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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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AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

JOSIAH

Reading in II Kings 22 this morning, our minds have been directed to Josiah — a faithful king of Judah. Of all the many kings of Israel and Judah, there were only three who stood out as pleasing to God: David, Hezekiah and Josiah. He became king at the age of eight years, when his father Amon was killed. Looking back to our own childhood, how fit would we have been for such a responsibility?

Let us look at his life and spirit as he developed into a man who, as king, pleased God. At 16 years of age:

“... he began to seek after the God of David his father . . .”
Chronicles 34:3.

Four years later when he was 20 years old:

“... he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images.”
II Chronicles 34:3.

His desire was to honor God, as he destroyed the idols and images made by Manasseh, and Amon his father. To help him, God sent His prophet Jeremiah:

“... to whom the word of the LORD came, in the days of Josiah . . . in the thirteenth year of his reign.”

Jeremiah 1:2.

In this thirteenth year, he would have been 21 years old. From his 20th to his 26th year, Josiah purged Judah and Jerusalem of the idols, false altars and other abominations made by Manasseh and Amon. In his 26th year, he ordered the breaches of the house of the Lord repaired. While doing so, the book of the law was found; and Josiah continued to serve the Lord until he died at the age of 39. This is a brief history of Josiah, preserved for our help.

Let us now look at his spirit. What made him a faithful king, determined to honor God? Probably Jeremiah's influence helped, starting when the king was 21 — although the prophet is not mentioned until after Josiah died:

“... Jeremiah lamented for Josiah: and all the singing men and the singing women spake of Josiah in their lamentations

...

Now the rest of the acts of Josiah, and his goodness, according to that which was written in the law of the LORD, And his deeds, first and last, behold they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah.”

II Chronicles 35:25-27.

As the house of God was being repaired at Josiah's command, the book of the law was found. It had been neglected for many years, in which Manasseh and Amon had defiled the temple:

"... he built altars in the house of the Lord . . .

And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD." II Kings 21:4-5.

Indeed, Josiah had to instruct the Levites:

"... Put the holy ark in the house which Solomon the son of David king of Israel did build." II Chronicles 35:3.

The ark containing the two tables of the law was not in its ordained location, the most holy place — a sad state, revealing an utter lack of fear of the Lord.

We do not know specifically what portion of the law of the Lord Josiah read, but no doubt God's words of warning in Deuteronomy 28, would be part. Here the Almighty spoke through Moses of the blessings to come upon Israel if they would:

"... hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day . . ." Deuteronomy 28:1.

And further:

"... it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes . . . that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee."

Deuteronomy 28:15.

Also contained in the book of the law, which Josiah read, was a specific command concerning the kings of Israel:

"And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, then 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.

As Josiah heard these words, he would realize how far short Israel had come, because Manasseh and Amon, in complete lack of fear of the Lord, had utterly disregarded these words. As he perceived God's commands, he felt great responsibility upon himself as king over Judah and Jerusalem. He rent his clothes; and in fear and trembling, sent his servants to Huldah the prophetess, saying:

"Go ye, enquire of the LORD for me, and for . . . all Judah,

concerning the words of this book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us.”
II Kings 22:13.

In fear of God’s wrath, Josiah turned to Him for help, as he asked the prophetess to enquire, diligently seeking and urgently searching for help from His God. Responding to the king’s urgency, God said:

“ . . . Tell the man that sent you to me,
Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, even all the words of the book which the king of Judah hath read:
Because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto others gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be kindled against this place, and shall not be quenched.”

II Kings 22:15-17.

Because of failure to obey God’s law, Judah and Jerusalem were brought into captivity to Babylon beginning in 606 BC, only four years after Josiah’s death; and culminating in 588 BC in the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple of God — the end of Israel as a nation.

