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The Remnant of Christ's Ecclesia

in opposition to the Dogmas of
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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

INTEGRITY

Our recent reading in Proverbs has directed our attention to integrity. For example:

“Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.” Proverbs 19:1.

Also Solomon wrote:

“The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.” Proverbs 20:7.

Those who are poor or just may lack in the eyes of the world, but not so in the eyes of God.

Integrity is an important quality in those who seek to please God and not self. What is integrity? It is only mentioned 16 times in the scriptures - all in the Old Testament. This word comes from a root meaning to be complete, perfect, entire, whole. The plural of this Hebrew word is Thummim, as in Leviticus 8:8 - the Urim and Thummim, or Lights and Perfection in the breastplate over the heart of the high priest as he went into the holy place to officiate for Israel. The jewels in this breastplate reflected the light of the golden candlestick in the holy place, scintillating as the light and perfection of God - the Source of all light and perfection.

When we look up integrity in the dictionary, we find several meanings: (1) the quality of being complete or nothing lacking; (2) a perfect constitution or an unbroken condition; (3) the quality of sound morals or principles, honesty, simplicity, sincerity (and truth). A related word - integer - is defined as complete in itself. In mathematics it is a whole number, not a fraction. As we ponder integrity, it makes us think of the one body, the body of Christ, made up of many members striving to be whole, complete, or perfect.

Let us look at this word as used in the scriptures, to perceive what integrity involves in the eyes of God. When Solomon had finished building the temple according to God’s plan, the Almighty:

“... appeared to Solomon the second time, as he had appeared unto him at Gibeon.

And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou has built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked,

in integrity of heart and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments:

Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel.”

1 Kings 9:2-5.

When Solomon began his reign, he did walk in integrity of heart, in subjection to God’s commands. But as he grew older and received great riches, he was diverted from his walking in integrity and fullness of heart toward God. As a consequence, God was not pleased:

“For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives (700) turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.”

1 Kings 11:4.

Thus he lost his integrity:

“...Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father.”

1 Kings 11:6.

As a result, Solomon broke his covenant relationship with God, and lost the hope of eternal life!

God spoke of David’s integrity of heart, which made him a man after God’s own heart. We can discern David’s mind as he wrote:

“The LORD shall judge the people: judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, and according to mine integrity that is in me.”

Psalms 7:8.

The title of this Psalm is: “A song of David’s wanderings (Shiggaion), which he sang unto the LORD, concerning the words of Cush the Benjamite.” Cush was the messenger who carried to David the news of Absalom’s death. Even in such sad circumstances, David retained his righteousness and integrity. His mind is revealed, as we read further:

“Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for the righteous God trieth the hearts and reins.

My defence is of God, which saveth the upright in heart.”

Psalms 7:9-10.

Integrity, righteousness, uprightness of heart - such qualities please the Almighty. Upon such, He bestows His mercy, which endures for ever. David perceived this, as he further expressed his heart:

"Look upon mine affliction and my pain; and forgive all my sins.

Consider mine enemies; for they are many; and they hate me with cruel hatred.

O keep my soul, and deliver me: let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in thee.

Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee.

Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles."

Psalm 25:18-22.

The Almighty looked upon David and granted His mercy which endures for ever on behalf of those who seek to glorify His Name. He tries those who trust in Him, searching their hearts: Are they steadfast; are they single? David besought God:

"Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide: Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.

For thy loving kindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth.

But as for me, I will walk in mine integrity: redeem me, and be merciful unto me. My foot standeth in an even place: in the congregations will I bless the LORD."

Psalm 26:1-3,11-12.

David's feet were planted in an even place, in the congregation — a place of righteousness, of uprightness - so that he would not slide - slip or waver, as the word means. David hoped in the LORD, trusting in His "sure mercies" as he felt God's hand upon him:

"... thou upholdest me in mine integrity, and settest me before thy face for ever. Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting and to everlasting. Amen and Amen (so be it)."

Psalm 41:12-13.

Can we discern David's strength and determination to retain his integrity, lest he lose God's blessing - the hope of Israel?

The Proverbs also speak of integrity:

"A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight. When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom. The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them."

Proverbs 11:1-3.

Would a man of integrity think of using a false balance for his own gain, thus bringing harm to others? Has not God made this very clear?

"Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool." Proverbs 19:1.

That which is perverse is crooked, false, which is far from integrity of heart and spirit.

