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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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AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

"WHATSOEVER GOD HATH SAID UNTO THEE DO"

Our reading in Genesis has directed our minds to Jacob and Esau. We are told of their birth as twins:

"...the first came out red, all over like an hairy garment; and they called his name Esau.

And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold of Esau's heel: and his name was called Jacob...."

Genesis 25:25.

Therefore, Jacob was named a "supplanter". They were twins, born at the same time, but two entirely different individuals in spirit. Esau was a hairy man, or as the word means - "rough" coming from a root meaning tempestuous, as a storm. Jacob was a smooth man (Genesis 27:11) - gentle, of a different spirit than his brother. As the firstborn, Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for a mess of pottage saying :

"....Behold, I am at the point to die, and what profit shall this birthright do to me?"

Genesis 25: 32.

"Thus Esau despised his birthright" (Genesis 25:34) - the inheritance of the promises made to Abraham and Isaac. Jacob bought it and valued it all his life. So he supplanted his brother. Further, Rebekah and Jacob conspired to keep that blessing or birthright, when Isaac was about to give it to Esau. When Esau realized that Jacob had been blessed by Isaac, he stated:

"....Is not he rightly named Jacob? For he hath supplanted me these two times: he took away my birthright, and, behold, now he hath taken away my blessing...."

Genesis 27:36.

Jacob did not take away Esau's birthright; but rather, Esau sold it and did swear that it was therefore Jacob's. In hatred for his brother, Esau showed his "rough" spirit:

"...then will I slay my brother Jacob."

Genesis 27:41.

Fearing Esau's hatred, Rebekah urged Jacob to flee :

"Now therefore, my son, obey my voice, and arise, flee thou to Laban my brother to Haran,

And tarry with him a few days, until thy brother's fury turn away;

Until thy brother's anger turn away from thee...then I will

send, and fetch thee from thence: why should I be deprived of you both in one day?" Genesis 27:43-45.

In obedience to his mother, and in fear of Esau's fury, Jacob fled to Haran.

On the way, God caused Jacob to dream:

"...behold, a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and, behold, the angels of God ascending and descending on it." Genesis 28:12.

God spoke to Jacob in his dream, reminding Jacob of His promises to Abraham and Isaac, which Jacob would inherit if he was subject to God's will. The vision of the ladder revealed God's provision for His faithful people, a means of communication between Himself and His people. Jesus, who came to fulfill this promise, spoke of His work:

"...Verily, verily, I say unto you. Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man." John 1:51.

Jacob, discerning God's blessing and protection, exclaimed:

"...Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not.

And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place: this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

And he called the name of that place Beth-el... "

Genesis 28:16-17,19.

In awe of God's presence, Jacob called the place Beth-el - the house of God - and revealed his trust in God, in faith, knowing that God would be with him, would keep him in His way as evidence of His care for him.

God did work with Jacob as he came to Laban's house in Haran. He abode there for 21 years - deceived by Laban in having been given Leah instead of Rachel for his wife, after seven years of servitude. Then he served another seven years for Rachel, and an additional seven years tending Laban's flocks. Laban valued Jacob's service with God's blessing. Laban's deception during those 21 years proved Jacob's submissive spirit to God, as he waited and longed to return to Isaac and Rebekah. And indeed God did speak to him:

"I am the God of Beth-el, where thou anointedst the pillar (21 years before), and where thou vowedst a vow unto me: now arise, get thee out from this land, and return unto the land of thy kindred." Genesis 31: 13.

How Jacob would rejoice that God so blessed him, and he could return to his home, with his two wives, Leah and Rachel; with Bilhah and Zilpah; and with his eleven children. As he spoke to Leah and Rachel of this imminent journey, they replied:

“...now then, whatsoever God hath said unto thee, do.”

Genesis 31: 16.

Here was the faith, not only of Jacob, but of his two wives - daughters of Laban - who were convinced as was Jacob, that God would guide and protect them if there was obedience, subjection, and trust in God and His promises. For 21 years, Jacob had waited, longing to return to his family. He had been subject to Laban's deceit, as God required, to prove His trust, believing that Laban's deception was allowed because of Jacob and Rebekah's scheming to obtain the blessing, when they should have trusted that God would provide it in His own time and way. By his years of faithful trust, Jacob pleased God, who released him from his bondage in Laban's house. In that time, his sons were born, who were to be heads of the tribes of Israel - including Benjamin who was yet to be born.

