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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

“STAND STILL, AND SEE THE SALVATION OF THE LORD”

In our daily readings, we have followed Israel as they left Egyptian bondage. As they traveled, the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire led the way. This was the sign of God’s being with them. All they had to do was to lift up their eyes and there was the token of the Almighty’s presence. As they left Egypt, God led them to the Red Sea. Pharaoh and his army with many chariots and soldiers pursued Israel. We read in Exodus:

“... when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD.

And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us...”

Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness.” Exodus 14:10-12.

Moses responded to Israel’s fear and murmuring:

“Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.

The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.” Exodus 14:13-14.

They were to hold their peace, speak not a word, but trust in God who had just freed them from bondage, and promised the inheritance of a land flowing with milk and honey. When one is fearful it is hard to stand still and hold one’s peace. The fleshly mind would be to run away from the threat. How could it be that they would see the salvation of the Lord? The Almighty spoke to Moses:

“... lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thy hand over the

sea, and divide it:  
and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through  
the midst of the sea. And the angel of God, which went  
before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them;  
and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and  
stood behind them:

And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the  
camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them,  
but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not  
near the other all the night." Exodus 14:16,19-20.

The Almighty protected His people and confounded the  
Egyptians! All Israel had to do was to stand still, look up to the  
cloud - the evidence of God with His people. We know how God  
through Moses caused the Red Sea to dry up, and Israel marched  
through between the walls of water.

Moses then:

"... stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea  
returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and  
the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the  
Egyptians in the midst of the sea" Exodus 14:27.

Thus Israel saw the salvation of the Lord:

"And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon  
the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD and believed  
the LORD, and his servant Moses." Exodus 14:31.

Two months later, Israel again murmured.

"... Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in  
the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when  
we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth  
into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with  
hunger." Exodus 16:3.

The Almighty provided manna every day except the Sabbath,  
for 40 years in their wilderness journey. Again Israel murmured  
against God and Moses, saying:

"...Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto  
them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the  
LORD?" Exodus 17:2.

God provided water out of the rock in the sight of the people, and all Israel and their flocks and herds had water. Again, there was a need to “stand still” and “hold your peace” — look up and “see the salvation of the LORD”

At times of threat, affliction, illness, it is difficult to stand still, to look up and seek help from the presence of God with His people. Moses was not alone in his provocation; all God’s people suffer trials to prove their trust in the Almighty’s care. David was one who had trust in God, as he stood still and waited on the Lord, and saw His salvation in a time of testing. We have read this morning of his mind in Psalm 78, where he meditated upon the hand of God with Moses and His people in the wilderness:

“He divided the sea, and caused them to pass through;...  
In the daytime also he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a light of fire.  
And they sinned yet more against him by provoking the most High in the wilderness.  
But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath.  
For he remembered that they were but flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again.  
... (he) made his own people to go forth like sheep, and guided them in the wilderness like a flock  
... he brought them to the border of his sanctuary, even to this mountain, which his right hand had purchased.”

Psalm 78:13-14,17,38-39,52,54.

David rehearsed and meditated on all God’s mercies and provisions to Israel, and applied them to his own living in a way that was pleasing to God, who spoke of him as a man after His own heart. David stood still, held his peace, waited for the deliverance of God, and went softly, as he wrote:

“For I am ready to halt (stand still), and my sorrow is continually before me.  
For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin.  
Forsake me not, O LORD: O my God, be not far from me.  
Make haste to help me, O Lord my salvation.”

Psalm 38:17-18, 21-22.

When he became king over all Israel, years after having been anointed by Samuel, we read of his mind:

“... David perceived that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Israel’s sake.”  
II Samuel 5:12.

The Almighty quickly put David in a position to test his mind. As the Philistines came up to seek David (II Samuel 5:17):

“... David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines?  
wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the LORD said unto David, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into thine hands.”  
II Samuel 5.19.

David stood still, halted, enquired. Will I see the salvation of the LORD? He did go up, and with God’s help, conquered the Philistines. The Philistines again came up (verse 22), and David again enquired of the Lord. However, he could have reasoned that God previously had said: “Go up.” It would not be necessary to enquire of the LORD again. But no, he stood still and asked. God replied:

“... Thou shalt not go up; but fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees.  
... when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shall bestir thyself: for then shall the LORD go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines.”  
11 Samuel 5:23-24.

