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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

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All Communications

D. Lancaster,
227 Moston Lane East,
New Moston,
Manchester M40 3HY,
England.

J. A. DeFries,
146 Gardner Street,
Fredonia,
New York 14063,
U.S.A.

**AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD
HE MAY LEARN TO FEAR, KEEP AND DO**

In Deuteronomy we hear Moses' words to Israel as they were about to enter the land promised to their fathers. He reviewed the law as given to Israel at Mt. Sinai 40 years previous, but modified it at God's direction to fit their changed circumstances, in that they would soon be dwelling in that land. The Almighty had given the law that "sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful" (Romans 7:13). Also it was a "schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ" (Galatians 3:24). Knowing how different circumstances in the land would test His people, the Almighty made His law more specific to help them cope.

An example is found in our recent reading in Deuteronomy, where, under God's direction, Moses spoke:

"When thou art come unto the land . . . and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me; Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother."

Deuteronomy 17:14-15.

Knowing their fleshly thinking, their Father recognized they would seek a king, to be like the nations which were in the land, and He gave commands concerning that circumstance. The king must be of their brethren. In addition, knowing man's natural tendencies, He gave specific commands concerning that king:

"But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way.

Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold."

Deuteronomy 17:16-17.

These natural desires of kings serve to glorify self rather than honor God. Further, the Almighty provided a means to help the king keep these commands in mind:

"And it shall be, when he sitteth upon throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites:

And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the

days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them.” Deuteronomy 17:18-19.

How wise were God’s words — that any future king of Israel should daily read these commands, keeping them foremost in mind so that he might be a faithful king. As he read each day, he would be aware of the need to fear, to keep, and to do God’s commands, lest he displease the God who would set him upon that throne.

With this in mind, let us look at the history of the kings of Israel and Judah. In the time of Samuel, Israel first demanded a king, and the Almighty chose Saul (I Samuel 9:17). He became king of Israel almost 350 years after Moses had spoken God’s warning words which we have just read. Saul was a humble man as he spoke to Samuel at the time he was chosen:

“... Am not I a Benjamite, the smallest of the tribes of Israel? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? wherefore then speakest thou so to me?”

I Samuel 9:21.

Saul also would realize that the kings of Israel should be from the tribe of Judah, as Jacob revealed when he blessed his sons:

“The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh (Christ) come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.” Genesis 49:10.

Why then did God choose Saul to be the first king of Israel? Israel had demanded a king so they could be like all the nations (I Samuel 8:5). God gave them a king, but warned (I Samuel 8:11-17) how that king might oppress his people:

“... ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.” I Samuel 8:18.

King Saul did oppress Israel! In jealousy he sought to kill David. He did not obey the word of God. We read of Saul’s end:

“So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it;

And enquired not of the LORD: therefore he (God) slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse.”

I Chronicles 10:13-14.

Did Saul heed Moses’ words, as God required, daily reading the law? Did he learn, fear, and do as that law commanded? Obviously

not, for God condemned him. We read David's words, when he sought to bring the ark into Jerusalem:

“. . . let us bring again the ark of our God to us: for we enquired not at it in the days of Saul.” I Chronicles 13:3.

Thus this first king of Israel failed to obey God's commandments given to help him be a faithful leader.

David, anointed of God, succeeded Saul. He reigned for 40 years over Israel, pleasing his God by submission to His word. We read of his spirit as he wrote:

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. I have sworn, and I will perform it, that I will keep thy righteous judgments. Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart. I have inclined my heart to perform thy statutes always, even unto the end.”

Psalm 119:105-106, 111-112.

Our brother's submissive spirit brought blessing and strength, and he became a man after God's own heart (See Acts 13:22). However, He did fail in the situation with Bathsheba, when he wrongly used his royal power; but when Nathan made him aware of this great transgression, his heart smote him and he quickly responded:

“. . . I have sinned against the LORD.” II Samuel 12:13.

He must have faithfully read the words of the law (Deuteronomy 17:18-19), and resolved to hear, fear, and do. As a consequence, he was greatly blessed in being given the promise of a son, a throne, a kingdom, and a house, all of which will be established for ever when Jesus Christ returns to fulfill all God's words (II Samuel 7:12-16).