Jacob, his wives, children, and his extensive flocks quickly left Laban's house, and journeyed back to the land of Canaan - Jacob's promised inheritance. On their way, they came to the brook Jabok, where Jacob sent messengers to Esau, along with gifts from his flocks. He feared lest Esau still waited to kill him, but faced it with trust in God's promises. He sent his family, his flocks and his herds ahead, while he tarried at the brook. There he was left alone:

“...and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.”

Genesis 32:24.

As they grappled, striving together, Jacob refused to let go; the man, an angel of God, blessed Jacob, saying:

“...What is thy name? and he said, Jacob (supplanter).

And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob (supplanter), but ISRAEL: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.”

Genesis 32:27-28.

No longer was Jacob called a supplanter, but a prince with God, for he had prevailed, not only with the angel who wrestled with him, but in all those 21 years of submission - truly accomplishing, as his two wives encouraged him:

“... whatsoever God hath said unto thee, do”

Genesis 31:16

As a result of his wrestling with the angel, Jacob from that time forward "halted upon his thigh" (verse 31). He limped, or as the word means, had an adversity - something that hindered his normal walk, and made him move softly, more slowly, less surely. As a result, he would be more inclined to look to God for guidance, before going forward in his own strength. This adversity, hindrance, was with him for the rest of his life, as Paul revealed hundreds of years later:

"By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph: and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff."
Hebrews 11: 21.

He moved in the spirit of: "...whatsoever God hath said unto thee, do."

David also was moved to go haltingly, looking to God for guidance, rather than rushing into something without seeking help. He expressed this in Psalm 38, which is titled: "A Psalm of David to bring to remembrance" - realizing his need to keep this going softly in his mind:

"For I am ready (prepared) to halt, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin."
Psalm 38: 17-18.

David did quickly repent of his sins concerning Bath-sheba and in numbering Israel. There were times when he failed to go haltingly, but impulsively went ahead, to his own sorrow, and grievously failed. His response was:

"I have sinned against the LORD" (11 Samuel 12:13).

Paul also had an infirmity - a thorn in his flesh - something that made him stop and think, recognizing the weakness of his flesh. He prayed three times to have the "thorn" removed, but God replied:

".....My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake for when I am weak, then am I strong."

11 Corinthians 12: 9-10.

Realizing his own weaknesses, Paul rejoiced at God's merciful

provision of that "thorn" which reminded him: My flesh is weak, but I will do whatever God requires of me, that I may be strong in heart.

How easily, Brethren and Sisters, can we be provoked by our fleshly thinking! It causes us to do things against that which God commands and hopes to see in His people's subjection, obedience, trust, fear, love - the fruits of a heart which accepts: ".....whatsoever God hath said unto thee, do." By striving to "do" all things in accordance with God's will, we can hope to become changed to "a prince with God" - when the day star on high, the Lord Jesus, returns. He will judge His people, those who have truly prevailed to do His Father's will. Let us earnestly pray to hear the words of Jesus to those on His right hand:

"...Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Matthew 25: 34.

J.A.DeF.

ZECHARIAH

We have recently completed our readings in the prophecy of Zechariah - a prophet sent from God during the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem after the seventy years captivity in Babylon. Much of his prophecy comes through vision of future events not yet fulfilled.

Particularly we have recently read of this future time that:

“In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD’S house shall be like the bowls before the altar. Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and see the therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts.”

Zechariah 14: 20-21

This is a promise of a holy people complete and united to Him - a promise which He has held out through the ages and which Zechariah came to reconfirm to the people of his day. The reminder of this beautiful time to come was to strengthen and help them look beyond the troubles they were then facing, to the glorious completion of His purpose. At that time when the earth will be filled with the spiritual Israelites - only those who know His purpose and have endeavoured to walk therein. It will be an unparalleled time of peace and brotherhood in the earth when all will know the message of God’s Truth and each neighbor will be a brother, as subjects under the rulership of Christ and His saints.

Other prophets have written of this same time. The apostle John saw this time when Jerusalem and its inhabitants would be arrayed as a Bride for her husband, after the natural corruptness of the present governing bodies in the world had been removed:

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away, and there was no more sea.

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them,

and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Revelation 21:1-4

No longer will there be injustice, avarice or war, for the flesh being removed has been replaced by spirit and those that are part of that holy city will reflect God's light and glory. There will be a unity between God and His people unseen since the fall in the garden, but looked for in hope by all those who believe on His word.

