

DECEMBER 2001

A Monthly Magazine issued by

# 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"**

---

**"AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD"**

**"ALL FLESH SHALL SEE THE SALVATION OF THE LORD"**

**"THERE IS ONE COME OUT OF THEE . . ."**

**"AND THEY SHALL WANDER FROM SEA TO SEA"**

**"A BIBLE CLASS"**

**"A VAIN HOPE"**

**"SIGNS OF HIS COMING"**

**"NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS"**

---

**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**  
**"THE SWORD OF THE LORD"**

We see, in recent readings, Israel's circumstances after the land was conquered and Joshua had died! The generation which followed:

"... knew not the LORD, nor yet the works he had done for Israel.

And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger."  
Judges 2:10, 12.

As a consequence of their turning from Him, the Almighty "... sold them into the hands of their enemies round about" and they became a captive people. Yet in mercy:

"... the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them." Judges 2:16.

Paul, some 1400 years after this, speaks of four of these judges who were accounted among God's faithful people:

"... what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae . . .

And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."  
Hebrews 11:32, 39-40.

As we, Brethren and Sisters, wait for the promised coming of the Lord Jesus, we can be helped to grow in faith through the examples of these faithful judges. Our recent readings speak of two of these judges — Barak and Gideon. Perhaps we do not think of these judges, except as we read of them each year in Judges or Hebrews; yet, there is needed help for us in their experiences.

Let us first consider Barak. At the time of Israel's oppression under Jabin, king of Canaan, Deborah was a prophetess who judged Israel:

"... she sent and called Barak . . . and said unto him, Hath not the LORD God of Israel commanded, saying, Go and draw toward mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men . . .

And I will draw unto thee . . . Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude, and I will deliver him into thine hand."  
Judges 4:6-7.

Sisera had a formidable army, including 900 chariots of iron. Barak, in facing such a terrifying foe, felt the need of God's presence with him, which caused him to say to Deborah:

"... if thou wilt go with me, then I will go: but if thou wilt not go with me, then I will not go." Judges 4:8.

Deborah did go with Barak and his ten thousand men, and she said: ". . . Up; for this is the day in which the LORD hath delivered Sisera into thine hand: is not the LORD gone out before thee? . . ."

And the LORD discomfited Sisera, and all his chariots, and all his host, with the edge of the sword before Barak; . . ." Judges 4:14-15.

The Almighty used Barak to conquer the army and 900 chariots with the edge of the sword. It is impressive that Barak's Hebrew name comes from a root word meaning bright, a glittering sword, or lightning. Moses wrote of God's words to Israel:

"See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me. I kill, and I make alive; I wound and I heal: neither is there any that deliver out of my hand.

If I whet my glittering sword, and my hand take hold on judgment; I will render vengeance to mine enemies, and will reward them that hate me.

I will make mine arrows drunk with blood, and my sword shall devour flesh; . . ." Deuteronomy 32:39, 41-42.

The prophet Ezekiel also spoke of God's power:

". . . Thus saith the LORD; Say, A sword, a sword is sharpened, and also furbished: It is sharpened to make a sore slaughter; it is furbished that it may glitter.

. . . The sword, the sword is drawn: for the slaughter it is furbished, to consume because of the glittering."

Ezekiel 21:9-10, 28.

This is the sword of the Lord, bringing vengeance upon His enemies. Can we perceive how greatly awed Barak would feel as he saw that:

". . . the LORD discomfited (destroyed) Sisera, and all his chariots, and all his host, with the edge edge of the sword before Barak.

. . . and there was not a man left." Judges 4:15-16.

David was another faithful man who knew God's power:

"And David spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul.

. . . he sent out arrows, and scattered them: lightning

(glittering) and discomfited them.” II Samuel 22:1,15.  
As Deborah and Barak witnessed the discomfiting of Sisera and his vast host, they sang:

“Praise ye the LORD for the avenging of Israel: . . .  
So let all thine enemies perish, O LORD: but let them that love him be as the sun when he goeth forth in his might.  
And the land had rest forty years.” Judges 5:2,31.