In his trust and fear of the Almighty, David did stand still, did look up, and he saw the salvation of the Lord! His mind is very clearly shown as he exclaimed:

“In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion.  
Deliver me in thy righteousness, and cause me to escape:  
incline thine ear unto me, and save me.  
Be thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort: thou hast given commandment to save me; for thou art my rock and my fortress”  
Psalms 71:1-3.

In this mind he did wait for “the sound of the going in the

tops of the mulberry trees." The word "going" comes from a root meaning a pace or a step - implying a marching of an army. When David heard that sound, he and Israel marched against the Philistines, and smote them. He kept this mind all through his life, with the exception of his sin involving Bath-sheba and the death of Uriah, the Hittite. Also, he failed to heed the counsel of Joab when David required him to number his people. The Almighty forgave David because he was quick to repent, quick to acknowledge: "I have sinned against the LORD."

Let us go back to Israel in the wilderness. They were to be plagued because they made a golden calf and worshipped it, while Moses was 40 days in Mt. Sinai, communing with God:

"... when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him."  
Exodus 32:1.

They knew Moses was in the mount, communing with God. If they had looked up to that mountain, and remembered how God had spoken from the mount, as it shook with an earthquake, where God had given to Moses the two tables of stone with His commandments, would they have dared to make other gods?

"These be thy gods. O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt."  
Exodus 32:4.

When Moses came down from the mount and perceived the idolatry of Israel, he broke the two tables of the commandments. God sentenced the most culpable to be slain by the children of Levi, who responded to the call of Moses. Was it because they did not stand still, did not wait for Moses to descend from the mountain and show them the salvation of the Lord?

The fleshly mind is not inclined to "stand still" - to "hold your peace" - going patiently, softly, and haltingly. It is a constant struggle to trust in God's word, His commandments, praying for His guidance in the realization that:

“the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak”

Matthew 26:41.

Let us heed the admonition of the Lord Jesus as He spoke of the signs of His return to establish God’s kingdom:

“... when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption (the salvation of the Lord) draweth nigh”

Luke 21:28.

J.A.DeF.

**PSALM 42**

“To the chief Musician, Maschil,  
for the sons of Korah.”

We have recently read in our daily portions the first of eleven psalms entitled, “for the sons of Korah”. The sons of Kohath, of the house of Levi, had a particular work in the Lord’s house. During the forty years journey in the wilderness, they were to carry the furnishings of the tabernacle, after they were first covered by the sons of Aaron, the high priest. The sons of Korah’s duties were explained:

“And Shallum the son of Kore, the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah, and his brethren, of the house of his father, the Korahites, were over the work of the service, keepers of the gates of the tabernacle: and their fathers, being over the host of the LORD, were keepers of the entry.”

I Chronicles 9:19.

Korah is translated as “ice” from a prime root to make bald, clear or polish. These eleven psalms are given to those endeavoring to be made smooth, having their rough edges or fleshly characteristics removed through God’s instruction, (Maschil) from the chief musician (the One who overcomes). These “sons of Korah” are those struggling to be the brethren and sisters of the Lord Jesus - those living a life of service and praise to Him, through the instruction given in His Word.

David, though called “a man after God’s own heart”, knew times of depression and turmoil when an inner voice questioned the path of Truth he was on, as he writes:

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

The “help of his countenance” is the gift of salvation God has offered to those who serve him in fear and love. Salvation is only of God, yet when tribulation comes to try one’s faith, the flesh says. “where is thy God?”, stirring up doubt. David knew these thoughts must be quelled and was intent on seeking God’ ways:

“O my God, my soul is cast down within me: therefore will I remember thee from the land of Jordan. . .As the hart

panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God." Psalm 42:6 &1.

A hart is a type of deer or antelope, which needs to be sustained by pastureland and a constant source of water. Like one that pants or yearns for water, David thirsts for God's help and knowledge and longs for the day he will stand before Him:

"My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?" Psalm 42:2.

He believed in the judgment to come, yet still sleeps awaiting the call to resurrection when he will "appear before God". Yet before that time appointed, he knew there must be a shaping and molding by trial and tribulation - the rough edges smoothed away, if he hoped to be known as one of the sons of Korah.