When we think of integrity, we are reminded of Job, who is noted for his patience. Is it possible that his patience was based upon integrity? God spoke of Job to Satan, an adversary accusing Job of unfaithfulness:

"...Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him (to test), to destroy him without cause." Job 2:3.

God further tested Job's integrity, to the point where even his wife said to him:

"...Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die. But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips." Job 2:9-10.

Job endured the advice and evil speaking of his three "friends" who judged him with the thinking of the flesh. He responded:

"As God liveth, who hath taken away my judgment; and the Almighty, who hath vexed my soul (testing him?); All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils; My lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit. God forbid that I should justify you (his three "friends"): till I die I will not remove mine integrity from me." Job 27:2-5.

Here is completeness, oneness, and simplicity of heart, which is so pleasing to God; and which helped Job to endure almost a year of testing. He overcame his flesh through determination to retain his integrity. This was his patience, his bearing under, his affliction. In the end, he was justified by God because of his endurance. He trusted in God, as he prayed in the midst of his testing:

"Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may know mine integrity." Job 31:6.

God's judgment is just, unbiased, fair. He weighs up all His

people, knowing their hearts, their minds; for nothing is hid from Him.

In this connection, we bring to mind David's prayer, as he valued God's commandments:

"Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward. Who can understand his errors? (only God can) Cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant from presumptuous sins, let them not have dominion (reign) over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer."
Psalm 19:11-14.

Presumptuous implies arrogance; indeed, it is also used as proud. This gives the thought of believing in self rather than trusting in or turning to God. Such prideful sins are abominations to God, being the works of the flesh, rather than the fruits of the Spirit. There is no integrity, no simplicity, no oneness of heart and mind in one who presumptuously sins.

Paul warned his brethren of this danger;

"...I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity (singleness, integrity) that is in Christ."

11 Corinthians 11:3.

Paul defines this simplicity or oneness that is in Christ:

"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling, One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."
Ephesians 4:4-6.

The ultimate oneness and completeness of God's people will be when the Lord Jesus returns to gather those who in integrity of heart have striven to serve Him in sincerity and truth.

J.A.DeF.

YOUR REDEMPTION DRAWETH NIGH

The world had become a different place since the events of 9/11 in New York City. Terrorism has caused widespread fear in most people around the world, not knowing when or where the next attack will come. There have been many more hateful attacks all over the globe since the 9/11 attack by Muslim extremists. They are fueled with an extreme hatred - intent on obliterating any who do not embrace their ideology. This is just a taste of the persecution that Israel has suffered for many years at the hands of the Arab nations.

These terrorists are the descendants of Ishmael, the son of Abraham, who was the founder of the Arab nations. However, they have embraced Mohammed as their spiritual guide and follow the teachings of Islam, even though their father Abraham was a devoted servant of Yahweh. They often make the proud boast that Abraham was their father — but they walk not after his example nor serve his God.

We read from Jesus' own words of the violence that will come in the last days:

“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

At no other time in the world's history has there been the ability to create weapons of mass destruction to be targeted at many by a few. We have read of “dirty bombs” where conventional bombs are spiced with radioactive materials or disease spores so that if exploded, would kill, maim and disrupt everyday life, as we know it. These type of weapons would indeed cause “great tribulation”, unlike any thing from the past. This reminds us of Jeremiah's prophecy concerning Israel in the latter days:

“For thus saith the LORD; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace.

Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst

thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him.

Therefore all they that devour thee shall be devoured; and all thine adversaries, every one of them, shall go into captivity; and they that spoil thee shall be a spoil, and all that prey upon thee will I give for a prey.

For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD; because they called thee an Outcast, saying, This is Zion, whom no man seeketh after. And ye shall be my people, and I will be your God. Behold, the whirlwind of the LORD goeth forth with fury, a continuing whirlwind: it shall fall with pain upon the head of the wicked.

The fierce anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have done it, and until he have performed the intents of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it."

Jeremiah 30:5, 7-8,16-17, 22-24

Today the Jews are not God's beloved people, although they and their land are still under His watchful eye. They have turned their backs on Him and continue to look for a Messiah - refusing to recognize His Son, the Lord Jesus as the One sent to be their Savior and Redeemer over 2000 years ago. However, they will be forced to acknowledge Him when the Almighty brings upon Israel the might of many nations under the leadership of Gog in the last days. During those latter days when Israel is under the seige of warfare, the Lord Jesus will return with His Saints to deliver Israel from her persecutors and to establish the Kingdom of God on earth at Jerusalem. Then not only will the nation of Israel acknowledge Him as their Lord and Savior, but so too will the entire world.