However, the Almighty, pleased with Josiah’s spirit, spoke through Huldah:

“But to the king of Judah which sent you to enquire of the LORD, thus shall ye say to him, . . . As touching the words which thou hast heard;

Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD, when thou heardest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof . . . I also have heard thee, saith the LORD.

Behold therefore, I will gather thee unto thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace; and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place . . .”
II Kings 22:18-20.

The Almighty was merciful to Josiah because of his tender heart, which was soft, could be touched, and thus was receptive to God’s commandments; in a word, circumcised. Further, Josiah had humbled himself, bowed his knee to God in subjection to His word. To do this involves a struggle with the natural inclinations of one’s heart, a submitting to His word, surrendering one’s own desires to

His commands, in reverence. How gratefully Josiah would receive God's words through Huldah: "I... have heard thee." The Almighty also said to Josiah:

"... thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace, and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place." II Kings 22:20.

The word used for "peace" involves a place of safety, of rest, or prosperity. The promise of God through Isaiah spoke of His purpose in Jesus Christ His Son:

"... unto us a child is born... his name shall be called... The Prince of peace.

Of the increase of his government and peace, there shall be no end... The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."

Isaiah 9:6-7.

This was the hope of David as he expressed in a Song of Going up to Zion:

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.

For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee." Psalm 122:6-8.

Josiah surely would rejoice at God's merciful promise of being gathered to his grave in peace—the peace promised of the Almighty to those who do fear His name.

What did Josiah do as he heard these gracious words of God? He gathered all Judah and:

"... read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD."

II Kings 23:2.

Further, Josiah:

"... made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes *with all their heart*... to perform the words of this covenant... And all the people stood to the covenant."

II Kings 23:3.

In addition, he commanded his people:

"... Keep the passover unto the LORD your God, as it is written in the book of this covenant." II Kings 23:21.

Judah did keep the Passover, glorifying God. What love for God Josiah revealed as he in fear (reverence) served Him so faithfully.

In accordance with God's word, Josiah was indeed kept from

the evil to come. For God's judgments were not poured upon Judah and Jerusalem until the reigns of Josiah's sons, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, and Zedekiah, resulting in the utter destruction of Judah and Jerusalem — the end of Israel as a nation. As God revealed to Ezekiel, it would remain in that sad state:

“... it shall be no more, until he (Jesus Christ) come whose right it is; and I will give it him.” Ezekial 21:27.

Truly Josiah, trusting in God's promise, went to his grave in peace.

Brethren and Sisters, can we not profit from our brother's example, in our determination to please and glorify our Father in reverence and obedience? Let us then, in times of trouble — yes, in good times as well — “enquire of the LORD” — seek Him in prayer, in trust, and in fear, for we need His guidance and mercy in our time of probation. Let us do so humbling self, bowing down before Him, accepting whatever circumstances He in wisdom places upon us. Let us also deny self, take up our cross, and follow Jesus, who has gone before us in perfect subjection to His Father's will. To do so, we must have, as did Josiah, a tender heart — one that is circumcised from the evils of our fleshly nature, readily submitting to God.

Paul helps us to recognize this need as he exhorted his brethren:

“... Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” Galatians 5:16. 22-23.

As Josiah grew, strengthened by God's hand upon him, did he not grow in these qualities of the spirit, enabling him to face whatever God placed upon him, in his troubles and fears? Can we, indeed must we not put our trust in our Father when we are troubled? David did, as he pondered:

“Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope (trust) thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.” Psalm 42:5.

The Almighty's countenance, His presence is always there for those who in sincere humility and softness of heart, seek and bow down before Him in the spirit of His Son:

“... not my will, but thine, be done.” Luke 22:42.

J.A.DeF.

A PROMISE TO THOSE THAT ARE AFAR OFF

We as Gentiles, find it uplifting to read again from the record in Acts, God's instruction to Peter in extending the hope of life to those not of Israel.