Paul speaks of this time of trial and difficult circumstances, which God brought during Moses' day:

"For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy." Romans 9:15-16.

The children of Israel received testing at the hand of Pharaoh to see if they would call upon the God of their fathers for help and deliverance. Would they endure the smoothing process, looking in faith to the reward promised?

"Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?

Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

What if God, willing to show his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much long-suffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:

And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory," Romans 9:20-23.

God as the Creator, made both Pharaoh and the children of Israel - one fitted to destruction and one to salvation, in order to make known His purpose and the extent of His mercy.

This 42nd psalm written by David for the "sons of Korah", helps us, though we do not find ourselves in severe circumstances

as those in Moses' time, the enemy is always there - within and without - for we too will be tested to prove what is really within our heart. In time of trouble will we turn to Him for help and say to our flesh:

"Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted in me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance." Psalm 42:5.

Familiar words in Malachi remind us that God has promised His mercy and help to those who fear him:

"Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not." Malachi 3:16-18.

God knows those who are His and a book of remembrance has been written containing their names. In that day of judgment, He will spare them from His wrath if they have allowed themselves to be made smooth, polished by adversity and reflect the light of His word as costly jewels.

David asked, "when shall I come and appear before God?" He didn't know, nor do we, but we feel that time is fast approaching, as signs in the world point to the Lord Jesus' soon return. Will we be able to stand before Him, sparkling as a priceless gem or will our spiritual visage be rough and unpolished - marred by the flesh that has dominated and darkened the life we were given?

Why are we, as David was at times, cast down? Because our flesh doesn't like the restraints of the refining process and it chafes when we are tested to prove what is truly within our hearts.

In the midst of testing we should reflect upon why it has come, remembering the work of polishing which must be ongoing if we hope to stand before Him clean, sparkling and without spot.

M.C.S.

### The Last Days

“ - - - blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,  
Without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, - - -.”

(2 Timothy 3:2-3)

With the above description, the Spirit warns of what is to be the situation in these last days.

We look at young people gathered in groups on street corners. These are often bent on mischief. Daily there are reports of attacks by young people on individuals going about their own business and who are behaving innocently. Children and young adults are visiting the stores with one intention only, and this is to steal whatever they can get away with. Some parents have a very hard time as a result of the behaviour of their offspring. Children are now resisting parental control. As for the words that proceed out of their lips, the scripture aptly describes their speech as blasphemous. A recent report described this situation in the following terms:-

“Town shopping centres (are being spoiled) by thugs and yobbish behaviour, sometimes by children as young as ten or eleven years of age, whose parents should be looking after them.

Friday and Saturday night binge-drinking makes our town centres no go areas for respectable citizens, with the low-level graffiti, vandalism and disorder which is the work of a very small minority but which makes the law-abiding majority afraid and angry.”

A top British politician has spoken of a recent experience which caused him upset:

“I got into a motorway cafe - - - and some kids said something to me and I said, ‘What did you say, lad?’

He went off and he came back with about ten people wearing hoods. But of course, I have security control who arrived and they all vanished.

But what struck me about it, not only did they come with these kind of uniforms but they had a movie camera to take a film of any such incident. I found that very alarming.”

Recently an amnesty was arranged by police in Liverpool for pupils at a primary school. They were children aged ten and eleven. It was found that these had access to weapons. The police provided church premises to which these young people could go to hand in

their weapons. The law-officers were astounded by what emerged during the six hours of this arrangement. The items taken off the street included twelve ball-bearing guns, eight lock knives, fourteen pen knives, one flick knife, a hammer and six adapted weapons including knuckle-duster and a sharpened screw driver. The conclusion of such a revelation is that increasing numbers of schoolchildren across Britain are arming themselves because they fear being attacked, even on school premises by gangs of hooded-top bullies as they travel to and from school. A survey has provided the alarming statistic that by the age of sixteen, one in four carries a knife. One amazing comment was that the amnesty resulted in some young children aged only seven bringing in weapons.

In the light of this evidence how significant and apt for these last days is the Bible warning that at the end there will be disobedient children who will be incontinent and fierce.