Daniel was one who also prophesied about the tribulation of these latter days speaking of the Lord Jesus as "Michael", saying:

"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people:

and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time:

and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book."

Daniel 12:1

Of this same time of great trouble, the Lord Jesus also spoke, giving signs to His disciples saying:

“And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

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

Luke 21:25-28

The “sun and moon” speaks of the luminaries in power in the earth - those nations or men in a position of political power at that time, but who will be cast down by the power of God.

We have read recently of the blowing up of a train in Spain by terrorists, causing the loss of many lives and creating great fear. So much so that the election results in that country were overturned because of the dread of more attacks of violence. The world looks to its leaders (their sun and moon) to work out things amicably for their comfort and safety. However, they have forgotten it is God alone who rules in the affairs of men and He will direct circumstances as He sees fit, directing the nations before the coming of His Son to rule, bringing with Him redemption and peace to those who fear God and not man.

To those who fear His name and recognize the place of the Lord Jesus as the only means of salvation, these signs have been given to prepare them for His Second Coming. Of that day and hour no one knows, but the terrorism and violence in the earth today are sure portents of His soon return. With this in mind, let us not be found wanting when that day arrives, but vigilant in our endeavors to walk after His example:

“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.

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

Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

II Peter 3:10-13

Those who look for His coming are further instructed:

"Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless."

II Peter 3:14

Through the knowledge of God's Word and the example of the Lord Jesus, we are instructed how we can be found "without spot and blameless" in His mercy. Not through our own thinking, but by being joined to Him and covered by His victory, if we through faith follow after His example. What great promises of care and deliverance have been given, if only we can be mindful of the weakness of our own flesh nature and daily endeavor to keep it under control.

Certainly we are living in the last days, as we see examples of terror and cruelty multiplying throughout the earth. However, for those who fear His name and endeavor to walk in faith, their "redemption draweth nigh."

M.C.S.

"--- DO NOT I FILL HEAVEN AND EARTH? SAITH THE LORD."

(Jeremiah 23:24)

Speaking of the Most High the sweet Psalmist of Israel declares:-

"Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable."

(Psalm 145:3)

The vastness of the heavens has always been a marvellous thing for men to consider. But now in this age of technological developments men have learned to look further into the skies than in former generations.

What have they found and what do they continue to find? Earlier this year there was an international conference of scientists in Dublin. The event recalled what the English clergyman John

Michell was talking about in the 18th century:-

“He worked out that there might be stars whose gravity was so strong that it made them invisible, as not even light ran fast enough to escape their clutches.”

This suggestion was not accepted for more than a century. Could such terrible power exist? But as the sky has been searched through stronger telescopes, investigators into the heavens began to speak of areas where there are “black holes”. It is now clear, they say, that not only are they possible, but they exist in their millions throughout the universe.

It is said that a titanic black hole lurks at the centre of our galaxy, measuring about a million miles across. Being black, the hole itself is impossible to see, but anything that comes close to it is absorbed into an intense gravitational field that causes disintegration, and so the object disappears into a density that is indescribable. Calculations say that the nearest “black hole” to mankind is more than a 1,000 light years away. But such holes, it is now said, have another action. They eject particles at an ever-increasing rate, until an explosion, in a burst of light and radiation takes place, but this is not an end, it is a process that develops into new universes.

Such an immensity of distance and power is something the human mind cannot grasp. How eloquently the scriptures describe it, and the greatness of the Most High:-

“Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.”
(Psalm 139:12)

God controls all the immensity which the human mind cannot comprehend. David perceived, in a finite way, this greatness when he wrote:-

“He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names.

Great is our LORD, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.”
(Psalm 147:4—5)

As the scientists meet from time to time, they, in their discussions about the universe, are barely scratching at a surface of understanding. How truly the scripture expresses such a situation:-

“Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth. - - -

Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.” (Isaiah 40: 26-28)

A BIBLE CLASS

“MOSES... SPAKE UNADVISEDLY WITH HIS LIPS”

Psalm 106:33

We know the circumstances which led to Moses’ speaking unadvisedly. God led Israel under Moses’ guidance out of Egyptian bondage. He gave them His law at Sinai, and led them out of Sinai to enter the land promised to Abraham. At Kadesh-barnea, Israel refused to enter their promised inheritance because of unbelief fearing the inhabitants of the land, its walled cities as well as the giants who dwelt therein. As a consequence of their unbelief, God sentenced them to wander for 40 years in the wilderness. Throughout the 40 years, they murmured against God and Moses as they were tested by the Almighty. Would they trust in Him? Would they follow the cloud and the fire? Would they obey Moses as he spoke God’s word? They did not rely on God to provide for their needs in their wandering.