However, there were instances throughout the scriptures where this hope was extended to others, such as to the "mixed multitude" that came out of Egypt with Israel, to Rahab of Jericho and Ruth of Moab. Yet this new revelation which was now to be openly preached to those once alien to the hope of Israel, began because of the prayers of a certain Roman centurion called Cornelius. God heard his prayers and sent Peter to preach the word to a Gentile. To help prepare Peter for this unusual task, God gave him a vision — a sheet being lowered to the earth, filled with unclean animals, (of which a faithful Jew would not eat) and commanded him to "kill and eat". Thus, teaching Peter that what God had cleansed was no more to be considered unclean.

When Peter perceived the hope of life was now to be extended to Gentiles, he was guided, through the help of the Spirit, to come to the mind that: ". . . God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness is accepted with him." (Acts 10:34-35). He then preached the word, through the name of Jesus Christ, to Cornelius and his household, baptizing them into the family of God. However, Peter's brethren, not privy to his vision, questioned his actions:

"And the apostles and brethren that were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God.

And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him, Saying, Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them.

But Peter rehearsed the matter from the beginning, and expounded it by order unto them." Acts 11:1-4.

Peter then went on to explain the vision he had received from God which was to teach him that, "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common." After they had heard this, they rejoiced:

"When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life." Acts 11:18.

Earlier at Pentecost, Peter preached Jesus Christ to the Jewish and mixed multitude gathered, saying in conclusion:

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified,

both Lord and Christ.” Acts 2:36.

Here was begun the course of work as instructed by the Lord Jesus and His Father, that repentance could be extended to any who would obey God’s word through the name of Jesus Christ. There were many in that throng whose hearts could be touched, as evidenced by their response to Peter’s words:

“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Acts 2:37.

Peter then supplied the answer as set forth by God:

“ . . . Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (Spirit).

For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off even as many as the Lord our God shall call.” Acts 2:38-39.

This calling then went forth to the Gentiles — those “afar off”. The same hope we today are privileged to know. Paul also expounded this message to the Philippians, as he taught of Jesus Christ:

“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, (Jesus) and given him a name which is above every name:

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Philippians 2:9-11.

Paul preached that confession be made in the name of the Lord Jesus. How can this be done? Verse 14 explains:

“Do all things without murmurings and disputings.”

Philippians 2:14.

When this hope is extended, it creates at baptism a conflict within — a warfare between the flesh and the spirit to do all things without murmuring and disputing. When the way became difficult in the wilderness, the children of Israel murmured against Moses. There was no gratitude shown for their deliverance from Egypt or for the sustenance provided while journeying through that bleak land. Paul writes, if this battle against murmuring can be won, the end is hopeful:

“That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.”
Philippians 2:15-16.

God through this word of life, has permitted us who were Gentiles, to know the hope of Israel through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. What was once unclean, has now been purified through His sacrifice and mediation for us. Yet our cleansing from the man of flesh within, in order to maintain that hope, must be done daily through our living — without murmuring or disputing — seeking in gratitude, His help to control our carnal nature and hope in the repentance unto life He has promised.

M.C.S.

DOWIEISM IN THE UNITED STATES (Dr. J. Thomas 1868)

Satan has been at work among the sons of the Deity and brethren of Christ in all these places, sowing his tares according to his practice of old time. His weapons are misrepresentation and falsehood. He has deceived a few weak-minded and ignorant professors, “by good words and fair speeches”, but I think they have reached the end of their chain. The following are among some of the follies into which he has seduced them.

- 1/ Mortal Resurrection is not taught directly nor indirectly.
- 2/ The righteous are not brought to judgment.
- 3/ All men are earthy UNTIL they are baptized into Christ.
- 4/ Jesus was not raised in a mortal body, BECAUSE the life blood of that body was poured out on the Cross.
- 5/ There are no other than righteous saints.
- 6/ The mortal bodies referred to in Romans 8:2, are those the saints had while Paul wrote.
- 7/ Those bodies are quickened when they put off the old man, and put on the new in baptism.
- 8/ THE BODY is spoken of as being dead to sin and alive to righteousness.
- 9/ The judgment seat and throne of Christ are identical.
- 10/ Saints are now giving account of themselves, and at death the account closes.
- 11/ They are now on trial before the judgment seat.