Of course, as the years have gone by, there has been a great diminishing of respect for the Bible. The theory of evolution, taught in the schools, has undermined scriptural testimony. It deprives young minds of reflection on the simplicity of God's way and purpose with His creation. A recent, so called, scientific comment said:-

“As we learn more about our universe it is becoming a reality we might soon be forced to confront a fiery asteroid hurtling towards Earth at fifty times the speed of Concorde.”

The scientific community has spoken recently of tracking a near asteroid referred to as 2004 M N 4; and has said “although the chances of it actually hitting us are very slim, it is one that has to be watched.” They then went on to say that if it did hit land, a large chunk of the Earth will be gone. Some even said, concerning things of this nature in the heavens, “We know it is going to happen - but when?”

In the pride of its own knowledge science overlooks the comforting assurance of scripture concerning the Most High:-

“Thy faithfulness IS UNTO ALL GENERATIONS: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth.” (Psalm 119:90)

The promise of God to Noah and mankind after the flood, that there will be no more universal calamity, does not, in these days, come into the calculation of scientific thinking. And with such tutoring how can there be a forwarding of reverence in the minds of the young towards behaviour to which the word of God makes an appeal?

**A BIBLE CLASS**

**"PAUL .. TOOK AND CIRCUMCISED HIM"**

**Acts 16:3**

Our subject involves Paul's choosing Timothy as a companion in the work of preaching the gospel to the Jews and Gentiles. Barnabas previously had become Paul's companion, but they parted company. When Paul went through Syria and Cilicia confirming the churches, he met a disciple in Derbe and Lystra named Timothy:

"Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek.

Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium."

Acts 16:1-2.

We find more of Timotheus' background, as Paul wrote:

"To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord."

II Timothy 1:2.

Timothy was to Paul a dearly beloved son in the truth. Paul remembered Timothy's faith:

"... I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

Wherefore I put thee in remembrance: that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

II Timothy 1:5-7.

By putting his hands upon Timothy, Paul bestowed the gift of the Holy Spirit, and then took Timothy with him as he taught the gospel to the Jews and Gentiles. Why did he choose Timothy? It was because of his "unfeigned faith," the esteem of his brethren, and the result of his having been brought up in the Truth under the instruction of his grandmother and mother, who were faithful followers of the Lord Jesus.

Because of Timothy's "unfeigned faith":

"Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and

circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters; for thy knew all that his father was a Greek"

Acts 16:3.

Timothy had not been circumcised when eight days old, as was required by the law (Genesis 17:12) probably because his father was a Greek. Paul, anticipating the need to convey the gospel to the Jews as well as to the Gentiles, circumcised Timothy, so that he would be able to accompany Paul into the synagogues of the Jews in their work. The question may he asked: Why did Paul believe this act of circumcision would be allowable, seeing that the law had come to an end, when Jesus Christ nailed it to the cross at His death? Under the law, the act of circumcision was required as a token of the promises given to Abraham by God:

"And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you."

Genesis 17:11.

All those who entered into the covenant were to be circumcised - a sign that they were to cut off the flesh and its lusts, in obedience to the commandments of God. All the seed of Abraham, the Jews, were required to embrace this token of their covenant; or as the word means, a sign, a work that they were faithful Jews, in covenant relationship with God as His obedient children.

With the coming of the Lord Jesus, and his victory over His fleshly nature by his death, the old covenant was fulfilled, when He, the seed of the woman, "bruised the serpent in the head" (See Genesis 3:15), fulfilling God's promise of a Redeemer. We remember His victory each first day of the week, keeping in mind His words as He established a "new covenant":

"... he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying,

This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

Likewise also the cup after supper, saying. This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

Luke 22:19-20.

The old testament or covenant was fulfilled with His death, and was replaced by the new testament in His blood. Paul makes

this very clear, in writing to his Galatian brethren:

“For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.”

Galatians 5:5-6

Paul further wrote:

“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature” Galatians 6:15.

How can one be a new creature? Again, Paul helps us:

“For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:

But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter, whose praise is not of men, but of God.” Romans 2:28-29.