“Praise” — as spoken by Barak and Deborah — is, in the Hebrew. **Barak** — meaning to kneel, to bend the knee in praise of the Almighty, David was one who was quick to praise the Lord, as he expressed:

“O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand . . .”  
Psalm 75:6-7.

What wonderful deliverance our brethren knew at the hand of the Lord, as His glittering sword, His Almighty power worked on their behalf to deliver from seemingly overwhelming forces of the adversary! Should we not also rejoice, Brethren and Sisters, as the Almighty works to deliver in times of affliction, turmoil or illness, if we can but put our trust in Him? Should we not also kneel down in praise as we feel His hand at work, helping to discomfit the greatest adversary — our fleshly nature?

Let us also turn to the record we have read this morning concerning Gideon — another judge whom the Almighty sent to deliver Israel from seven years of oppression by Midian. God said to him:

“ . . . Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have I not sent thee?”  
Judges 6:14.

Gideon knew his own weakness, and sought a sign:

“ . . . If now I have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me.” Judges 6:17.

He was then given the sign of the fire consuming his offering (verse 21). Gideon, in obedience, gathered 22,000 men to fight against Midian, and once again sought a sign to assure that God was with him. The Almighty twice granted the sign of the fleece, which Gideon requested, giving him the needed trust and strength to battle with Midian. In weakness, do not we all at times have doubts, yet need help to face whatever God in His wisdom places upon us? Gideon went forth with the 22,000 men who responded to his call to fight against their adversary. However, the Almighty interfered, as He spoke to Gideon:

“... The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.”  
Judges 7:2.

.How wise God is, knowing the nature of man! Under God’s direction, the 22,000 men were reduced to 300. The Almighty, knowing how Gideon and his 300 men could fear, said to Gideon:

“... Arise, get thee down unto the host, for I have delivered it into thine hand. But if thou fear to go down, go thou with Phurah thy servant down to the host: And thou shalt hear what they say; and afterwards shall thine hands be strengthened to go down unto the host . . .”

Judges 7:9-11.

In obedience, Gideon went down to the camp of Midian, where he heard one of the Midianites speak of a dream he had concerning a cake of barley bread overturning a tent. As Gideon listened, he heard a fellow Midianite say:

“... This is nothing else save the sword of Gideon . . . for into his hand hath God delivered Midian, and all the host.”

Judges 7:14.

Strengthened by this additional sign from the Almighty, Gideon and his 300 men went forth against the Midianites. He instructed his 300 men:

“... Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be that, as I do, so shall ye do.

When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that are with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.”

Judges 7:17-18.

What was the result?

“... the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man’s sword against his fellow . . . and the host fled . . .”

Judges 7:22.

Here was victory for Israel! Not by their own strength, for they did not raise their swords; but the host of Midian raised theirs against their fellows, and fled in panic before the “sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.” In these great victories, Deborah, Barak, and Gideon rejoiced at the sword of the Lord, glittering, shining as lightning, which defeated their seemingly overwhelming adversaries.

Over 1300 years after their victories, Paul wrote of the faithful men, as we have earlier considered:

“... what shall I more say: for the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and of Barak . . .”

And then he added for our help, Brethren and Sisters:

“... these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.”

Hebrews 11:32, 39-40.

Almost 2000 years after these words were written, we are reminded of the strengthening of Barak and Gideon by the great power of God's glittering sword, His presence to defend and protect His people, in the fight against that adversary which is ready to destroy, as Peter warned:

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil (sin in the flesh), as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

I Peter 5:8.

To help in that fight, Paul wrote:

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Wherefore, take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand.”

Ephesians 6:10-11, 13.

What is that armor — the full protection and strength granted by our merciful Father to help defeat the adversary? Part of the armor is: “... the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.” And also:

“... the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

Ephesians 6:16-17.

Brethren and Sisters, this is how we can be “strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.” Barak and Gideon both knew that might of God's word — the “sword of the LORD” which so powerfully worked on their behalf as they faithfully judged Israel.

