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# The Remnant of Christ's Ecclesia

in opposition to the Dogmas of  
Papal and Protestant Christendom

A WITNESS TO THE TRUTH

and a warning against the deception in the last days  
foretold by Christ

**"Take heed that ye be not deceived"**

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**AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD**

**THE TRESPASS OFFERING**

We have recently begun our reading in Leviticus. This word means relating to the Levites, the priesthood ordained by God. In Exodus we see the tabernacle completed, and dedicated by Moses according to the pattern given on Mt. Sinai

“...So Moses finished the work.

Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.” Exodus 40:33-34.

Israel rejoiced as God dwelt in the tabernacle, with the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire remaining over it.

Having finished the tabernacle, the Almighty then gave instruction is to its use, in accordance with His purpose. This instruction is found in Leviticus, concerning the Levites - those appointed as priests. It is significant that the first work assigned to the Levites involved the sacrifices: the burnt offering, sin offering, peace offering, trespass offering, and the meat offering — all revealing God’s purpose with His people. The Almighty recognized His people were flesh, that they failed, and therefore needed a means of reconciliation to Him, their God. These sacrifices were graciously provided to accomplish a rebinding to Him through the shedding of blood. They were to teach Israel of the promised Messiah, the Lord Jesus, whose life’s blood would be shed in perfect obedience to His Father.

Today we have read of the trespass offering. The word “trespass” involves guilt, a knowledge of offense, and of harm done. God spoke to Israel through His prophet Hosea concerning their rebellion against His word:

“I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face; in their affliction they will seek me early.”  
Hosea 5:15.

God’s face was turned from His people because of their offenses. He in mercy ordained a means of removing such offense, through acknowledging their trespass, and bringing a trespass offering.

We read of God’s law concerning this trespass offering:

“... It shall be, when he shall be guilty in one of these things (verses 1-4), that he shall confess that he hath sinned in that thing:

And he shall bring his trespass offering unto the LORD... .”  
Leviticus 5:5-6.

One may not perceive that he had offended; but when the offense is revealed, God provided the means of making amends: confess, acknowledge, admit offense, and bring an offering to remove the trespass. What mercy and loving kindness He reveals in providing a means of atonement — removal of the harm done, and a restoration to His mercy. It is not easy to confess one’s offenses, humbling oneself before the Lord; but it is an essential part of atonement.

On the day of atonement - one of the feasts in Israel - the high priest was to enter into the most holy place, sprinkling the blood of the sacrifice before the mercy seat and the ark, to make atonement first for himself and then for his people. He also was to:

“...lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat (scapegoat), and confess over him all the iniquities (trespasses) of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sin, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness:

And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.”  
Leviticus 16:21-22.

David, a man after God’s own heart, prayed for God’s mercy and grace seen in this trespass offering:

“Remember me, O LORD, with the favour that thou bearest unto thy people: O visit me with thy salvation;

That I may see the good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that I may glory with thine inheritance.

We have sinned with our fathers, we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly.”  
Psalm 106:4-6.

Jesus, the greater Son of David, although never sinning himself, did recognize that in being a citizen of Israel, He shared their guilt, and confessed it to John the Baptist when he sought to baptize Jesus. Jesus replied to John’s protest:

“... Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousnes. Then he suffered him:  
And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” Matthew 3:15.17.

This was the beginning of Jesus’ work of preaching the gospel. He acknowledged His responsibility in being of Israel, and sought to cleanse Himself of that guilt before He began His work. Immediately He was led of the Spirit into the wilderness, and was tested to prove His subjection to God’s word. When tempted three times by His fleshly nature to personally use the power of the Holy Spirit which he had just received, He resisted and overcame the temptations by “It is written.” He relied upon God’s word for strength to do so. He continued to submit to His Father’s will, never sinning, until He cried out in victory on the cross: “It is finished.”

