylon; and shortly Jerusalem would be destroyed and her people taken there, a captive nation. Why? Because the oath of the covenant was despised; they did not care! Yet God in mercy spoke:

“Nevertheless I will remember my covenant with thee in the days of thy youth, . . .

And I will establish my covenant with thee; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD:”

Ezekiel 16:60,62.

What mercy, what love the Almighty showed, in revealing a future for His people; not to all Israel, but to those in the present captivity and for all time who would seek with a whole heart to serve Him. Do we not wonder at this being so? He spoke in mercy so that Jerusalem and Judah would know that “I am the LORD”. Would his mercy do this? To know implies a learning, perceiving through seeing, hearing, feeling—senses which form an established conviction. The Almighty would punish but would forgive, establishing His covenant even after Judah's abominations—on His own conditions, however. He is revealing through Ezekiel what He is like as Yahweh—the ever-present, all-powerful, merciful God of Israel, revealed to Moses as I AM (Exodus ch. 3:14).

It is interesting to note that the word covenant in the Hebrew is to choose or select. In our English it comes from convene, to come or meet together. God's covenant at Sinai revealed one mind as Israel responded to Him: “All that the Lord hath spoken we will do.” (Exodus 19:8) And God promised: “Ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me . . . and ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. . .” (verses 5-6) The Almighty has had that promise in mind and purpose, and has sent His Son to make it possible for all those who in faith embrace the promise. What great love and merciful forbearance, revealing indeed that He is the LORD.

David was one who knew, experienced and fully appreciated the Lord's endless mercy where a heart is right. He sinned grievously, yet when there was true repentance, he was graciously forgiven. He expresses his knowledge of Yahweh, speaking of Israel:

“Many times did he deliver them; but they provoked him with their counsel, and were brought low for their iniquity. Nevertheless he regarded their affliction, when he heard their cry: And he remembered for them his covenant, and repented according to ... his mercies.

Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting: and let all the people say, Amen. Praise ye the LORD.”

Psalm 106:43-45,48.

This knowledge of the LORD sustained and encouraged David, bringing forth praise in his determination to keep the covenant, looking ahead to the greater Son of David.

God through Ezekiel spoke many times, “that thou shalt know that I am the LORD.” Perhaps if we look at a few of these occasions it will help us, Brethren and Sisters, to a keener perception of Him, His glory and holiness, His kindness beyond human conception, and most of all His power, supreme over every possible influence. In Ezekiel chapter 38, we read of the great northern power. Gog is to come down into the land of Israel to conquer, and is to be destroyed there by God’s power through Christ and His saints, as the prophet reveals:

“... I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.”

Ezekiel 38:22.

The result of this exhibition of dreadful power:

“Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD.”

Ezekiel 38:23.

As the LORD’S wondrous work on behalf of His people is seen, how great indeed will be His name, made holy in the minds of many people; recognized and revered as Almighty God:

“So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; ... and the heathen (nations) shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.”

Ezekiel 39:7.

Further His purpose is revealed:

“... Now will I bring again (release from) the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, ... When I have ... gathered them out of their enemies’ lands, and am sanctified

in them in the sight of many nations; Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God . . .” Ezekiel 39:25-28.

A work of wonder, divinely promised, foretold by prophets, which when accomplished, will convince totally that He is the LORD. Ezekiel’s further prophecy continues to show this in God’s own word toward idolatrous Israel:

“ . . . Behold, I, even I, will bring a sword upon you, and I will destroy your high places.

And your altars shall be desolate and your images shall be broken: and I will cast down your slain men before your idols . . . and ye shall know that I am the LORD.” Ezekiel 6:3,4,7.

And again He promised:

“Yet will I leave a remnant, that ye may have some that shall escape the sword . . .

And they shall lothe themselves for the evils which they have committed in all their abominations.

And they shall know that I am the LORD, and that I have not said in vain that I would do this evil unto them.”

Ezekiel 6:8-10.

In the midst of destruction, God’s mercy is seen as a few turn from their evil—again showing forth to them the great Yahweh.