During Zechariah's time, they were a feeble few who had been allowed to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the wall and the temple destroyed at the time of their captivity. God had done as He had said - because of their rebellion they had been sent into captivity for seventy years in Babylon. But now in His mercy He had sent His prophets Haggai and Zechariah to remind them of the covering relationship they had once shared with the Almighty and to urge them to turn back to Him:

"The LORD hath been sore displeased with your fathers. Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts."

Zechariah 1:2-3

Zechariah, whose name means "God has remembered", was sent to remind and help His people turn and repent, just as John's vision in Revelation gives the same hope for those who can endeavor now to be at one with Him and His Son. God is mindful and will keep His word, but the only question is, can we keep ours, to put down the flesh's impulses and walk in a way pleasing to Him?

After witnessing the destruction of Jerusalem, the temple, and forcibly being taken as captives to Babylon, there would naturally be some who doubted they would ever live again in their own land. Yet God had promised they would be restored through a leader to guide them in His ways. Joshua, the high priest, clothed in the filthy garments, the stone and the BRANCH all speak of the work of Christ who clothed in the filthy garments of a flesh nature overcame through perfect obedience to His Father's word to become The Atonement for all who believe on Him. He nailed His carnal nature

to the cross and rose the third day clothed in sparkling white garments as the flesh was destroyed and replaced by spirit.

Zechariah's prophecy speaks very specifically of the final assault at the end of God's purpose against Jerusalem by Gog and the confederated nations. However, unlike the first siege when her inhabitants were taken into captivity, Christ and His Saints will come to Jerusalem's defense, finally destroying the armies of Gog before establishing the Kingdom of God on earth. A new temple will be erected for the worship of God, from which shall flow living waters:

"And it shall be in that day that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea; in summer and in winter shall it be.

And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one. And men shall dwell in it, and there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited."

Zechariah 14: 8-9,11

To think of Jerusalem safely inhabited seems but a dream today as the violence escalates in alarming proportions between the Palestinians and the Israelis - each grappling to gain possession. Yet, one day when God's purpose is fulfilled, the rightful Heir to that land will come with an army of His saints to establish peace and justice in Jerusalem for all who will yield to Him.

M.C.S.

THE IDOL

“...idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone....” (Revelations 21:8)

A self-confessed atheist has been writing books for children. His themes are dark and evil, and concern witchcraft and other pagan aspects. Amazingly the head of the Anglican Church has welcomed these books, saying children should be encouraged to read the books as they could help to address the “inadequacies” of religious education in Britain. Following the sale of millions of copies, a stage version of one of this author’s themes has been produced, and the National Theatre in London was packed. The “Christian” leader said he particularly enjoyed the stage version and was glad “to see large school parties in the audience (which was) vastly encouraging”. He went on to say “I only hope teachers are equipped to tease out what in (the author’s) world is and is not reflective of Christian teaching as Christians understand it.” His philosophy is that the books provide a central epic to the fight between good and evil, and will stimulate religious education in schools. To speak up for books about dark themes produced by an atheist is a new aspect in the religious world. But the Anglican leader is a confessed Druid, and the following is a description of this cult:-

They are from an order of Celtic priests found in Gaul (France), Britain and Ireland. They professed to be able to prophecy about the future, and their learning was a mixture of astronomy, medicine and jurisprudence. It is thought that the oak and mistletoe were sacred to them. The report of them goes back a long way. They are referred to in the writings of Julius Caesar, and of Strabo. This was pre-Jesus Christ.

That an old, professed Christian Church, should allow some acceptance into its fellowship, of ideas which are unacceptable to the Bible, certainly reveals deterioration from an earlier position.

Children certainly don’t need encouragement to read about “dark themes”. Inherently the foolishness of the young takes them into untoward subjects without any encouragement. The last book of the Bible warns about such idolatry. How necessary that warning is! Compared to the professed Christian world, there are at the present time more who uphold teachings and philosophies contrary

to the Word of God. For example there are three hundred million Buddhists; and Hinduism has even more adherents, who believe in a triad of chief gods, Brahma, Vishnu and Siva (creator, preserver and destroyer). Islam also has a huge following of more than a billion adherents of Mohammed.

There is also a long list of other beliefs, while not numerically close to the major faiths, nevertheless total millions of followers.

To welcome, then, a divergence into questionable themes, to enable an expansion of tuition on religion, is to reveal lack of understanding of the Truth of the Word, which these leaders profess to uphold!