There are many examples to help one be quick to recognize failure, to confess, and to seek atonement for transgressions. David sinned grievously in the matter of Bath-sheba, Uriah’s wife. He was guilty of adultery, coveting another man’s wife, and causing the death of Uriah; all were punishable by stoning. When Nathan said: “Thou art the man” (II Samuel 12:7). David quickly confessed:

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

As a result of his humility and quick acknowledgment of his grievous sins, Nathan said to David:

“... The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.” II Samuel 12:13.

No doubt David was quick to bring a trespass offering, that he might know God’s mercy and grace in granting atonement.

David further failed when he numbered Israel, even after the warning of Joab:

“...Now the LORD thy God add unto the people, how many soever they be ... but why doth my lord the king delight in this thing?”

II Samuel 24.3.

In his heart, David knew that it mattered not how many men were in his army, as he expressed:

“There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength.”

Psalms 33:16.

David did not heed Joab's warning, nor did he follow his own conviction; but rather, he used his power as king to force Joab to number Israel. In time we are told:

"David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly." II Samuel 24:10.

God responded to David's confession and prayer. In addition, the Almighty required that he offer a sacrifice, probably including a trespass offering. When Araunah offered his oxen and wood to David for the sacrifice, his reply was;

"... Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing." II Samuel 24:24.

David's mind is revealed to us as he wrote:

"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah."

Psalm 32:1.5

Indeed, blessed is he who is so helped by the Almighty! God knows the thoughts and intents of each heart, and reveals them so that an offering can be made to remove the offense, granting His forgiveness.

How can we, Brethren and Sisters, respond to such mercy? Again, David's mind helps us as he prayed:

"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Psalm 139:23-24.

The Almighty does know each heart, and in mercy reveals those things which can lurk therein - perhaps unrecognized, ready to take over and cause trespass against God or one of God's people. Let us then examine our hearts, searching, as we believe God would do, lest we fail to cut off all fleshly thoughts, leaving our hearts uncircumcised, unacceptable to Him. As we search and find that which displeases our God, let us confess our trespass and bring our offering of a humble and contrite spirit, which is pleasing to Him.

Paul helps us to do so as he wrote:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present (yield) your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Romans 12:1-2.

Such an offering - a yielding spirit - can be acceptable as a trespass offering, and can atone for harm or injury done.

*J.A.DeF.*

## PRAISE

We have recently concluded our readings from the Psalms in our daily portions begun April 1st at the start of our program. The Psalms are the longest of our readings each year in volume, and often we remark how they reveal the very essence of God's word. It is perhaps appropriate that over half of our hymns and anthems are taken from the Psalm, for it was David's desire to give praise unto God through these pruned songs. This can be seen particularly in the last two Psalms:

"Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints.

Let the saints be joyful in glory; let them sing aloud upon their beds." Psalm 149:1,5

And Psalm 150

"Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

Let everything that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD." Psalm 150:1,6

David understood that praise to God must be central in our living - to tell Him we recognize He alone is worthy of praise for the manifold blessings and care He gives those that are His, for He has promised:

“For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation”. Psalm 149:4

Moses was called the meekest of all men and in his service to God gave Him praise through obedience. As the children of Israel were delivered from Pharaoh’s chariots and watched as the Red Sea covered them, they sang this song of praise:

“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 into 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.”

Exodus 15:1-2

Their praise was short-lived, for when hardship came as they journeyed in the wilderness, they cried to return to Egypt, longing for the luxuries of that land, even though they partook of the leeks and melons as bondsmen.

David, the author of these Psalms was one who was grateful for God’s deliverance and endeavored to praise him in song and deed:

“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:

And he said, The LORD is my rock, and my fortress and my deliverer;

The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence. I will call on the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.”

II Sam. 22:1-4

How uplifting are David’s words, yet we know he too succumbed to the temptations of his flesh, forgetting at times that God was nearby and watching. Yet in times of failure David was quick to turn back to God in repentance.