12/ They are clothed with the house FROM HEAVEN in the GRAVE.

13/ The just will spring to life immortal by virtue of being Christ's body and HAVING IMMORTALITY BEFORE THEY DIE.

14/ The just will know their acceptance BEFORE THEY EVEN SEE Christ. It will be the first knowledge that will flash upon them as they look at their graves.

15/ Jesus was no more divine than any other man; he was chosen because of his goodness, and some plainly say that Gabriel was his father.

16/ There is no need to believe the covenant with Abraham, and the kingdom, to believe the gospel.

17/ The saints will raise their dead babes and give them a chance of salvation.

The blasphemies of these perverts are endless. They make up the hash of the creatures who denounce me for "the heretic of the age", "a wily serpent", "a preacher of another gospel", and so forth.

Those are they who have gone out from our ecclesias, because they were not of us. They have somewhat thinned us, but by their secession diminished the bad element common to our associations, with even the apostolic societies themselves.

The Remnant's comment

How troubling to the ecclesias over the years have been those self opinionated people who press the doctrines and practices of their own proud imaginings. They purport to be zealous for the Truth, but their's are the doctrines and commandments of men; such as Sisters not being allowed to drive cars, married Sisters not allowed to go out to work whatever their circumstances, the communion cup should contain unfermented grape juice, withdrawal of fellowship leaves no room for repentance, etc. etc. Such things undermine the soundness of the Truth, for whatever the appearance of zeal and care for obedience, if not clearly according to what the Spirit shows, it is because there is no light in them.

POLITICS

The recent United States election for the new President was an amazing event. The outgoing Vice-president, contending for the Presidency, was defeated, even though he had received an over-all majority of at least 300,000 votes. This was more than President Kennedy's 118,000 vote margin of victory in 1960. The United States Supreme Court had ruled by a one vote majority that a recount of votes in the State of Florida, where the voting system was in question, should cease. It was borderline as to which candidate was victorious in that State though initially it appeared that the Republican candidate had won. A recount could have completely altered the situation, but IT WAS NOT TO BE. As a result the way was cleared for Florida's 25 Electoral College delegates to swing behind the Texas Republic governor. This meant that the Electoral College, the makers of the final decision, voted 271 for the Republican as against 267 for the Vice-president. So the popular vote winner became the loser.

The overjoyed Texas governor, on attending his local Methodist Church, was encouraged by the Minister there, who declared "You were chosen by God, as was Moses, to lead the people." The Methodist preacher, no doubt, was unaware of how near to the real truth were his comments, except in his reference of comparing the modern situation with the wonderful work which Moses was called to.

The fact is that the Most High does rule in the kingdoms of men. The new President will set the powerful United States on a course which will fulfil what God has foreordained. The Republican leader has been raised up to this end, hence the way the election was made to go.

The scripture shows clearly that political events are not haphazard. One of the most striking events of this Truth was seen of old concerning which the prophet Daniel spoke 200 years before it happened.

"In the third year of the reign of king Belshazzar a vision appeared unto me, even unto me Daniel - - - - .

I saw a ram pushing westward and northward and southward; so that no beast might stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great.

And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the

ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes. And he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power.

And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand. - - -

The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia.

And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.

Now that being broken, (the notable horn) whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power." (Daniel 8:5-7 & 20-22).