The words of the Apostle John are as meaningful today as in the earlier time:-

“Little children, keep yourselves from idols”

(1 John 5: 21)

A BIBLE CLASS

"EVERY WAY OF A MAN IS RIGHT IN HIS OWN EYES"

Proverbs 21:2

As we consider this subject, we might ask: What is a "way"? The concordance helps us; we find it is a trodden path, and is used as conversation, custom, manner, journey, or highway. From this, we can perceive a way is the manner in which one travels during his lifetime. Before God, there are two ways of life, as Jesus taught:

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Matthew 7: 13-14.

There is God's way - strait, narrow - and at the end is eternal life. The way of man is broad, wide, easily traveled, which ends in destruction - eternal death. Man is inclined to follow the easy way, the manner of life that pleases self. Those seeking to please God strive to walk in that narrow and strait way, hoping for the end in sight - eternal life.

On any road, we find signposts that point the way and warn of the dangers ahead, so that one may safely arrive at his hoped-for destination. These signposts are to be obeyed, lest one violates the law and therefore becomes subject to fines or other judgments. The flesh does not like restraints, such as speed limits, and therefore speeds and may crash or run off the road at a sharp curve. Yet, can we imagine the chaos if there were no restraints? Every man would travel in his own way, heedless of the dangers ahead.

God in His mercy provides signposts in one's manner of life: His law, commandments, precepts, judgments, and testimonies. These help one to stay in the way that leads to life. Jesus walked perfectly, never deviated from God's requirements, never sinned, right up to the end of His life. He is our example to show us the way, as He said to His disciples:

"...if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and

take up his cross, and follow me. " Matthew 16:24

His way of life was strait and narrow, as He agonized to conquer His fleshly nature, suffering persecution and being despised, until He died upon the cross - the unblemished Lamb of God. Jesus said to Thomas:

"...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me" John 14: 6

To stay in that narrow way, one must submit to the word of God, keeping His commandments, obeying His signposts which point the right way, lest one go astray. The flesh, the natural man, does not heed these signposts, does not want to deny his own desires. In this circumstance, he makes his own laws, enabling him to justify his own way, as our verse under consideration reveals. His heart desires gratification and deceives himself, believing this is the right way to go. He achieves what he wants, convinced in his own eyes and heart, yet overlooking that "God pondereth the heart".

The Hebrew for "pondereth" means to mete, to tell, to weigh. The Almighty knows the heart of man; he is able to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart, He judges the heart. Is it subject to Him? Is it obeying the signposts? Is it fixed in a determination to please Him, and not self? Is it circumcised, with the fleshly thoughts cut off? What of us? How can we examine ourselves? How can we know if we are walking in the narrow way, seeking to enter the strait gate? Can we not search our own heart, to perceive whether it is motivated by love for God and His people - or is it motivated by love for self? John helps us:

"My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us." 1 John 3: 18-21, 24.

How important it is that we are striving to do what is right in God's eyes, according to His word, His signposts - not what is right

in our own eyes! What ways are right: ours or God's? Let us then set our hearts upon His way, obeying His laws, seeking His mercy when we fail - for we do. He is the One who makes the laws and judges our hearts. Are we keeping them?

J.A.DeF.

I AM THE BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR

The pruned songs of David are timeless for they reach out with much help to us today in our endeavor to walk in the Almighty's precepts. How stirring they are to read, for many so clearly reveal the spirit of Christ almost as if He had written them. Although Psalm 22 penned by David was written hundreds of years before Jesus' birth, it closely mirrors Christ's agony during the final hours of His crucifixion. No doubt Jesus read these words many times in an effort to strengthen His own resolve, knowing the end He would face.

The title of Psalm 22 is actually the first verse and is dedicated:

"To the chief Musician upon Aijeleth Shahar, A Psalm of David' Psalm 22: Title

Translated, this psalm is directed to "The one who overcomes through the strength of the morning star. A Psalm or Song of David." How specifically this speaks of Christ, the only One ever to overcome, and continues in the first verse crying out for God's help as He did on the cross in His final hours:

"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?" Psalm 22: 1.

With the Spirit's power given Him at baptism, Jesus could have confounded His persecutors who railed on Him to come down from the cross and save Himself. Yet he yielded to the death appointed Him - offering His own life as a perfect sacrifice, sinless and unblemished as a Passover lamb:

"...But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and

despised of the people. All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying "He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him."

Psalm 22: 6-8

Going to the record in Matthew at the time of Jesus' crucifixion, we read words very similar to those of David's above:

"And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross:

Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said,

He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.