Next was Solomon, who became king in David's place. As David was about to die, he charged his son, saying:

“I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man;

And keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and withersoever thou turnest thyself.” I Kings 2:2-3.

After David's death, Solomon did reign over the twelve tribes of Israel. We are shown his mind as he answered God's request: “. . . Ask what I shall give thee.” (I Kings 3:5). Solomon answered:

“. . . I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come

in.

Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, . . . for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?" I Kings 3:7,9.

The Almighty, pleased with Solomon's spirit, gave him not only great wisdom, but added great riches and honor; and then warned him:

" . . . if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days." I Kings 3:14.

We know how Solomon at first ruled wisely, heard God, built His temple, and kept His commandments. However, as time went on, Solomon acquired:

" . . . forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen." I Kings 4:26.

He also had "horses brought out of Egypt" (I Kings 10:28). Further, we are shown how "the king made silver to be in Jerusalem as stones . . ." (I Kings 10:27). Beyond all this, he:

" . . . loved many strange women, . . . he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart." I Kings 11:1,3.

In time, Solomon must have neglected to daily read the word of the Lord, spoken by Moses in Deuteronomy 17; as a consequence, he lost his love for the word of God. At the end of his life he had become, in his own words, "an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished" (Ecclesiastes 4:13).

There were many kings in Israel and Judah who failed, like Solomon, to heed God's word given to sustain and guide them in their reigns. Of all these kings, there were but three who did faithfully hear, fear, and do what God's word required — namely David, Hezekiah, and Josiah — who clearly must have daily read those words of Moses, as God commanded. From Saul, the first king, to Zedekiah, the last — in whose reign Jerusalem and Israel were destroyed — there was a period of just over 600 years. In all these years, only three kings were pleasing to God!

Is this not instruction and warning for us, Brethren and Sisters? Are we not to read, hear God's word, and fear (reverence) Him by obedience to that word? It nourishes, strengthens, and encourages in our struggle to be subject, and so honor Him.

On the cover of our Daily Reading Plan, there is written

THE DAILY PORTIONS

"It it manna . . .

This is the bread which the LORD hath
given you to eat." Exodus 16:15.

Do we partake of it daily? Do we seek it as our only means of spiritual survival in a world full of ignorance and carelessness for God's word and purpose? As we read, do we hear and keep His commandments, growing thereby in a fear and reverence, remembering His commands for all kings of Israel:

"It shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life; that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them."

Deuteronomy 17:19.

We, who are striving to be accounted worthy, to be kings and priests, ruling with the Lord Jesus when He returns, need this daily nourishment of spirit to sustain us in that struggle.

J.A.DeF.

"LET US REASON TOGETHER"

We have been reading in the Book of Isaiah, God's word sent through His prophet to Judah and Jerusalem. He rebuked them because of their evil ways but to those who would repent and turn from their transgressions, He offered the promise of blessing. This book is much like Revelation as it repeatedly focuses on an idea then looks back to see how this was arrived at. Isaiah's vision was particularly to that time period, but also contains help, insight and instruction for us today as God's word came to His people saying:

"Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.

The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib; but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider."

Isaiah 1:2-3.

Being agriculturally based, those in Israel would be familiar with this allegory of the ox and ass who know their master and from where their nourishment and care was derived, while Israel, did not consider God their Father, who provided for all their needs.

"Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward." Isaiah 1:4.

There was no mincing of words here, but a clear revelation of what Israel had become — "a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers", having forsaken God who had delivered them from the bondage of Egypt and led them into a land of milk and honey. Yet in the midst of all this, God in mercy held out the promise of restoration to those who would repent:

"Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;

Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Isaiah 1:16-18.

This was a plea to those who could be touched, to turn from their perversity and hardness of heart and walk in His ways of mercy, kindness and truth. To those who refused to hear came this warning:

"If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the

land;

But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it."

Isaiah 1:19-20.

From the beginning, God's word has been clear — He is not the Author of confusion. His plan for man is evident, and in mercy He offers the promise of hope even while giving rebuke, but it requires a hearing ear and the desire to repent — allowing His word to be a power in one's living and showing forth good works in righteousness.

Throughout the third chapter of Isaiah, the prophet speaks of the judgment to come upon those who refused to hearken to His warning:

"For behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread, and the whole stay of water, And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbour: the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable.

Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him. Thy men shall fall by the sword, and thy mighty in the war.

And her gates shall lament and mourn; and she being desolate shall sit upon the ground."

Isaiah 3:1,5,11,25-26.

After the warning given in the third chapter, the fourth looks forward to the blessings to be granted to the faithful in the kingdom of God, when the curse is lifted and His people enjoy a habitation of peace and prosperity:

"In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.

And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem:"

Isaiah 4:2-3.

Reminding of their transgression and following with a reiteration of the blessings to be granted to those who hear, is God's way of reasoning with His people. The warnings from the Spirit are always tempered in mercy with promise — and the greatest of these was

given through Isaiah, addressed to the faithful of all ages:

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”

Isaiah 9:6-7.

Here is promised the great hope of an eternal kingdom established on earth and to be ruled over by the Prince of Peace — a Saviour chosen from amongst His people, who would bring about the new heaven and earth for those who could be touched by God’s appeal. Isaiah paints a detailed picture of this sublime future for both man and beast:

“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

And the suckling child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice den.

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”

Isaiah 11:6-9.

Today it is hard to imagine such a lovely place where there are no predators, either human or animal — where all dwell in peace without harmful intent one to another, and where the earth spills her fruitfulness without effort for all to enjoy.

Isaiah’s name translates as “salvation of God” and his message came to Israel as well as us today that we may be reminded of the glorious future held out for those who will hear with their heart and endeavour to make their living a praise, not unto themselves, but unto Him.

M.C.S.

"A LITTLE LEAVEN - - -"

The Apostle Paul writing to the Corinthians warned:-

"Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?" (1 Corinthians 5:6).

In other words it does not take much to begin a downward trend that can end in total disaster. How sad then are the recent comments in one of the main ecclesial magazines as follows:-

"- - - there are events not directly organised by ecclesias. - - - Many Bible Schools, for example, are arranged by a committee of brethren and sisters, and there are events arranged by organisations within the Brotherhood. Where do these stand? - - - an event organised by an individual or group and not by an ecclesia SHOULD involve ecclesias in one way or another. (capital letters are the Remnant's emphasis). - - - On this basis, events arranged by organisations or Bible School committees are published in (the ecclesial magazine), for the publishing policy of the magazine reflects decisions taken by ecclesias, and does not impose decisions upon ecclesias. Information about future events is therefore published.

1. If they are directly sponsored or arranged by an ecclesia or ecclesias, or by ecclesially based or ecclesially recognised organisations;
2. If they receive whole-hearted support from the ecclesias in the locality where the gathering is to be held;
3. Where the available information shows that the programme conforms to Christadelphian beliefs, practices and attitudes.

If material is submitted for publication and does not comply with these requirements, the organisers of the event are informed and the purpose of the policy is explained.

This is pertinent at the present time as ecclesias in the U.K. have been circulated with details of a Summer School arranged by brethren and sisters involved with THE ENDEAVOUR magazine. (Details have not been sent to the magazine for publication). Because the circulated programmes of past Summer Schools have shown that **SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES DO NOT CONFORM TO THOSE OF THE LOCAL ECCLESIAS**, all the ecclesias in the immediate locality of the venue have decided not to publicise the event on their ecclesial notice boards. The

main departure from Christadelphian practice involves a considerable use of sisters to lead Bible study sessions where brethren are also present, but reports of Summer School sessions published in ENDEAVOUR show that the content of some sessions ALSO DEPARTS FROM NORMAL CHRISTADELPHIAN TEACHING. --- it is very significant that none of the ecclesias in the area where the Summer School is held will publicise its details. This ought to cause the organisers of the school — and any who may find themselves in a similar position — to THINK VERY CAREFULLY ABOUT THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT THEY ARRANGE.

Despite the fact that there is no involvement or support from local ecclesias, and that some items on its programmes do not conform to Christadelphian beliefs, practices or attitudes, the School is called a Christadelphian Summer School. The School is not sponsored by an ecclesia, and as far as it is possible to ascertain, it does not receive support from an ecclesia.