Israel themselves were not alone in these failures. There were many false prophets, and to these God spoke:

“ . . . mine hand shall be upon the prophets that see vanity, and that divine lies: they shall not be in the assembly of my people, neither shall they be written in the writing of the house of Israel, neither shall they enter into the land of Israel; and ye shall know that I am the Lord GOD.”

Ezekiel 13:9.

The Almighty will reveal and cut off the deceitful ones who claim to speak for Him, so that those who turn to Him will without doubt recognize Him. He speaks also of those who build walls daubed “with untempered mortar” (verse 11), spiritual buildings good to look upon but having no strength. Of these He leaves no doubt:

“So will I break down the wall that ye have daubed with untempered mortar, and bring it down to the ground, so that the foundation thereof shall be discovered, and it shall fall, and ye shall be consumed in the midst thereof: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.” Ezekiel 13:14.

The foundation of lies and vanity upon which God's children had come to depend will be revealed as a sham for all to recognize, and thereby learn that only upon the firm foundation of God's word can faith and obedience be built and endure. Do we not recall that Jesus taught concerning the house founded upon a rock rather than sand? (Matthew 7:24-29)

The LORD'S word continued to Ezekiel, speaking of Israel as the wood of the vine, useless except to be burnt. He said:

“... As the vine tree among the trees of the forest, which I have given to the fire for fuel, so will I give the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

And I will set my face against them; they shall go out from one fire, and another fire shall devour them; and ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I set my face against them.”

Ezekiel 15:6-7.

God did set His face; within a few years Jerusalem was consumed by fire, and those who sought to escape found no refuge. The divine word, as ever, came to pass as the LORD turned His face from His people.

Contrasting this, we think of an earlier time when He spoke to the high priest, Aaron, through Moses:

“... On this wise ye shall bless the children of Israel, saying unto them,

The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. And they shall put my name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them.”

Numbers 6:23-27.

God's desire is to ever bless His people and to put His Name upon them. To all who realize He is the great God, the everlasting “I AM”, and dedicate their lives to serving Him, there is sure blessing to come when Jesus Christ returns, establishing His kingdom under an everlasting covenant. From the beginning God has revealed Himself to a few, that they might have the privilege of honoring and glorifying Him in loving obedience. He revealed Himself to Adam and Eve in the promised seed who would ultimately destroy all evil. He revealed Himself further when He provided coats of skins, blood being shed for their covering. He revealed Himself to Noah in the bow after the flood. When we see a rainbow, we gasp at its beauty. Do we always gasp at His mercy seen in this covenant token? This grace has endured through the ages to our own time and will ever endure. At the coming of His Son when the promise of the everlasting covenant will be accomplished, this grace will also be manifest in Him and His saints. The Almighty will reveal Himself as Yahweh, the

eternal, all-powerful, all-knowing, merciful, just, and everywhere-present God. How few of mankind perceive this now!

Job, after suffering fearful and prolonged affliction, was able to express his greater perception. To God he spoke in gratitude for the experiences he had come through:

“I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. . . I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. . . I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.” Job 42:2-6.

It was through long endured affliction that Job came to this mind, grateful, humble, and able to feel Yahweh’s love and realise his own unworthiness and weakness.

Our God does reveal Himself to His people in a multitude of ways, each enhancing and glorifying Him. Let us, Brethren and Sisters, be sure we are looking and seeking as Job, striving to better know that He is the LORD, and to know what we are and how much we need Him. Israel had His presence tangibly in their midst for forty years. As He instructed Moses concerning the building of the tabernacle, He declared:

“And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God. And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, that brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them: I am the LORD their God.”

Exodus 29:45-46.

Israel as a body failed miserably even though His presence was so perceptible. What a warning for us, who are also mere humans. As we read, let us listen to His counsel, discern His purpose, and bow our heads in submission and gratitude, realizing that He is indeed Yahweh, and we are truly privileged, belonging not to ourselves, but to Him, chosen, called and covenanted.

*J. A. DeF*

## Signs of His Coming and of the End of the World

“And both these king’s hearts shall be to do mischief and they shall speak lies at one table; but it shall not prosper: for yet the end shall be at the time appointed.”