Alexander called the Great (the notable horn) lived B.C. 356-323. He was educated by Aristotle and was first involved in conflict when he was 16 years of age. Then at the age of 18, he was prominent in the battle of Chaeronea. At 20 he took the throne on the death of his father, Philip the Second of Macedon. In the next 13 years he established by force of arms an empire that included Assyria and Egypt (where he founded Alexandria). Persia (whose two horns of Media and Persia he trampled under foot), going on to take the Punjab. And then suddenly, like a shooting star, he disappeared, dying of a fever at Babylon, and the empire he established was no more. So the "great horn" was broken, and four other horns stood up in its place. These four kingdoms were Egypt in the south, Syria and its dependencies in the east, Thrace with Bythinia to the north, and that of Macedonia to the west. But power did not continue with Alexander's family, nor were the four succeeding kingdoms equal to that of Alexander.

What an amazing thirteen years however, it had been, and was a great turning point in the course of human affairs. All mapped out to take place long before it happened, as witnessed through the prophet Daniel.

Here then is one example to show to us that there is a heavenly purpose behind the politics of men, and the extraordinary recent election of the American President bears witness to it.

A BIBLE CLASS

**“THEN THEY THAT FEARED THE LORD
SPAKE OFTEN ONE TO ANOTHER”**

(Malachi 3:16)

Malachi, whose name means “messenger” was sent as God’s prophet to warn Israel of the evil that had crept into their living.

There is not a great deal of information about the exact time of this writing, and many of the chronology dates differ between Bibles, but from Malachi we learn there was an obvious need to hold fast to God’s word. In kindness God sent His messenger, to bring light to the wayward, in the hope they would turn back to Him; and to encourage the fearful and believing, that they may be prepared for the end of His purpose:

“... the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner’s fire, and like fullers’ soap:”
Malachi 3:1-2.

God’s covenant had been made with Israel. He had not changed, but they had turned from their vow of obedience to serve idols of wood and stone:

“For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them.

Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?”

Malachi 3:6-7.

With that background, let us look at our verse under consideration:

“Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.”

Malachi 3:16.

To those who would fear God and turn back to Him, He promised to hearken and bless, with a promise which looked forward to the end of days when His Son would rule over the earth as His rightful inheritance:

“And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a

man spareth his own son that serveth him.”

Malachi 3:17.

Those that served God, were those that feared to do anything which displeased Him. They spoke often one with another, giving the thought of a constant communication and fellowship — perhaps to encourage one another in the Spirit’s way. This word “to speak” as used in “spake often one with another”, means to speak in various ways — to declare, to commune, to teach etc. — a vital point in maintaining the closeness of fellowship among members of His body.

Earlier in Malachi chapter two, a warning came unto the priests and Levites — those responsible for ministering the word to His people. They had become lax and neglectful of their role as shepherds to His flock:

“My covenant was with him (Levi) of life and peace; and I gave them to him for the fear wherewith he feared me, and was afraid before my name.

For the priest’s lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the LORD of hosts.”

Malachi 2:5, 7-8.

They had lost their fear of Him — a fear of doing or saying anything which may displease. Solomon wrote of the importance of this godly fear:

“The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the forward mouth, do I hate.”

Proverbs 8:13.

“The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.”

Prov. 14:27.

David, whose fear of God marked him as a man after God’s own heart, sought the company of others of like precious faith in his walk before the Lord, when he wrote:

“I am a companion of all of them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts.”

Psalms 119:63.

Daniel too was blessed with companions in faith while in captivity at Babylon, and we know of the spiritual strength and encouragement they gave one another in the midst of many sore tests and trials.

Our hope is to be among those written in that “book of

remembrance" mentioned in Malachi, wherein is written the names of those that fear Him. To those will be given the blessing of dwelling with Christ in the kingdom age, as John saw in vision as the holy city, new Jerusalem:

"And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."

Revelation 21:27.

If there is a fear of God, there is a desire to walk in obedience before Him, fearing to say or do anything which may offend the Almighty. Therefore, what an important binding ingredient is godly fear in fusing together the members of His body in that one fellowship. As they speak one with another, they encourage and strengthen in His way, in the hope of being found one day written in that book of life.