It is not sufficient to say in these situations that brethren and sisters from a number of ecclesias attend such events. This does not give the event the support of the ecclesias where those brethren and sisters normally attend. Support can only come when "the greater number" decides to offer it. These are very serious observations. There was no collusion between the ecclesias who decided not to publicise the Summer School; all the decisions were reached completely independently. TO CONTINUE TO ORGANISE EVENTS WHEN THE LOCAL ECCLESIAS ARE NOT ABLE TO OFFER THEIR SUPPORT IS INSENSITIVE, and it is also a denial of the principle of submission taught so eloquently in the scriptures."

The situation, as described above, is of a faction in the ecclesias which is deviating from the Truth in its teachings. Furthermore, says this main ecclesial magazine, "brethren and sisters from a number of ecclesias" support its activities. In other words, some referred to as brethren and sisters, are supporting THE LEAVEN. And again, Sisters are described as leading "Bible study sessions" in Meetings not solely for Sisters.

Scriptures are then being relegated, even on ecclesial procedure, against the usurping of "authority over the man" (1

Timothy 2:12).

Rightly, the statement of this main ecclesial magazine, describes the condition of things as "very serious". But this criticism falls down on the important principle of fellowship when it describes the work of this troubling faction as INSENSITIVE. To teach and act contrary to what the Truth requires, is to obscure, so moving away from THE LIGHT.

"--- God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." (I John 1:5-7).

"BRITAIN AND EUROPE"

It is now one hundred and fifty years since Dr. J. Thomas wrote the following:-

"--- the iron monarchy prevailed over all antagonists. It is known in history as the Roman. In the fourth century after Christ it was finally divided into the Eastern Roman, and the Western Roman empires. --- Though divided thus, the Roman majesty was considered as one. The date of the decision was A.D.396.

In about ninety-seven years from this epoch ten kingdoms appeared upon the Western Roman territory answering to the ten toes. (of Daniel's image, Daniel 2:41). They were not all strong kingdoms. Part of them were absorbed into a new dominion which arose after them beyond the limits of the Roman territory. These strong and broken toe kingdoms have existed upwards of thirteen centuries. They are still in being; but not as originally established. This the prophecy does not require. All that is necessary, is that there should be ten kingdoms at the time the image is smitten by the stone. And these kingdoms, I am satisfied, should be on "THE EARTH", and not upon "THE SEA"; that is to say, that they should be found upon the Roman continent, and not upon the islands; and that the enumeration of them belongs to THE TIME OF THE END, rather than to the period of their foundation.

I have NOT NAMED BRITAIN, although the island was a part of the Roman dominion. It is, however, no more imperative that she should be included in the ten that Egypt, which is also on the Roman territory (i.e. in history). Existing theories require Britain to be counted in; but I have nothing to do with them. - - - The ten kingdoms are all within the Roman limits. There are many other kingdoms beyond its frontiers, resting upon territory that never belonged to Rome, or the iron dominion; therefore they must not be named in the same category. --- The testimony informs us that the ten kingdoms are all to be broken to pieces; and after they are smitten that the whole image in all its different metals is to be "broken to pieces TOGETHER." But how can this be? Where are the dominions represented by the gold, the silver, the brass, and the iron? How can they be broken to pieces together, seeing that they have been

broken to pieces ONE AFTER THE OTHER many centuries ago? The answer to this question is important, and must be given; for without it no interpretation can be received as satisfactory. And here I would remark, that the image was presented to the mind of the King of Babylon, not so much to represent A SUCCESSION OF EMPIRES, as to exhibit the catastrophe which should usher in the Kingdom of God. The idea I would convey is well expressed by the prophet, saying, "The God in heaven, who revealeth secrets, maketh known to the king WHAT SHALL BE IN THE LATTER DAYS." - - - ."

If Dr. Thomas was alive today, can we deduce what he would say to the question, "Will Britain become fully integrated into the European Union?" The above quotation, from his writings, seems to give the answer. There are already signs of a degree of insularity against union with Europe in the stance taken by the official opposition to the Labour Government. The present leaders of the nation are aware of a considerable degree of prejudice against Continental alinement, and so are moving slowly and carefully towards a resolution of integration, hoping to eventually edge the country into it. They have the support of some of the National Press. The following editorial gives an example:-

"The key to the (opposition's) election plan is an even bigger attack than usual on Europe. The effects would be disastrous, with Britain driven out of the EU, a loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs and economic collapse. But it won't happen - - - ."