In order to honor God, David as king separated the sons of Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun to prophesy and praise God in the house of the Lord with musical instruments. What a mighty joyful sound these two hundred and eighty-eight must have made in worshipping the Lord:

“All these were under the hands of their father for song in the house of the LORD, with cymbals, psalteries, and harps, for the service of the house of God, according to the king’s order to Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman.

So the number of them, with their brethren that were instructed in the songs of the LORD, even all that were cunning, was two hundred fourscore and eight.”

I Chronicles 25:6-7

Years later, Hezekiah as king, ordered the temple to be cleansed and called the Levites and priests to sanctify themselves to begin again the praise and worship of God which had been neglected for so many years:

“And he (Hezekiah) did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father had done. And he brought in the priests and the Levites, and gathered them together into the east street, And said unto them, Hear me ye Levites, sanctify now yourselves, and sanctify the house of the LORD God of your fathers, and carry forth the filthiness out of the holy place.

For our fathers have trespassed, and done that which was evil in the eyes of the LORD our God, and have forsaken him, and have turned away their faces from the habitation of the LORD, and turned their backs.”

II Chronicles 29:2-6

In accordance with re-establishing worship, Hezekiah also commanded that the offerings and musical praise begin again:

“And he set the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with psalteries, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, and of Gad the king’s seer, and Nathan the prophet: for so was the commandment of the LORD by his prophets.

And the Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets.

And Hezekiah commanded to offer the burnt offering upon the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song of the LORD began also with the trumpets, and with the instruments ordained by David king of Israel.

And all the congregation worshipped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded: and all this continued until the burnt offering was finished.”

II Chronicles 29:25—28

Paul also taught of the necessity to praise God continually as he wrote to his Colossian brethren:

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.” Colossians 3:16-17

That same song of praise will be sung by those approved at Christ’s judgment seat as John saw in vision. They are those who give thanksgiving to the Lord Jesus for His victory in becoming the means to bring them through faith to the Almighty:

“And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests; and we shall reign on the earth.

And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands.” Revelation 5:9-11

Here are seen the faithful from the time of Adam - those who in faith and obedience have endeavored to walk in God’s precepts, acknowledging their hope for salvation was only possible through the blood of the Lamb.

We today struggle to walk in the same path and if we can recognize the importance of praise in our living, we are encouraged by David’s pruned songs on our journey Zionward.

M.C.S.

## THE ARABS

“Because thou hast had a perpetual hatred, and hast shed the blood of the children of Israel by the force of the sword in the time of their calamity, in the time that their iniquity had an end. — — —

Therefore, as I live, saith the LORD GOD, I will even do

according to thine anger, and according to thine envy which thou has used out of thy hatred against them; and I will make myself known among them, when I have judged thee." (Ezekiel 35:5 & 11)

Surely this prophecy is relevant to the modern situation of terror, not only in Israel, but in various parts of the world. The "perpetual hatred" referred to is a description that takes on even more meaning when the original hebrew is looked at. "Perpetual" is a translation from OLAM which means "continuance", and comes from a hebrew root word ALAM "to veil from sight".

Who would have thought a few years ago that the world, and Israel, would be terrorised in its present form. But the prophecy of Ezekiel, truly in a latter day fulfillment, lists tribal names of the peoples of the East, who in the past were opposed, and whose hatred has emerged once again from being "covered up", to challenge by "covered up" devices those which are hated.

Saudi Arabia is important to Western Nations, particularly because of its vast natural oil wealth. International Oil Companies, of course, have representatives to manage the great oil enterprises. Al Qaeda have decided to disrupt if possible this oil production, and kill people from the West who are involved in its work. From time to time it seizes western people who are working in Arabia, who then meet a horrible death at the hands of the terrorists.