Even before coming to Sinai, they murmured at Rephidim:

“...there was no water for the people to drink.

Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD?”

Exodus 17:1-2.

The people strove, contested, debated with Moses - as chide means. God commanded Moses to strike the rock in Horeb:

“Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink....” Exodus 17:6.

Moses obeyed God; he struck the rock and water did come forth in abundance, in spite of Israel’s chiding:

“...Is the LORD among us, or not?” Exodus 17:7.

Following their rebellion at Kadesh-barnea, Israel wandered for those 40 years, because of their continued unbelief. Over 600,000

of Israel perished in the wilderness, reminding those who were younger than 20 years at Kadesh-barnea, that God demands trust and obedience in those whom He has called.

After 38 years of wandering, Israel still murmured against Moses and Aaron. There were only two years before their entering the land! God had provided manna and water for those 38 years; yet, they murmured again at Meribah-Kadesh:

"...there was no water for the congregation: and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron.

And the people chode with Moses, and spake, saying, Would God that we had died when our brethren (600,000) died before the LORD!

And why have ye brought up the congregation of the LORD into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die there?" Numbers 20:2-4.

Again, they chode with Moses, blaming him for their distress, while it was the Almighty who led them, providing manna and water for 38 years because of their fathers' unbelief. They did not believe nor trust in God's provision and promises! What was Moses and Aaron to do?

"(They) went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto them.

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink." Numbers 20:6-8.

The word spake means to commune, declare, pronounce, or be a spokesman. Moses was as a spokesman for God to declare His word to Israel. Moses and Aaron failed to convey God's words to the congregation:

"...Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?

And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also."

Numbers 20:10-11

Moses and Aaron failed to sanctify God as they spoke to the rock. How did they fail? By saying: "... must we fetch you water out of this rock?" It was God who brought it forth through Moses, His spokesman. We might ask: Why did Moses and Aaron fail to sanctify God? We find the answer in the words of David:

"They (Israel) angered him also at the waters of strife, so that it went ill with Moses for their sakes:

Because they provoked his spirit, so that he spake unadvisedly with his lips." Psalm 106: 32-33.

Moses and Aaron were provoked by Israel. Indeed, they had been provoked for 38 years by Israel's murmuring against God and Moses, God's spokesman. Provoked in Hebrew, is "marah" - meaning bitter, and is used as to be bitter, to be disobedient, to rebel against. Moses used this word when he said: "Hear now, ye rebels (marah)..." (Numbers 20:10). Moses and Aaron had been accused, blamed and threatened to be stoned by Israel all those years - yet bearing up under the false accusations, helping Israel to trust in God. At Meribah, they were provoked to bitterness, to rebellion. Thus Moses ... "spake unadvisedly with his lips" - thereby failing to sanctify (make holy) the Almighty. We may be inclined to sympathize with Moses and Aaron for their failure after so long a period of false accusations. But this was a test of their trust in God. Would they continue to be spokesmen for God, declaring His word to Israel? When they said: "... must we fetch you water out of this rock?" - were they carrying God's word, His longsuffering with His people? Obviously the answer is NO! They allowed their fleshly feelings to overcome their responsibility to sanctify God. Moses spoke rashly, as we find unadvisedly is translated in the Psalter. Rashly means speaking without consideration of God's longsuffering, which is one of the fruits of the Spirit recorded in Galatians 5:22. As David said:

"...they provoked his spirit so that he spake unadvisedly with his lips." Psalm 106:33

The flesh is always there, waiting to overcome the spirit, in that warfare - the enmity between the flesh and the spirit.

Can we not benefit from Moses and Aaron's failure, as we struggle to do those things which sanctify God, remembering James' warning:

"... the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." James 3:8.

J.A.DeF.

"I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back:"
(Isaiah 43:6)

In less than a century, the nation of Israel has revived. What a miracle it has been! Of course in the fullest sense it is not so, for those people gathered together in what was the former land of Canaan, are really the descendants of the ancient tribe of Judah; the other tribes are still lost.

Judaism claims some 16 million adherents in the world today, and the majority of this total remain scattered about among the nations. Recently the Prime Minister of Israel appealed to this Diaspora to come to live in Israel, strengthening the nation by an increase in numbers.