But why then is the opposition taking this road, in the hope of being re-elected to power after such a terrible defeat in the last election? It is because they see a chance of gaining victory on a popular wave of anti-European feeling existing amongst the common people.

The leader of the main opposition party has voiced himself as follows:-

"Extraordinarily the (main opposition) will be the only major party fighting the next election determined to stop the surrender of our most precious right as a country — the right to govern ourselves."

A document has been issued by his political party which states, if the opposition was returned to government it:-

- - - would keep "reserved powers" preventing EU law from overriding the will of Parliament in areas where it did

not voluntarily transfer powers to the European Union. And it would ensure that any government which wished to surrender powers to Brussels would first have to win a referendum.

Why is Britain the only European country with such a strong anti-European prejudice amongst its people? (Even the former reluctant Denmark seems set for its currency to be fully integrated with the "Euro"). Does Dr. Thomas supply the answer from one hundred and fifty years ago by reason of his biblical understanding and strong belief. It is interesting to note Britain's previous referendum results:-

October 1972: to join Europe: Yes, 63.4 per cent. No, 36.6 per cent.

February 1986: to join the Single Market: Yes, 56.2 per cent. No, 43.8 per cent.

June 1992: to approve Maastricht treaty paving the way for the single currency: Yes, 49.3 per cent. No, 50.7 per cent.

May 1993: to approve Maastricht after Denmark allowed to opt out of single currency and three other provisions: Yes, 56.7 per cent. No, 43.3 per cent.

May 1998: to approve Amsterdam Treaty: Yes, 55.1 per cent. No, 44.9 per cent.

The above figures indicate the degree of opposition to Europe which with a bit of political opposition promoting, could soon increase significantly. This is a subject which indicates how remarkable was Dr. Thomas' insight in doctrine exposition, as he strove for Truth a century and a half ago.

A BIBLE CLASS

"IF ANY MAN HAVE NOT THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST"

(Romans 8:9)

In our chapter under consideration, Paul wrote to his Roman brethren clearly delineating the differences between the spirit and the law as he says:

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." Romans 8:1-2.

Those baptized into the death of Christ know a freedom from the law because of His sacrifice:

"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

Romans 8:3-4.

The word "spirit" translates as breath, and can take on many different aspects, depending on how the word is used in the scriptures. When the Almighty created man He breathed into him the spirit of life:

"And 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.

Another aspect of the word "spirit" is seen as a young man near death was revived with nourishment:

"And they found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David, and gave him bread, and he did eat; and they made him drink water;

And they gave him a piece of a cake of figs, and two clusters of raisins: and when he had eaten, his spirit came again to him: for he had eaten no bread, nor drunk any water, three days and three nights." I Samuel 30:11-12.

In the Book of Daniel, another aspect of "spirit" is shown as Daniel was called upon to interpret the handwriting on the wall because he was known as a man with whom God worked:

"Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the

same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation."

Daniel 5:12.

Still another aspect of the word "spirit" is seen as the Jordan river parted to allow the children of Israel to cross on dry land as they travelled into their promised inheritance:

"And it came to pass, when all the kings of the Amorites, which were on the side of Jordan westward, and all the kings of the Canaanites, which were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of Jordan from before the children of Israel, until we were passed over, that their heart melted, neither was there spirit in them any more, because of the children of Israel." Joshua 5:1.

We have seen from these scriptural examples, how the word "spirit" can be used as breath of life, physical and mental strength, understanding or attitude. Our consideration speaks specifically of the spirit of Christ:

"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Romans 8:9.

What is this spirit of Christ? Paul explains:

"If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:"

Philippians 2:1-5.

The spirit of Christ is to humbly serve the needs of others instead of self, as He so perfectly exemplified by doing not His own will but God's, culminating in the laying down of His life for His friends. He was tested as are His brethren and sisters to see which would prevail, the spirit or His flesh nature.