At the time of writing, British Airways, because of the threats, announced that its flights from Heathrow to Riyadh would stop at Jeddah in Kuwait, so that an alternative crew could take the aircraft on to Saudi Arabia. This arrangement keeps the British aircraft staff away from the danger zone. The British Embassy in Arabia announced that until further notice, it was authorising "the voluntary departure of our non-essential staff and their dependants." The terror organisation has intimated it intends to conduct an "ethnic cleansing" operation, to remove all "infidels" from Arabia. But this Arab hatred for the friends of Israel, is even more pronounced against the Jews themselves. A very old hatred has indeed emerged. It has been underneath, amazingly continuing from the earliest times. But now it is of greater force due to the extraordinary Arabic religious unifying, even though there are of course Muslim factions.

The Arabs were always a religious people from ancient history. Various cults existed in the Arabian Peninsula and adjoining areas, but there was no unification of belief. Then in the 7th century came Mohammed (570 to 632 A.D.) His father died before he was born,

and though he was of a respected class of Arabs his mother was poor, and died young, and so he was not taught to read. As a boy he tended sheep, and later was involved in trade in Mecca which was his city. Journeying to Palestine, he heard things about Moses and Jesus Christ. Returning to his own area, at the age of 40, he went to live in a cave, and though he could not read or write he obviously had a thinking mind. He declared that he had been visited by the angel JIBRIL (Gabriel) who began to give him the words of the Koran. Soon he was preaching the Oneness of God, the need for repentance and the certainty of a Day of Judgment. The people of his native city Mecca did not like what he was preaching about. They felt he was a threat to their successful city trading, and so their opposition caused Mohammed to go to the city of Medina. The people there supported him, thereupon came into being Islam, claiming a new revelation, and the earlier beliefs and superstitions of the Arabs were repudiated.

Mohammed fought three major battles with the Meccans, and returned to the city in triumph 630 A.D., dying two years later, and was buried in Medina. So the Muslim religion began, and grew, with a fanatical upholding of it by many in the countries of the East. Today it holds great sway, and this situation is one of the final aspects in world affairs prior to the return of Jesus Christ. Note the words of the prophecy:—

“Therefore, as I live, saith the LORD GOD, I will even do according to thine anger, and according to thine envy which thou hast used out of thy hatred against them; AND I WILL MAKE MYSELF KNOWN AMONG THEM, when I have judged thee.”  
(Ezekiel 35:11)

The TRUTH is certainly coming to the Jew, it is coming to Israel, and that time is near!

## A BIBLE CLASS

### "THE MEMBERS SHOULD HAVE THE SAME CARE ONE FOR ANOTHER"

#### I Corinthians 12:25

Paul in writing to help his brethren in Corinth, uses the example of one body, made up of many members:

"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ."  
I Corinthians 12:12.

As the human body is made up of many members - all essential to its working - so is the spiritual body of Christ made up of many members, fitly joined together in one body now, hoping to be joined eternally with the Lord Jesus in His kingdom.

Paul reminds us that each member, having been baptized into the body of Christ, is given gifts by the Holy Spirit:

"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal."  
I Corinthians 12:4,7.

What are these God-given gifts? Paul enumerates them in verses 8-10 - namely, wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, divers tongues, interpretation of tongues. There are nine gifts in all. These were given in diversity, as Paul reveals:

"But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will."

1 Corinthians 12:11.

The Almighty bestows these gifts upon every man as it is His will, dividing them "severally - meaning, that each member receives a gift. What are the members of the body to do with these gracious gifts of God? Paul makes it clear:

"...the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal."  
I Corinthians 12:7.

The gifts are to bring profit. The word "profit" is made up of two words: (1) together; and (2) to carry or to bear. It also means to endure, to move, to uphold. Therefore, the gifts of God are to help

the body to endure, to uphold itself growing in strength and spirit. Note it is "to profit withal" (together) - not as separate parts, but as a body with each part using the God-given gifts to profit the unity of the body.