The fact that they are again a nation is according to Bible prophecy, as purposed by the Eternal and indicated by the verse which forms the heading of this article. Will Jews respond to this appeal? Well, those who were persecuted by Nazi philosophy were glad to escape there; but what of other Jews who have prospered in the nations where they have been free from persecution?

Every year at the Jewish Passover meal, when the matzah (unleavened bread) is eaten on special kitchen utensils, a kind of toast is uttered, "Next year, in Jerusalem". Do they mean it? There is actually a reluctance among some Jews to implement what they have expressed.

Yes, there is again some evidence of anti-Semitism in countries of the EEC such as France, Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium, but a member of the Jewish community recently made an amazing comment:

"For Jews to move to Israel is not the solution to anti-Semitism in Europe. If anything, it would fuel the problem. It is precisely this confusion - that a Jew and an Israeli are one and the same - that is responsible for the recent rise in anti-Semitism."

Some Jews are emphasising that being Israeli indicates nationality, and this is quite distinct from being Jewish, which is a cultural identity. They claim their ancestors came from Eastern and Central Europe. They are nearer to their roots in old Jewish quarters of Prague or Budapest. They of course uphold the Zionist concept of Israel's right to exist as a nation, but certainly do not want to go and live there. In Britain, for example, there are 300,000 Jews, and most of these live in the London area and show no desire to uproot

themselves to live near Jerusalem . Why then do they say at Passover time, "Next year, in Jerusalem"? They give the explanation "it is a metaphorical expression of hope - for peace, freedom, unity and tolerance." So they overlook the biblical indication for these last days:-

"Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book. - - -

I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it." (Jeremiah 30:2-3)

Despite some Jewish reluctance, Israel will continue to grow, for the Diaspora will experience an overruling influence, which will bring about an eventual joy, never before experienced, but looked forward to by the sweet Psalmist of Israel:-

"Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! when the LORD bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad." (Psalm 14:7)

THE WINE OF THE APOSTASY (Dr J Thomas 1869)

The stupidity of mankind in all things pertaining to "God's way upon the earth" is astounding. The Bible has been in the Gentile world eighteen centuries, and the pulpit spirits have had nothing to do but to study it, and well paid for the labour; and yet the older the world grows the more infidel and rickety it becomes. The Scriptures say truly that "all the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk" (Revelation 17:2). And who are they by whom they have been intoxicated? By whom else than by the clerical spirits who are of the world, and speak of the world, and whom the world hears. There is no hope of reforming a drunkard so long as he has access to the whiskey; so there is no hope of enlightening a Gentile so long as he drinks in the bedrugged and intoxicating wine, poured out to him by the wine dealers of the apostasy, the "abomination and filthiness" of which so befuddle his intellect and obtusify his perception, that he mistakes the swimming in his head and his self-satisfied feelings for the operations of the spirit of God! To subject such a subject to the curative influence of the gospel, you must detach him from the corrupt and corrupting influence of the soul dealers of "the church".

"QUENCH NOT THE SPIRIT"

(I Thess.5:19)

We see from the context of this chapter that Paul was reminding his brethren in Thessalonica of the urgency to consistently work to be found as children of light and spirit, joined to the Lord Jesus Christ, and to fight against the darkness of fleshly thinking.

"For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him." I Thess. 5:9-10

He also exhorted his brethren to be mindful of one's fellow laborers in faith and to show the same kindness and compassion to all men:

"Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.

See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.

Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing.

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." I Thess:5:14-18

All of these qualities, spiritually strengthen the faithful preparing them for the return of the Lord Jesus. Along with these helps is our verse under consideration:

"Quench not the Spirit". I Thess.5:19

To "quench" is to extinguish as one would put out or smother a fire. If one extinguishes the spirit within, they no longer become light stands but those who walk in darkness without the hope of salvation. To extinguish a fire can also be done by not tending it carefully - through a lack of feeding fuel to the flames. So too can the spirit within die without proper food for its growth and vigor - through the neglect of prayer, daily readings and practicing the commandments of God.

In a similar fashion Paul wrote to his Ephesian brethren, teaching how they too may be mindful to quench not the spirit within them:

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy

Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Ephesians 4:29-32

To "grieve" the Holy Spirit is the same thought as to "quench" or extinguish - putting out the light of hope and salvation. These flaws mentioned by Paul are inherent in the flesh nature but can be overcome by developing fruits of the spirit in opposition.