This same power is available to us in our personal fight against all adversity, in whatever form it may take. Let us then put on that power — “the whole armour of God” — that we may be able “to withstand in the evil day”:-

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication . . .”

Ephesians 6:18.

J.A.DeF.

## ALL FLESH SHALL SEE THE SALVATION OF THE LORD

The September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorists' attacks on New York City and Washington D.C. brought forth varied reactions of shock, fear and anger from many in the world. In their anxiety, many public prayer vigils were held in an effort to seek answers for this senseless violence. For ourselves, this attack has served as evidence of another of those many signs predicted from His Word, which will come to pass before the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We remember the disciples question to the Lord Jesus regarding the time of His return, to which He answered:

"But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by.

Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven."

Luke 21:9-11.

Throughout the history of man, nations have risen up to inflict pain and suffering on one another, fueled from the fleshly motives of greed, power or hate. Yet we know these events are not ignored by the Almighty who overrules the affairs of men. They are all part of His plan, as Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon was made to acknowledge:

". . . there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.

And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will."

Daniel 4:31-32.

In this same vein, Cyrus was established on the throne of the most powerful nation in the world at that time. He didn't know or worship the God of Israel, but was given the reins of power that he might be used to fulfill God's purpose and facilitate the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the reestablishment of God's people back into their land, as prophesied by Isaiah:

". . . Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and

to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.

Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut.

For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.

I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou has not known me."

Isaiah 44:28, Chap. 45:1, 4-5.

The world in times like these of fear and panic, may momentarily turn to God. However, the world knows not the God of Israel, nor the knowledge of His merciful plan for man's redemption through His Son, as outlined by His Word. The people of the world and their clergy are in spiritual ignorance because they wrest His Truth, twisting it to serve their own thinking. Their confusion is very evident by the many religious books written by rabbis and pastors alike, asking the question, "Why do bad things happen to good people?"

This is indeed a time of fear and perplexity for most of the world — and with good reason, for at no other time in history could the impact of the Lord Jesus' words, as recorded in Matthew, come to fruition, as man today has the ability to destroy the earth and all its inhabitants by chemical and nuclear warfare:

"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

Matthew 24:21-22.

No flesh will be saved, except for the intervention of the Almighty on behalf of those who are called by His name. Man in his fury, if not restrained, could destroy himself and all creation through his scientific knowledge, which has increased, as was prophesied by Daniel, but not necessarily for good:

"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

Daniel 12:4.

Though we are warned of wars and violence to come which will herald His return, still no man knows the hour of His coming as Peter warned:

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”

II Peter 3:10.

When we think of Peter’s words “the elements shall melt with fervent heat” it reminds of what happened in Japan at the end of World War II. We can only wonder if the United States and her allies resort to nuclear warfare against terrorism, where it will lead and with what result? Yet we have the assurance that all is under God’s control.

We only have to go back in history to see man’s resilience from wars, famine, earthquake and disease. After these troubles have subsided and quiet returns, they soon forget their fear, returning to their old way of life — a life which does not include a love for God and their fellow man, or a desire to walk before Him in obedience. Yet Peter warns many in these last days may doubt Christ’s coming, as those in Noah’s day scoffed at the judgment to come.

“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts.

And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water.

Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.”

II Peter 3:3-7, 11.

There is to be a cleansing of the world, along with the destruction of all the fleshly institutions established by man. This will herald the return of His Son to establish a new earth — the Kingdom of God on earth wherein will dwell only righteousness and peace.

As the time of His return seems near at hand, let us rejoice, Brethren and Sisters, in the knowledge God has given to those who

seek to be known as His children, that all is in His purpose and plan and let us keep in mind:

“... knowing the time that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.” Romans 13:11.

As the tragic results of September 11th plays out among the nations in the coming months or years ahead, let us not fear but hold this thought close to our hearts, as we wait in hope and expectation for His return, assured all is in His hand and a part of the plan He has established for this good earth. Our only fear should be that we be found wanting at Christ's judgment seat.

Just as John the Baptist's words heralded the first coming of the Lord Jesus, so do they also ring true for the time of the end when Christ will return. We must ask ourselves, are we doing all we can in the hope of being found ready:

“... Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his path straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” Luke 3:3-6.