Using the example of a physical body, Paul helps us to perceive how necessary is each part as it does what it is created to do (1 Corinthians 12:15-21):

"...The eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you."

Verse 21.

All contribute to the working of the body. As Paul further reminds us:

"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him." 1 Corinthians 12:18.

As He has created man with all his members, so He is creating the spiritual body with all its members, all necessary to its proper function or profit. Paul continues:

"Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary." I Corinthians 12:22.

"Seem" means to appear, to suppose, or to think - implying those that may appear to be feeble, are not feeble; for without them the body will not properly function. Can we see how necessary is each part of the body, how the gifts of God given to each severally, can profit the body?

Paul continues with his help:

"And those members of the body, which we think (seem) to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.

For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked.

That there should be no schism (division) in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another." I Corinthians 12:23-25.

"Tempered" gives the thought of mingled or mixed together. When we think about this, our minds go to God's instruction to Moses, concerning the incense used during the service of the tabernacle:

"... Take unto thee sweet spices, stacte, and onycha, and galbanum ... pure frankincense....

And thou shalt make it a perfume (sweet smell), a confection after the art of the apothecary, tempered together, pure and holy:

And thou shalt beat some of it very small, and put of it before the testimony in the tabernacle of the congregation, where I will meet with thee,.. ." Exodus 30:34-36.

The sweet spices making up the incense were to be tempered together and beaten small, as with a mortar and pestle, to insure that they were intimately blended together. Each spice had a part, but blended into one pleasing scent, as the fire consumed it upon the incense altar or in the priest's censer.

Such is the tempering together - a help for us to discern Paul's mind, as he exhorted:

"That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another."

I Corinthians 12:25

To "care" we find means to be anxious about, be solicitous, to take thought for each other. How can we do this? Should it not involve the "profiting" of the body, as each part contributes by using the God-given gifts? It would not be for the profiting of self nor in pride that one might have better gifts; but all would contribute to the honor of the body. Should we not ask ourselves: Are we tempered together, pulverized, beaten small so that there is no self involved - only care, thought, anxiety for the body?

Paul himself was an example, as he wrote concerning his work of preaching the gospel:

"Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches."

II Corinthians 11:28.

By his labor, his care, his thoughtfulness and concern, the body was strengthened, more greatly blended and contributing to the honor and glory of God. Such a sweet smell would ascend to the Almighty as the fire of the spirit consumed the "tempered together" body.

J.A.DeF.

## MUCH STUDY IS A WEARINESS

Eccl.12:12

Our verse under study was written by Solomon, King of Israel, also referred to as "The Preacher", no doubt because of his gift of great wisdom granted by God. Through his understanding, he often wrote of the vanity and emptiness of this life's pursuits, emphasizing that the acquisition of spiritual knowledge leading to faith and obedience was the only worthwhile endeavor a man could pursue.

"Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity. And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs. The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright, even words of truth."  
Eccl.12:7—10

All flesh returns to the dust from which it was created and our life on earth is fleeting, therefore, how important to use that time wisely in the pursuit of God's wisdom and the hope of life eternal.

However, with this gift of exceptional wisdom that Solomon was given of God, he experimented with many of the world's pleasures, feeling no doubt he was strong enough to withstand their temptation:

"I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also is vanity.

I said of laughter, It is mad: and of mirth, What doeth it? I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life.

And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy, for my heart rejoiced

in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.” Eccl.2:1—3,10-11

And following along this line of thinking our verse under consideration says:

“And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.” Eccl.12:12

How many books there must be in the world - whether secular or scriptural, yet if one sequesters themselves to only study and never applying this knowledge, it is useless because it bears no fruit. David was one who longed for God’s word, but he also sought God’s help and strength in order to walk therein:

“The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.  
I opened my mouth and panted: for I longed for thy commandments.  
Look thou upon me, and be merciful unto me, as thou usest to do unto those that love thy name. Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.”  
Psalm 119:130—133

David speaks of the “simple” receiving understanding. He is speaking of those who are child-like and humble, those yearning for God’s spiritual direction - not the intellectually deficient.