Paul writes that those who desire to belong to Christ, must have the same spirit — a life obedient to the Spirit of God, endeavoring to walk in righteousness after His precepts, not ruled by their carnal nature. In rising from the waters of baptism, one is

born a new creature of spirit whom God has promised to be with, to guide and direct as a new life in Christ is begun. Is this spirit growing within us — nourished by the ways of God, and daily strengthened by feeding from His word? Or is that spirit weakened and smothered by our carnal wants that seek to dominate? If that spirit of Christ is not within us, we are none of His. We cannot perfectly attain unto His spirit, for we fail in obedience as He never did, but we must endeavor to walk in the same path, following His example or we cannot hope to be part of Him.

M.C.S.

"SIGNS OF HIS COMING"

"With chariots, and --- many ships ---."

(Daniel 11:40).

Since the demise of communism, Russia has seemed to have become less formidable. Its anti-monarchical government was very well established, and then almost overnight came that great alteration, as foretold in the typification of the prophecy of Habakkuk:-

"--- they shall scoff at the kings, and the princes shall be a scorn --- .

Then shall his mind change --- imputing --- his power unto his god --- ." (Habakkuk 1:10-11).

In 1998, the slaughtered Romanov royal family of Russia were taken from the pit in Yekaterinburg, in the Urals, where they were murdered, and interred in the Romanov family vault in the cathedral in St. Petersburg. The former Russian President, Yeltsin, attended the ceremony and declared:-

"Building a new Russia must be based on its historical experience. --- Any attempt to change life through violence is condemned to failure."

This was an apology for the repression and mass executions unleashed by the Bolshevik Revolution. Now, at the time of writing, a council of bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church are preparing to meet in Moscow to consider the canonisation of the Russian Imperial Family. It is said they merit being declared saints by laying down their lives by exemplifying Christian humility. One comment on this aspect was "The information we have from their (the Romanov's) last year in confinement is that they went with acceptance." This family, which was hated by the people at the time of communism, is obviously returning to a respected position.

But there is also a change in Russia's military thinking. This northern power has more nuclear missiles than any other country. But there is now news that the new President, Putin, is planning to reduce this rocket force. The Strategic Missile aspect has been regarded as equal to the United States in this field. Why then reduce it? At a Russian Security Council get-together, its members apparently recommended halving the number of land-based warheads. The President let it be known that his own inclination was to downgrade Russia's missile division so that funds can be concentrated on conventional forces. He declared that "the structure of the Armed Forces must precisely correspond to the threats

Russia faces now, and will face in the future."

Of course the cut in land-based war-heads is in line with what has been proposed for an arranged arms treaty council with the United States. But the military has its own agenda. The desire is to divert money from Strategic Missiles to Russia's conventional forces so that internal wars can be conducted more successfully in Chechnya, which has been such a thorn in Russia's side, and also in the other trouble spots of Central Asia.

Russia therefore is being forced to change its thinking, summed up in the following newspaper comment:-

"Russia has no money to maintain its present military structure. Merely to shore up the overstretched army would need 3 per cent of the national budget; at most Russia now spends only 2 per cent on defence. In the past three years up to eighty per cent of military spending has gone on commissioning 20 to 30 new ICBMs a year, leaving little for conventional weapons --- the result has been a lamentable failure to equip the troops sent to Chechnya ---."

It is indeed a significant change, and conforms to the ancient prophecy. The Northern Power does have to have large conventional forces:-

"--- At the time of the end --- the king of the north shall come--- like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and --- . He shall enter also into the glorious land --- ."

(Daniel 11:40-41).

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS

HAMBURG, NEW YORK, Corner Southwestern Blvd. and Pleasant Ave.

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.30 a.m.

Sunday Afternoon Class 1.45 p.m.

Midweek: Bible Class: Forestville, Hamburg and Fredonia

Every Third Week: Revelation Study

Recent correspondence generated by the Remnant magazine mailing has encouraged in the ongoing work of witnessing to God's Truth. We are grateful for the opportunity for this general work as well as specific questions in correspondence.

J.A.DeF.

MANCHESTER, *Ryecroft Hall, Audenshaw.*

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

November heralds the approach of Winter when:-

“November's sky is chill and drear

November's leaf is red and sear.”

But there is always unfailing hope:-

“While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”

(Genesis 8:22).

The wonder of Creation brings change, and that change brings blessing from heaven, for the wheel of nature works to provide abundance for man, which is the result of the outworking of the seasons.