Only those baptized into the death of Christ, and thus born of the spirit, who endeavor to walk after His example by putting down the man of flesh and his carnal impulses and quenching not the spirit of which they have been taught, will have the hope of Life at His return. Children of light or spirit are born at baptism, but it is from this point, that their struggle begins to battle against the wiles of their flesh nature every day with faith and obedience until the end of their earthly probation.

At the judgment seat of Christ, they will be judged against His standard. Have they quenched the spirit of love and faith taught to them from the Word by succumbing to the flesh's urges? Or have they denied themselves, walking in faith and showing themselves to be light standards to not only their brethren but to all men? Their hope of life eternal will depend upon it.

M.C.S.

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea.” (Revelation 13:1)

The solution of the Eastern Question ushers in the solution of the Roman Question, neither of which can be finally disposed of until the Ancient of days, that is, Jesus Christ come: and he give authority and power to his brethren, the Saints, to execute the judgment written. - - -

John's Sea Monster with the Bear-Feet and Leopard Body, represents Daniel's Fourth Beast in its amplest development of the last of the days. It answers to Nebuchadnezzar's Image at the crisis of its demolition by The Stone - - - its dominion will consist of (Russia), Continental and Mediterranean Europe, Persia, Ethiopia, Libya, Togarmah, Egypt and Syria.

- - - The part which Britain has to enact in “the time of the end” when “the Eastern Question” is to be scripturally resolved, clearly indicates that she is not one of the ten horns. She is not of their world, - - - a world peculiar to herself, and as distinct from them as Canada and the United States. - - -

(Dr. John Thomas 1863)

Dr. John Thomas, obviously, in his study of history in the light of scripture prophecy, could only have an outline of what he expected would develop in the future. But when an example of his remarks, as given above, is considered, how perceptive we see he was.

After the defeat of Germany in 1945, it was only 12 years to the Treaty of Rome, setting up the European Economic Community. Britain however held back for a time, but then in 1973, joined.

A great division existed in Europe from 1945, but remarkably in 1989 the Berlin Wall fell, which helped the unifying of Europe. Now in 2004 the European Union's enlargement eastwards, grows spectacularly. But what of Britain? The British population reveals reluctance for Britain to be absorbed into Europe. This has, to a degree, been helped by the major European powers standing aside from America and Britain in their effort to curb the excesses of the late Iraqi government. The British Prime Minister has promised that the country will be given a referendum to decide upon becoming more allied to a European constitution. If the vote goes against this happening, obviously Britain will become even more with the

United States, as Dr. John Thomas expected.

As for the enlarged community of 455 million people, the Roman Catholic Church is doing whatever it can to bring this about. For example Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have issued a statement saying that the Treaty fulfils the "moral vision" in a needed democratic, accountable institution. They have urged Catholics to support the European constitution in the coming referendum, saying this intervention by the church is non-political. Enlargement (say they) goes some way towards ending the division and the alienation of Europe and bringing what the Pope has called the "two lungs of Europe back into a unity." Of the new members of the E.U., the Catholic Church is well-established in all but Cyprus and Estonia. In Poland, for example more than nine-tenths of the 38 million inhabitants are church members, and more than half attend Mass regularly. And in Slovakia more than two thirds of the population are church members. Catholics have been urged to look for "political leadership that is committed to healing divisions and creating truly inclusive community."

So is coming to pass what Bible prophecy has indicated, and showing the degree of sound scriptural understanding that Dr. John Thomas had.

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS OCTOBER 2004

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

Sunday: Breaking of Bread: 11:30 a.m.

Sunday Afternoon Class: 1:45 p.m.

Midweek Bible Class: Forestville, Hamburg & Fredonia

Every Third Week: Revelation Study

Continued correspondence with those seeking a greater knowledge of God's Truth and His requirements, brings encouragement in this work granted by the Almighty. Our supplications are for guidance and help in this important work.

The month of July has brought record amounts of rain, causing flooding in some locations and bringing damage to important crops. This makes us realize that God alone controls the weather as He sees fit.

Fear of terrorism in this country and abroad causes perplexity among the nations and men's hearts failing them for fear - a sign of the nearness of Jesus' return to bring peace and safety which men are unable to achieve.

J.A.DeF

MANCHESTER, Ryecroft Hall, Audenshaw.

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 am.

Thursdays; Bible Class 2.00 pm.

Interest in our position continues in various quarters to which we endeavour to respond. Seeking for an overruling to enable us to conduct ourselves according to what the Spirit requires.