M.C.S.

**"THERE IS ONE COME OUT OF THEE - - -  
A WICKED COUNSELLOR."**

(Nahum 1:11)

The above quotation is in the same chapter promising the bringing of good tidings and the publishing of peace. The wicked counsellor is shown as coming from the East, and is opposed to Israel.

Last September saw great destruction and loss of life in New York. The perpetrators hate the U.S. for the help they give to Israel.

It was not immediately clear the depth of the evil counsel that persuaded men to lose their own lives in a cause which was intended to bring about a maximum amount of damage and loss of life. But investigation since has revealed what the young terrorists were told prior to their taking over four aircraft, three of which crashed deliberately into very important buildings, the fourth not succeeding because passengers resisted the hi-jackers.

The following are excerpts from handwritten documents found in the wreckage of the aircraft that crashed in Pennsylvania, short of its target.

"Remember the battle of the prophet - - - against the infidels. - - -"

"Purify your heart and clean it from all earthly matters. The time of fun and waste has gone. The time of judgment has arrived. Hence we need to utilise those few hours to ask God for forgiveness. You have to be convinced that those few hours that are left you in your life are very few. From there you will begin to live the happy life, the infinite paradise. Be optimistic. - - -"

"Check all of your items — your bag, your clothes, knives, your will, your IDs, your passport, all your papers. - - - Make sure that nobody is following you. - - -"

"If you take a taxi to the airport, when you arrive - - - smile and rest assured, for Allah is with the believers and the angels are protecting you."

"Remember the verse that if God supports you, no one will be able to defeat you."

"When the time of truth comes and zero hour arrives, then straighten out your clothes, open your chest and welcome death for the sake of Allah. Seconds before the target, your last words should be, 'There is no God but Allah. Mohammed is his messenger.'"

"Keep a very open mind, keep a very open heart of what you are to face. You will be entering paradise. You will be entering the happiest life, everlasting life."

"We are of God, and to God we return."

So with these words of deception, the wicked counsellor persuaded the young terrorists, claiming to speak for the Muslim religion. Even that claim was untrue. Islam does not teach revenge, nor does it encourage the killing or oppression of non-Muslims. The Arabic word Islam means obeying God's will and achieving peace; and it is supported by a huge number of people; over a billion, mainly in the East.

But undoubtedly there are a proportion of Muslims who hate the Jews; and it is people of this ilk who are behind the planners who create terrorist destruction. Middle Eastern States have failed to come to terms with the permanent reality of the Jewish State. They complain that Israel is an affront to them, and that re-drawing of boundaries for Palestinians will not really satisfy. They will only agree to a settlement when the name Israel is erased from the map.

What a grievous time of trouble is this situation for the Jews, particularly in Israel.

But God's promise remains on record, as shown in the book of Nahum:-

"O Judah, keep thy solemn feasts, perform thy vows: for the wicked shall no more pass through thee - - - ."

(Nahum 1:15),

**“AND THEY SHALL WANDER FROM SEA TO SEA”**

“And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it.” (Amos 8:12).

Let us not relegate the meaning of the above verse merely to some incident in the past. The scripture has a meaning and a message for all generations.

One of the great problems facing the present generation, is how to find a solution to the hidden threats provided by technical developments, which in the wrong hands can bring sudden and vast damage upon the unsuspecting population. There is now the desperate endeavour to find the answer. But of course there is no solution for man; only God can bring a certain remedy to the accumulating ills of mankind.

Spokespeople for the great religions lament the evil situation, but even, as Amos declares, their particular seeking to the word of the Lord will not provide them with an answer.

It is also significant what Amos says in the context, that there shall be a great wandering among the peoples. The fact is that a world blessed with an abundance of provision has amongst its teeming populations wretched and starving, and dispossessed people. They live in want and ignorance in the deserts of northern Africa and the mountain ranges of Afghanistan. In Rwanda and The Congo.