(Daniel 11:27)

The basest of men largely gain government and power in this evil world. Some achieve their ends by flattery, others by lies and distortion, or promises they do not intend to keep. The Spirit knows this only too well, and has warned through prophecy, not to take the assertions of the great ones of the earth at their face value. There seems to have been considerable diplomatic endeavour of late to reduce the threat of evil weapons that threaten all life on this fruitful planet. Britain has purported to be amongst the foremost in such endeavours, but it has been the case of “do as I say not as I do” for the British Government continues to boost its nuclear arsenal.

The new leader in Russia has himself been continuing endeavours commenced by the former Soviet President to make the world a better place. It has been most interesting and significant to read what he had to say on his visit to the United States for the purpose of arms reduction negotiations. He commenced his visit there in hope speaking as follows:-

“The end of the 20th century is a time of great promise and new anxieties. Perhaps for the first time there is now a real chance to put an end to despotism and to dismantle the totalitarian order whatever shape it may take.

I trust that after all the unthinkable tragedies and tremendous losses that it has suffered, mankind will reject this legacy. It will not allow the 21st century to bring new suffering and deprivations to our children and grandchildren. - - - All of us carry a huge burden of mutual mistrust. It is no secret that an abyss has separated the two states that until recently were referred to as the Superpowers. - - - Russia believes that the time has come to reduce considerably the means of destruction on our planet. I am convinced that together we can make the principle of minimum defence sufficiency a fundamental law.

Today there are real opportunities for deep cuts in strategic offensive arms and tactical nuclear weapons; significant limitation on nuclear testing and even its cessation; making ABM defences less complicated and costly and eliminating anti-satellite systems; reducing conventional armaments and armed forces; ensuring practical implementation of international agreements on the prohibition of chemical and bacteriological weapons; and enhancing the reliability of barriers to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The time has come to consider creating a global system for protection of the world community. - - - Russia considers

the United States and the West not as mere partners but rather as allies. It is a prerequisite for a revolution in peaceful co-operation among civilized nations. - - - The new Russian diplomacy will contribute in every possible way to the final settlement of conflicts in various regions of the world that have been unblocked with the assistance of the United Nations."

But when the Russian leader left America he was a disillusioned man. Note what he had to say when he went from the U.S.A. to Canada:-

"Sometimes you are surprised by the stance of certain countries - - that do not take things much further than mere talk."

He thanked Canada for its generosity, which he compared with "countries which talk about support and co-operation but do not take things further than mere talk."

A political commentator observed that:-

"The joint declaration they signed (the Russian and American leaders) full of high-sounding principles of friendship and co-operation, proved thin on specifics - - -."

Any serious negotiations on cutting nuclear arsenals were put to one side for the present. The Russian call for huge cuts in long-range nuclear weapons was countered by the American insistence that "There's a level - - - we want to hold at."

So there was much talk "at one table" and one of the leaders attending has been sufficiently forthright to say that was all it was. Daniel's prophecy tells us" - - - it shall not prosper: for yet the end shall be at the time appointed."

**NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS**

***HAMBURG, NEW YORK, Corner Southwestern Blvd. & Pleasant Ave.***

Sundays:            Breaking of Bread 11.30 a.m.  
                          Sunday School 1.45 p.m.

Bible Class:        Midweek: Forestville and Hamburg  
                          Alternate Week: Revelation Study

The world's hopes for peace appear to be greatly enhanced as the threat of nuclear holocaust has lessened since the disintegration of the Soviet communist power. There is a warning for the thoughtful to consider concerning the "last days" as Paul reminds, "When they shall say peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them". We are aware that the world's affairs are in the Almighty's hands and that His purpose is unfolding before us. Let us guard against becoming at ease and watchfully wait for the continuing sign of His Son's return. His people few and frail but desiring to please Him, take comfort in the sure promise that "His compassions fail not".

*J.A.Def.*

***MANCHESTER, Ryecroft Hall, Audenshaw.***

Sunday:            Breaking of Bread 11 a.m.  
Thursday:        Bible Class 7.15 p.m.

We have commenced re-circularising those who have previously shown interest in our booklet of the history of the Truth, from the time of Dr. Thomas. On this occasion we are offering a writing dealing with the doctrine of fellowship. This work of circularising will take time because of the large number of addresses, world wide, from which we have had earlier contact.