For all his spiritual wisdom, we know that Solomon at the end of his life was drawn away from God by his many possessions - his wealth and his many strange wives, even going so far as to build temples for them to their false gods. He thought he could taste of anything in the world yet not be influenced or stray from God and he was wrong! He underestimated the subtlety of the flesh and its insidious draw to the pleasures it offers. He deceived himself, for in the end he succumbed to the desires of his own flesh and became “an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished”. (Eccl.4:13)

Knowing God's word and valuing its wisdom is not enough, for it must be applied in one's living in order to be useful as Solomon concludes:

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

Eccl. 12:13-14

The only thing to be feared is to fail to please God or to ignore His admonishments to repentance when failure does occur.

How many books have been written both secular and scriptural throughout the ages - they must number in the millions. Yet there is only one, The Bible, which can provide the understanding and direction necessary to serve God acceptably. Sadly, Solomon at the end of his life recognized his folly in obtaining worldly wisdom and experience to the detriment of his spiritual life. Additionally, the knowledge of the scriptures cannot stand alone, but must be accompanied by faith and good works - the spirit knowledge put into action in order to please the Almighty.

M.C.S.

### **A STILL SMALL VOICE (R. Roberts 1869)**

Now, in the Bible, we have a still small voice speaking from the long distant past; and telling us that the real thing is coming by and bye; and that we must sacrifice the present for the future - the unreal for the real. If we put our ears close, we hear the voice; but we are in danger of not hearing. The lies lift their voice in clamour; whereas this lies quiet; and if we do not step aside, and as it were try to catch the echoes of this heavenly voice, we shall never hear. We can only get at wisdom by going out of the way (for) it. For this reason the majority of people will not be saved. They will be seduced by the things around them. Our only safety is to make it our business

to read the Bible regularly and systematically. If you don't do it systematically, you won't do it at all. The man who trusts to furtive reading will find himself lacking in the end. The man who does not feed his spiritual nature, daily, will fail to gain spiritual strength. If a man starve ten days, and then fill himself to the bursting, he is not likely to grow in strength.

Spasmodic modes of life are dangerous, and so the man who goes without spiritual food a long time, and then dives deeply into spiritual things, will not grow healthily. There is only one way of doing the work thoroughly; read every day a little. Never deceive yourself with the idea that you have no time. Everybody has a little time at his disposal, and everybody finds time for what he considers of first importance. In this matter it only wants the endeavour, and the endeavour will come where there is a due sense of the situation. A man who is drowning is desperate, and will clutch at anything to save himself, and so it will be with us, if we apprehend our whereabouts. We are naturally sinking, sinking, and if we do not lay hold of that which alone can save us, we shall disappear for ever from sight. Therefore, it comes to this that if we would be saved in these times when there is no living exposition of the divine mind, we must set ourselves to this work of reading the Bible; and we must attend to it in a systematic manner; something after the system laid down in **THE BIBLE COMPANION**. I know it is not everyone that can read the Bible with the same profit; but I also know that those who are spiritually minded, are so from this practice of continually reading the Scriptures; and that if the best of us were to give that reading up, we should speedily drift back into a spiritually destitute condition. It is true the results of Bible reading will differ according to natural capacity, but this general law is applicable to all - that those who read will be those who know and feel the truth.