M.C.S.

UNIVERSAL RESURRECTION AND SECOND CHANCE

Some years ago a preacher came into contact with us, who in great fervency proclaimed hope for everyone through Christ. He used the following scripture:-

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”
(1 Cor. 15:22).

With a sweep of his arm he indicated everyone, emphasising all the race of Adam will ultimately live because of Christ. Of course, it is quite untenable that those who do not care, should eventually be equally blessed with those who do.

But how amazing to recently find in the writings of those who claim to “witness” for God the following.

“Father --- professed to be an atheist (but) he felt that we were put on the earth by someone. --- Mother attended church every Easter because, as she put it, ‘If there is a God, if he does exist, then we ought to go.’ ”

The writer of this article then went on to explain family circumstances. They were tragic. Her mother was murdered by a blood relative, following which the family felt that “wicked spirit forces were harassing them”. Before long her father fell into a deep depression, because of what had happened, and committed suicide. The writer herself was so depressed she also had thoughts of doing away with herself. But then writes, “Mother’s words kept ringing in my ears: ‘If there is a God, if he does exist’, I begged, ‘if you really exist, please show me the meaning of life.’ ”

She then at length, explains how meeting with “Witnesses” she was helped to read the Bible, and realised from it “a wonderful hope for the future. A Paradise! A resurrection! Seeing Mom and Dad again! I realised that what I was learning was the answer to my prayer --- .” “We studied the subject of evil spirits, I listened with bated breath. The Bible confirmed what I had long suspected. There is no such thing as good or harmless magic. All of it is fraught with danger. I needed no greater proof of that than what had happened in our own family” --- . “The more I understood the Bible, the surer I became that I had found the truth --- . I was baptized in symbol of my dedication to Jehovah” . --- “I became a pioneer, a full-time minister --- the growth among Jehovah’s people --- has been astonishing --- .”

Concerning the relative who had so greatly injured her family she said “I felt he didn’t deserve to learn about Jehovah’s new world. I prayed about the matter for some days and then realised

that it was not for me to decide who is worthy to receive eternal life. I recalled Jesus Christ's promise to the criminal hanging next to him on a stake — that criminal would be with him in Paradise. --- If I had not come to know Jehovah, I might have been murdered as Mother was, I might have committed suicide as Father did, or I might have been manipulated to do horrible things --- how deeply grateful I am to have come to know the true God. --- Bible truth has taught me to focus, not on the past, but on the future. --- That future includes the resurrection of the dead to an earthly paradise." ---

“What joy I will experience when I welcome my parents back to life! Father was, in effect, right when he said: ‘We are only guests on this planet.’ And Mother’s inclination to believe that God really exists was certainly a correct one. My deepest yearning is to be able to teach Mom and Dad Bible truths when they are resurrected into God’s new system of things.”

As the above remarks are found in a printed official publication of the “Witnesses”, the only conclusion we can draw from the article is that the “Witnesses” believe IN A SECOND CHANCE.

How different to the Truth of Christ’s words:-

“Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” (John 3:5).

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

“The enemy hath said --- the ancient high places are ours
---.” (Ezekiel 36:2).

At the time of writing the former United States President, is desperately trying to get an agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, before the expiry of his term of office. He has been a successful President in various directions, but the Jerusalem problems will be found to be intractable.