He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God." Matthew 27: 39-43

Sometimes when trial, testing or illness comes, we feel bereft of help and alone. Yet, we know He is near at hand to grant strength to endure if we but call on His name. But being flesh we forget and need to be reminded:

"Ye that fear the LORD, praise him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him, all ye the seed of Israel.

For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted: neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard."

Psalm 22:23-24

Each new day we can look to our Day Star - He who is a shining example of how we too must persevere and overcome in order to be illuminated by His light. Only those who walk in His light can hope to become the seed promised:

" A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation.

They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done this."

Psalm 22: 30-31

We know that a natural seed when planted without enough water, soil or light will not grow. Yet when properly planted and tended, the seed dies and from its kernel springs forth life in another form - a lush bountiful new growth more glorious than its parent.

Thus does God teach each generation of the wonders of resurrection and the promise held out for those, who in trust, willingly put to death their flesh natures in order to have the hope of rising anew in His mercy, at His Son's return.

As Peter in this same hope, contemplated his approaching death, he encouraged his brethren to hold fast in faith until the coming of their Lord - the Day Star:

"Yea I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;
Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.
We have also a more sure word of prophecy;
whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts ."

11 Peter 1: 13-14, 19

Peter looked to the hope set before him and called upon his brethren in this like precious faith to diligently heed the Word taught to them, which can plant a seed to be nurtured through understanding, humility and yieldingness that it may spring forth to a new life when the Lord Jesus returns. This same hope is recorded in revelation as Jesus promises to those who seek to be His:

"And , behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.
I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star."

Revelation 22: 12-14, 16

The light of that Day Star must be reflected every day in our living if we hope to one day be numbered among His seed. Even though being flesh we fail, we have through His victory the means of repentance and atonement to wipe away our transgressions, looking to tomorrow as another day. How blessed we are to have this hope of life Brethren and Sisters - let us endeavor to walk in His light, helping one another on the straight and narrow path which leads to life.

M.C.S.

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

“And I will lay my vengeance upon Edom by the hand of my people Israel: and they shall do in Edom according to mine anger and according to my fury; and they shall know my vengeance saith the Lord God.” (Ezekiel 25:14)

At the time of writing these remarks it can be said the territory which Israel holds is due to its own exploits. The Arabs do not want it to have any. They are the age old enemy figurised in the name “Edom”.

The prophecy of Ezekiel has a very significant comment, “I will lay my vengeance upon Edom by the hand of my people Israel.”

This year there has been dreadful happenings; the basic cause is the Arabs’ resentment that Jewish people still hold on to portions of the land of their forefathers.

The terrorist societies’ cruelties have been referred to by various comments in the media. Those who sympathise with Israelis are in a minority; but this is made up by the searching incontrovertible remarks of some commentators that have been published. For example:-

...last week a child with a bomb in his back pack, today a 14 year old, clad in a murderous suicide belt, who was paid 100 shekels (13 pounds) to murder and maim.

Why is the United Nations silent about the human rights of these children?

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights says:

“The child shall be protected from practices which may foster racial, religious and any other form of discrimination.”

The United Nations does not speak up with the authority it is supposed to have to condemn such wickedness. A young suicide bomber stopped by Israeli soldiers as he was passing through a military checkpoint, and who belongs to a well-to-do family, explained

“My teacher told us...to fast and to do good deeds in order to reach paradise (and of) the life of pleasure waiting for us there...(He had learned at his local school about the reward) given to all martyrs who reach heaven.”

Unjustly against Israel, the father of this young victim (who

owns a supermarket) said, "I'm happy my son is still alive, But I'm angry at those who recruited him and angry at Israel because its measures lead to all this." So even the victims place the blame in the wrong quarter. Apologists for Arab terror say the murderous actions are provoked by Arab poverty. A media commentator, (who has been in trouble because of his forthright comments on this Arab issue) has succinctly described the true position:-

"....these men turned into would-be terrorists...are far from poor. (They are) smearing all Muslims who are poor but who would never dream of taking to crime or terrorism and then justifying their criminality by saying that they are poverty-stricken."

The writer of the above comment has referred to biased reports from the Middle East that are heavily sympathetic towards the Palestinians. The (media) "bends over backwards these days to be nice to Muslims."