### SIGNS OF HIS COMING

**“---THEY SHALL NOT CLEAVE ONE TO ANOTHER ---”**

**(Daniel 2:43)**

What was called the European Coal and Steel Community commenced shortly after the Second World War. The hope was that such an alliance would further a recovery from the devastation of the Second World War. Three years later (1957) the European Economic Community was set up, and at the same time “Euratom”

was set up, (The European Atomic Energy Community). The founding members of this alliance were Belgium, France, West Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. The aims were the expansion of trade, reduction of competition and abolition of restrictive trading practices. Undoubtedly the arrangement began to show benefits and over time other nations joined. Britain entered the E.E.C. early in 1973, when the British Prime Minister signed the treaty. Eventually came the Maastricht Treaty in 1991 laying out a course for the closer economic and political union, this included monetary union with a timetable for implementation. There were now 12 nations in the E.E.C. and their representatives met in Edinburgh in December 1992; what they worked out together was ratified by all the member states in 1993.

A European Commission had been set up from 1966 with 20 members, two each from France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom, and one each from the rest of the members of the E.E.C.

There was a Common Agricultural Policy from 1962. Its purpose to ensure reasonable standards of living for farmers in member states by controlling outputs, giving financial grants to them, and supporting prices to even out fluctuations in costs.

The purpose of the European Atomic Energy Community was co-operation of the members in nuclear research and improvements to the production of non-military nuclear energy. The European Parliament was set up, its membership determined by the populations of member states, voting for representatives in the Parliament. These would have consultative powers, able to reject the Community budget, and if necessary to dismiss the Commission. So the scene was set up for a super-state. After centuries of war a wonderful future of prosperity and of peace and growing welfare beckons. Even the United States was drawn in by an agreement of closer economic and political cooperation, signed in December 1995. And of course of the considerable enlargement by the joining of smaller European States in this year 2004.

What has gone wrong then? On June 18th the British Prime Minister signed an agreement on a new rule-book for the European Union when its 25 nations, after two days of negotiations, finally agreed. But immediately there was an outcry. One of the leaders of the Parliamentary Opposition to the British Government cried out that this new "Constitution would be bad for Britain and bad for Europe." A spokesman for the United Kingdom Independence Party (only recently set up) accused the British Prime Minister of "arrogance and utter disregard for the will of the British people",

by his agreeing to sign the E.U. new constitution. Following a euro-poll it was evident there is increased dissatisfaction by British people with European integration, said the spokesmen of the U.K. Independence Party which has considerable support from the electorate.

The opposition to the British Government is clamouring for an immediate referendum to the electorate about British involvement. The British Government is against this, because it does seem evident it would lose the referendum. The tone of the opposition to Europe is seen in the following criticism from the rejectors of Europe:-

“Chamberlain came back waving a piece of paper saying ‘Its O.K, we are not going to have war, they are not going to invade us.’(now) ‘There is (the Prime Minister) He’s waving a piece of paper saying, It’s O.K, I’ve only given a little bit away of our sovereignty -when in fact this is the beginning of the end of Britain as a nation state governing itself.’

The British Prime Minister eventually hopes to persuade the electorate to support being in the E.E.C. It is possible he may eventually succeed to turn opinion around, but the sign of the true position of things is very evident, not only in Britain, but also among the peoples of the other nations involved.

The scripture is clear, and its message is sure:-

“--- they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.” (Daniel 2:43)

The present difficulties over Europe, are a sign of the times. This situation is leading up to an outcome concerning the return of Jesus Christ:-

“And in the days of these kings (kingdoms) shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.” (Daniel 2:44)

**NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS**

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

Sunday Breaking of Bread: 11.30am

Sunday Afternoon Class: 1.45pm

Midweek Bible Class: Forestville, Hamburg and Fredonia

Every Third Week: Revelation Study

Correspondence from the U.S.A., Canada and other parts of the globe, gives opportunity to witness in the endeavor to help those who are concerned regarding their position before God. We pray for His guidance in this work granted.

The mailing of invitations to the general public begins again after a summer recess. Our supplications are that encouragement may also be granted in this witness.

*J.A.DeF.*

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

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00am.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00pm.

Recently we have had several requests from Ireland for our literature. But after the initial response the interest was not maintained. We are nevertheless encouraged, because the reaction to our efforts cannot be looked upon as completely barren.