The Temple Mount, which, though at an elevation, is completely flat, is the stumbling block to a settlement. King Herod in the 1st century B.C. expanded and levelled the top of the Mount, to form a platform for his great Temple. But nothing remains of that Temple today. The structures seen there are Muslim. Two major buildings are the gold-crowned Dome of the Rock, sheltering what is termed “the holy stone”, and also the Al-Aksa Mosque. There are also ancillary structures of fine Muslim architecture. But to the left of the Al-Aksa dome archeological investigation has revealed ruins relating to the ancient temple of Herod. Further to the left is the slope of a low hill, where the City of David stood, which was the very ancient nucleus of the city of Jerusalem. Significantly Jerusalem lies on the very edge of the Judean Desert, which begins just beyond the Mount of Olives on the east; so the city is a kind of structural jewel before the scenery changes to a desert aspect. Undoubtedly visibly as well as traditionally, Jerusalem captures the hearts of the Jews. There is the glorious past of Solomon’s Temple to remember, which was levelled by the Babylonian forces about 586 B.C. This was followed by the people of the post exile building the Second Temple (515 B.C.). But the greatness of this Temple was not attained until the latter half of the first century B.C. when Herod began an expansion. Support walls were raised on all sides of the original round hill, and then the space in between was filled in. The Western Wall (Wailing Wall) is what is left of these walls. Lamentably this greatly increased structure which dominated Jerusalem lasted less than a century, for the Romans burned the Temple to the ground in A.D.70. The Byzantines coming later, deliberately abandoned this site, declaring that the desolation demonstrated the victory of “Christianity” over Judaism. But after 638 A.D. the Arab Muslims

came to Jerusalem, and the Caliphs initiated the development of Jerusalem as an Islamic holy centre near their place of government, as a counterweight to Mecca and Medina in Arabia. This enhanced their own position in the Arab world. From such a policy came the tradition of Muhammad's journey at Jerusalem. The Koran spoke of a voyage by the revered leader during which he reached "the farthest mosque" (Arabic: AL-MASJID AL-AKSA) which ancient tradition indicated as a heavenly edifice. The Caliphs, however, declared it to be a real mosque on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Furthermore it was declared that they could show the footprint of Muhammad left in the rock, which is now covered by the Dome, for from that very spot Muhammad ascended on a night-time journey heaven wards on his horse AL-BURAQ, crossing the seven spheres of heaven before returning to Mecca. So came about the Dome of the Rock, the oldest existing Muslim structure in the world; and thereafter came the determination of the Muslims to claim Jerusalem.

This, then, is the ancient historical background to the differences of Jew and Arab over the city.

At the time of writing the Israeli Prime Minister has ruled out handing over sovereignty of the Jewish traditional Temple Mount area. "It is the anchor of our identity" he said. The Arabs on the other hand, through the Palestinian leader, maintain, "We are not going to sign any agreement that does not guarantee full Palestinian Sovereignty over Jerusalem, and the Haram Sharif (the Noble Sanctuary) and all the holy sites;"

A British Politician has pointed out that the Palestinians:-

"While they still have a great deal less than they would wish, have far more than nothing — (they have) territory they administer, wide-spread acceptance throughout the world - - - headquarters in Palestine rather than (being) exiled in Tunisia.

They also have a negotiating position with the Israelis, and more Israeli concessions on offer than ever before - - - ."

"I beg them (said this influential politician) to seize this opportunity, flawed though it may be for them, while it is available."

He fears the present Israeli Prime Minister may be defeated, and the prominent Israeli, whose deliberate visit to the Temple Mount

upset the Arabs into further violence, may take his place, with hard-line consequences.

The situation, of course, is how it was foretold in God's holy word:-

“--- the enemy hath said against you, Aha, even the ancient high places are ours in possession. ---
Therefore thus saith the Lord God, I have lifted up mine hand, Surely the nations that are about you, they shall bear their shame.”
(Ezekiel 36:2-7).

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

Requests for "The Doctrine of Fellowship" booklet have been received from widely scattered locations, bringing encouragement in this work.

As the spring season draws near, ending a record period of snow and cold, we look forward to the warmer weather with its new birth of life, all in accordance with the divine plan.

J.A.DeF.

MANCHESTER, Ryecroft Hall, Audenshaw.

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

Help which one has received with health problems, concerning which prayer has been made, causes realisation and appreciation of the wonderful mercy and condescension of He who has borne with us throughout our lives.