Desperate people in Afghanistan are fleeing; many trying to get to Australia and the United Kingdom. In Cairo there are two million refugees who have walked away from the wars of Central Africa; this has added to the torment of the poverty-ridden city. They have no adequate food, and crowd into shanty accommodation. They are not allowed to work, having to wait up to two years for a brief interview with an official of the United Nations Commission for Refugees. Even then there is no certainty of them achieving refugee status. If they fail acceptance, they remain abjectly stateless. The U.N. High Commission for Refugees cannot really cope with the great global migrations. There are camps of such people all over the world. But in Cairo there are not even camps! From Iraq come escapees fleeing torture and imprisonment and the oppression which means that anyone opposing the leader faces death. Kurds escape from economic hardship in Turkey. Former Yugoslavia, in its break up, has also brought about the migration of hundreds of thousands of people. And even the Russian Federation has the

problem of many homeless people seeking an escape from the disruption caused by the conflict with the Chechnyan rebels.

Refugees flee from Somalia, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Pakistan, Iran, Algeria, Sierra Leone, and former white farmers from Zimbabwe where they are being racially discriminated against. How apt is the scriptural description.

“--- they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east ---.”

Australia has been warned of thousands of potential refugees accumulating across Indonesia, hoping to find a new life in Australia. Indonesia has become a transit place for them, aided by professional people-smugglers.

Britain also is the focus of unwelcome visitors. There has been a report estimating that up to 400,000 illegal immigrants are entering Britain every year. They vanish into what is referred to as a “black economy”, where unscrupulous employers exploit them at a pittance, which they cannot complain about because they do not have a status. It is now admitted that no one really knows how many people live in the U.K., for the system is unable to achieve an absolutely correct figure. But even when found out, the majority of the asylum seekers are not sent back to where they came from. Their former countries will not take them back. China for example. And it is impossible to land them as returned in Iran or Iraq and certainly not Afghanistan. So in not being able to return them, Britain eventually gives them permission to stay. Last year it was estimated almost 80 per cent of refugees interviewed were refused status. But even so most of them were not deported.

Britain is seeking for a European-wide asylum plan for these wanderers, but the troubles and shortages of the world that cause this problem continue.

How apt is the encouraging Bible message for such times:-

“Behold the days come, saith the Lord, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed;

--- And I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel, and thy shall build the waste cities. ---

And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up. ---” (Amos 9:13-15).

**A BIBLE CLASS**

**"I WILL LIFT UP MINE EYES UNTO THE HILLS"**

Psalm 121:1

This Psalm is one of several entitled, "A Song of Degrees" or, as the word "degree" means, "A Song of Ascent" or going up. The question may be asked: What was in David's mind as he wrote these Psalms of Ascent? His desire was to honor God through obedience to His word, in the hope of finding the "sure mercies of David." Such was promised to him by the Almighty, involving a kingdom, a throne, a house, and a Son who would reign forever, when God's purpose with this earth is achieved through the greater Son of David, Jesus Christ. He would rejoice in this hope, looking to its fulfillment. His Songs of Ascent were a rejoicing in God's mercy, as he lifted his eyes toward that hope.

Moses was one who also rejoiced, knowing God's deliverance from Pharaoh:

"Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown unto the sea.

The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation: my father's God, and I will exalt him . . .

Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?

Thou stretchedst out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them.

Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation."

Exodus 15:1-2, 11-13.

Moses rejoiced in God's deliverance and lifted up his eyes in thanksgiving.

When we think of redemption, our mind goes to the hope of all God's faithful, that they may be numbered with those redeemed when Jesus returns to gather His people — the figurative 144,000 "redeemed from among men" (Revelation 14:4). As they rejoiced in His blessing, they sang:

". . . as it were a new song before the throne . . . and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth."

Revelation 14:3.

These were bought with a price, were before God, immortal — the body of Christ, joined in praise, joy, and thanksgiving for the wondrous grace of God.

David, as he wrote these Psalms of Ascent, would have this hope fixed in his heart and mind, exclaiming, as we are considering:

“I will lift upon mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.”  
Psalm 121:1-2.

David also expressed this same determination as he wrote another Song of Ascent:

“Unto thee lift I up mine eyes, O thou that dwellest in the heavens.

Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon the LORD our God, until that he have mercy upon us.”  
Psalm 123:1-2.

One going up, striving for a goal, looks to that hope for which he is laboring, longing for its accomplishment, and rejoicing in the blessing promised.

The Lord Jesus was One who kept His eyes, His efforts, His determination fastened upon the work which His Father required — the giving of His life as a means of redemption for His people.

Paul wrote to his Hebrew brethren, encouraging them:

“... let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”  
Hebrews 12:1-2.

With this determination, Jesus perfectly glorified His Father, and could say as He was about to endure the cross:

“I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.”  
John 17:4.

As we seek to run with patience the race set before us, striving to go up to Zion, hoping to have our “names written in heaven” among those who will be the 144,000 redeemed from the earth, do we not need to keep our eyes, our minds, our hearts fastened upon the One who has gone before us? Our going up toward Zion is not a quick trip, a dash; but a long and arduous journey. It requires much patience, faith, enduring under, seeking forgiveness when we may

stumble; but going ever upward toward the goal promised to the faithful since Adam. This mind, the spirit of David, helps us as we read these Psalms of Ascent.

David, in another Psalm, asked:

“Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?

He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah.”

Psalm 24:3-6.

“Selah” means value it, looking to the end. Let us, like David, value the hope, the end of God’s purpose, and join in his words:

“I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.”

Psalm 121-1.

“Unto thee lift I up mine eyes, O thou that dwellest in the heavens.”

Psalm 123:1,

We live in troubled times, with many signs pointing to the soon return of Jesus Christ to gather His people — those who are striving to go up to Zion. To these, His message is very clear, very sure, very encouraging:

“... when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”

Luke 21:28.

J.A.DeF.

### A VAIN HOPE

A United States scientist of the University of Connecticut recently made the suggestion that slowing down the speed of light could be the key to unlocking the mysteries of time travel.

He believes that by using what he declares as “slow circulating light” he may be able to create the first “TIME MACHINE” within five years. He explains that his calculation is “a closed time loop” in which “time becomes space-like, and space time-like”. In this loop time no longer stretches out to infinity but will bend back on itself, allowing a return to a specific moment in time because outside the loop, time continues to move on.

The scientist propounding the above is working with other American scientists and they claim to have slowed down light in laboratory conditions. It is said that they are going to demonstrate travel through what they refer to as the fourth dimension by creating a time portal in which a particle is held at a moment in time and then joined by another particle, which will have been sent back from the future.

The claim is that what is being said is consistent with Einstein's theories, which show how time and space are distorted by mass and energy. And light, it is claimed, can be controlled with more precision than many other things, referring as an example to laser technology. This fanciful thinking even goes to the suggestion that it is mathematically possible that there may be multiple parallel universes, therefore a moving back in time by the process referred to, could land participants into a similar but different scenario where an alternative reality would unfold, ensuring an outcome which would prevent elimination of an individual's own birth.

All this is nonsense of course. But significantly it is the serpent's lie coming up via scientific sophistication. Many these days refuse to believe in the erroneous belief of the immortal soul. Scientific knowledge has undermined even this erroneous belief. But is it not remarkable that the serpent's lie is reviving via scientific reasoning? The time machine (so called) is being sought for, to stave off mortality, thus enabling space travellers to journey beyond the normal life span across the vast heavens.

What a vain ambition it is. God's pronouncement cannot be altered:

"For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told.

The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off - - -"

(Psalm 90:9-10).

As for the past, the present, or the future, only God knows it all: as he declares through His Apostle:-

"God, who quickeneth the dead - - - calleth those things which be not as though they were." (Romans 4:17).

### SIGNS OF HIS COMING

“And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people.” (Zechariah 12:3).

The destruction of the centre of New York by Arab terrorists on September 11th, 2001 shocked the world. Such activists are described as Islamic fundamentalists. They believe that present day Islam, and “Islamic” states have been corrupted. They denounce compromises with the West, and its way of life, and so have become very hostile to Western nations, particularly the U.S.A. But their hatred is also directed at the tiny state of Israel.