The American President has been trying hard to bring about a change in the Arab stance. At the time of writing the Israeli Prime Minister has visited the United States leader with a plan that is hoped may bring about a more reasonable response from the Palestinians. Israel's leader is prepared to disengage from Gaza and settlements in the territory known as the West Bank. The U.S. President praised the plan as an "Historic and courageous act." This was followed by the British Prime Minister saying, "I welcome Israel's Prime Minister's announcement that Israel intends to withdraw the Israeli Defence Forces from the Gaza Strip and dismantle all Israeli settlements there as well as some in the West Bank." Even the Egyptian President welcomed Israel's concession with the comment "I think any withdrawal from the occupied territory is very highly appreciated."

But consider how the Palestinians and their cohorts responded. The Arab League joined with the Palestinian leader in condemning the American President for his latest support of Israel. The Arab League declared: "The United States has adopted Israel's position. We expect the United States to play honest broker. We accused it before of being unbalanced. Now we can't even say that. We are in a very difficult situation, which is unprecedented. This is a fundamental milestone in the Arab-Israeli conflict." The Palestinian leader said "the people would not retreat from their goal of achieving liberty, national sovereignty and a state with Holy Jerusalem as its

capital." Obviously the Arabs do not want to disengage, even though Jordan's government has also urged them to do so. It is the "Edom" state of mind that influences the Palestinians and their leaders. They are not prepared to give and take. Yet Israel's plan is a big concession. For example Israel proposes to evacuate 7,500 Israeli settlers in the Gaza Strip, (though some Israelis oppose it). The situation has not been helped by France saying any unilateral moves to change borders in the Middle East did not have French agreement. France was against Israeli plans to keep parts of the West Bank. Thus the history of the situation is forgotten.

The Arab-Israel conflict of 1949 in which the Arabs hoped to prevail resulted in Jordan controlling the West Bank and Jerusalem. Eighteen years later the Arabs had another attempt to quell Israel (1967). Israel was then fighting for its existence, and what a reversal of the situation occurred to what had previously existed. The West Bank became Israeli controlled. Also Gaza, Sinai and the Golan Heights and Jerusalem. This reversal, undoubtedly, the Arabs and Palestinians had brought upon themselves. But Israel's leadership is now prepared to relinquish some control in an endeavour to ameliorate the situation. Gaza would become Palestinian controlled, and the West Bank come under Palestinian influence, with the exception of some Israeli settlements, one of which is Ma'ale Adumim, which is a huge Israeli West Bank settlement close to Jerusalem, which has been described as a city. Not satisfied however with the gift of the fruitful lands of 7,500 hard working Israeli settlers in the Gaza area, and many of the settlements the Jews have worked upon in the West Bank, the Palestinians want everything. It is overlooked that the present demarkation is almost a 40 years situation developed by the Jews in the land that became theirs once again. That they are prepared to step back in relinquishing some of their gains, which came about as a result of Arab aggression, should really be appreciated. At the time of writing the U.S. and Britain are prepared to praise this concession, but not the Palestinian Arabs. Such enemies of the Jewish descendants of Abraham think they can eventually succeed to dominate though they have had many reverses as a result of their hostility. But this can never be the result. Inspired scripture give the certain message:-

"Thus saith the LORD GOD; Because that Edom hath dealt against the house of Judah by taking vengeance, and hath greatly offended, and revenged himself upon them;

Therefore thus saith the LORD GOD; I will also stretch out mine hand upon Edom...." (Ezekiel 25: 12-13)

The coming months may see apparent uncertainty as to what will eventually develop, as a result of political efforts by Israel and the U.S.A. But of the end result we can be sure. The Arabs will not succeed in their enmity against Israel. The Jews will continue in their land; their existence there an undoubted fulfillment of what was promised by God to Abraham, their forefather, all those years ago. Even though at the time of writing, Islamic Ji'had, in murdering a young Jewish mother and her four daughters has provoked disunity among the Israelis against their leader's policy to give up territory for peace. It has been another crude attempt by terrorists to disorganise Israel, for the base purpose of continuing hateful hostility.

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS

HAMBURG, NEW YORK. *Corner Southwestern Blvd. and Pleasant Avenue.*

Sunday: 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.

Mailing of invitations for our literature to the general public has been suspended for the summer months. Response though small, encourages in this work.

With help from our Manchester brethren, work continues with one seeking the Truth.

J.A.DeF.

MANCHESTER: *Ryecroft Hall, Audenshaw.*

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

Contacts continue with interested friends of the magazine both far and near. This encourages us in the ongoing work of witnessing to the unique book, the Bible; for in the "world of books" there is no other publication like it.