In and around Israel a number of Arabs believe they are entitled to drive out the Jewish inhabitants. They claim they have a right to the land. What they conveniently overlook is that there has been a continuous Jewish presence since biblical times. However it has to be admitted that it was only at the end of the 19th century that large scale Jewish immigration began again. Settlers came mainly from eastern Europe fleeing from pogroms (mob attacks, either approved or condoned by authorities) against Jewish people. After 1945 large numbers of immigrants came from central and western Europe, sufferers of Nazi hostility just before and during the Second World War. These were followed by Jews from North Africa and other Middle Eastern countries. There has also been thousands from Russia.

The largest minority group in Israel is Arab, but there are other minority groups who are not hostile to the Jews, such as Druses, Circassians and Samaritans who support the Jewish state, appreciating the prosperity which Jews have brought about. But Arab hostility cannot be pacified. And as America has become more and more involved in the Middle East, concerned about oil-producing areas in which American money is involved, Arab hostility has also been directed against the United States, which is seen to be a friend of the Jew.

This is something of the back-ground which has led up to the Arab strike against the financial centre of the United States. An excuse might be made about the Arab involvement, as being only from a very small minority. It would be a mistake to believe this. A great deal of Arab support for the destroyers of the W.T.C. went into the exercise which brought about such great destruction.

The President of the U.S.A. has vowed to do everything possible to crush such terrorism, to bring about a better world. It is very understandable for him to have such a desire, but the divine

record reveals that the Jerusalem problem cannot be solved by man./

Even as this article is being written, Israel's Prime Minister is saying that the Palestinian leader is of the same ilk as the terrorist suspected of organising the Arab strike against New York. One Jewish comment was reported that "Because of the Palestinian leader, we have terrorism here just like America has had." Discussions in Arab quarters, as well as Jewish quarters, centres on the possibility of World War Three. A small incident was reported, which, in actual fact is very revealing. An Arab vendor, sitting at his stall by Jerusalem's Damascus gate, was seen to be selling T-shirts depicting fighter jets with the caption, "Don't worry America, Israel is behind you".

A letter to a national Newspaper pinpointed the depth of Arab hatred:-

"I watched the terrorist attack on television and mistakenly thought the horrific situation could not get any worse. But then I saw the sickening sight of young (Arab) children celebrating this tragedy."

Dr. Thomas, writing all those years ago could see what was coming, as follows:-

"- - - the Spirit saith, 'Mine anger was kindled against the shepherds (kings of the earth), and I punished the goats;' and the exposition given, showing how and when they (are) punished, is added in the words 'for Yahweh Tzvaoth hath visited his flock the House of Judah - - -'. Zechariah tells us, that 'He will save the tents of Judah - - -'. Zechariah 12:7); he will save them from Gog; and he will save them from their sins, which is an essential part of his mission. When he hath delivered Jerusalem, 'The governors of Judah will say heartily, The inhabitants of Jerusalem shall be my strength in Yahweh Tzvaoth their Elohim. - - -'. They will have looked upon him whom their ancestors pierced, and repented; and so find access to the fountain opened to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and uncleanness. Thus they will become nationally white, or "goodly", being "washed in the blood of the Lamb". They are by this process grafted into their own olive, and become fit for the master's use. - - -"

The terrorist destruction in the centre of New York city is a startling sign of the continuing process in World affairs which is leading up to God's final solution.

**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

As these words are written, the United States is reeling under a horrifying act of terrorism, resulting in the deaths of thousands. The country is mobilizing for a world wide military, economic and intelligence war against terrorism.

The "distress of nations with perplexity . . . men's hearts failing them for fear", is one of the signs of Jesus Christ's soon return to establish God's kingdom on earth to bring true peace, safety and freedom from fear.

We remember Jesus' words, "When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads: for your redemption draweth nigh".

*J.A.DeF.*

**MANCHESTER, Ryecroft Hall, Audenshaw.**

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

The year 2001 has now almost run its course and 2002 looms ahead. Time is moving inexorably on towards the final solution, so evidently needful for this afflicted world.