Paul, having bestowed the Spirit by the putting on of his hands, circumcised Timothy, not as a requirement or as a token of the covenant, but “because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek” (Acts 16.3). It was an expedient act on Paul’s part, to help in their work with the Jews, being able to enter into their synagogue. It gave opportunity to further preach the gospel, the new testament in His blood, which fulfilled the old testament (covenant), and taught that salvation requires a heart that is circumcised, the fleshly thinking cut off; therefore, one’s “praise is not of men, but of God” (Romans 2:29). Paul and Timothy worked together and preached this gospel from AD 52 when Paul chose Timothy in Lystra, until Paul’s death in AD 66 (II Timothy 4:6) - a matter of 14 years. They were helped by the hand of God being with them in that work

Are not we also helped - not by the gift of the Holy Spirit, as were Paul and Timothy - but by a heart that is circumcised, the flesh cut off, in a manner which is pleasing to God?

J.A.DeF.

**HE WILL NOT ALWAYS CHIDE**  
**Psalm 103:9**

In this psalm, David makes apparent the many bountiful gifts bestowed by God on His people:

“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:  
Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;  
Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;  
Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle’s.”

Psalm 103:2-5.

In return, the Almighty expects His servants to walk in His ways, submitting their living in fear and honor before Him:

“For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.”

Psalm 103:11.

Without God’s mercy, there would be no hope for man, for nothing he does is worthy of such blessing.

Knowing the frail nature of man, so prone to error, David writes:

“The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.  
He will not always chide: neither will he keep anger for ever.”

Psalm 103:8-9.

To “chide” means to toss, giving the idea of contending with. When we think of Israel’s history, how many times it is recorded how they contended with Him, turning away from His ways, yet God in mercy tempered His rebuke with forgiveness when repentance was seen.

David was one who knew God’s mercy first-hand in his life. Even though he failed grievously at times, God’s anger was softened because of his swift repentance, therefore did He not chide forever with David:

“For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.”

Psalm 30:5.

God contends or chides with man because the flesh is contrary and headstrong in following its own path, but when repentance is seen, the Lord in mercy forgives. Isaiah comforted those in Israel with this same message:

“For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee.  
In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer.

For this is as the waters of Noah unto me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee.

For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee.”  
Isaiah 54:7-10.

God afflicts and chides, making His displeasure known, in order to spark a spirit of repentance and a return to a faithful walk.

God did chide with man during Noah’s day, and for one hundred and twenty years they were given an opportunity to turn back to him through Noah’s witness:

“And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.  
And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.” Genesis 6:1-3,5-6.

Only Noah found grace in God's eyes because of his faithfulness, and in His mercy God saved him and his family from death through the ark. The destruction of man gave God no pleasure, for it is not His desire that any perish, but that all would come to repentance and walk before Him in faithfulness:

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."  
II Peter 3:9.

The history of God's working with His people has shown He will not chide forever, but has established a covenant with those like Noah, who fear and bless His name:

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.  
For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."  
Galatians 6:7-8.

To those who endeavor to walk after His ways, submitting their living with humility and a fear to displease Him, will God have mercy. As a Father does He chasten His children, but not without purpose, for in mercy does He forgive their transgressions when they turn with repentance to Him:

"Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? He retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.  
He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea."

Micah 7:18-19.

M.C.S.

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

“- - - 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)

Over the years since 1945 and shortly after, nations with nuclear expertise have been the United States, Russia and Great Britain. But a change has come at the start of this new century. This change has caused the nuclear powers considerable worry. For example Iran evidences nuclear knowledge. Then over in the Far East, North Korea is becoming strong militarily. Though only having a population of twenty three million people, the ruling dynasty there is in firm control; and, as a result, the people subscribe to enormous military initiatives displaying for example a formidable army which has tens of thousands of long-range artillery pieces that line its borders. These weapons could easily fire upon Seoul in South Korea, which is only thirty five miles from North Korea. The U.S. Pentagon estimates that if America came to the conclusion that an invasion of North Korea had become necessary, half a million South Korean civilians would die, and there would be at least a million American casualties. This estimate concerns conventional weapon warfare. But the question is, what if it became nuclear? This has now become the fear. North Korea now announces that it is stepping up work on a nuclear arsenal. Satellite photographs have shown preparation for an underground nuclear test at a railway tunnel.

Nuclear missiles in North Korea’s hands would threaten Beijing, Seoul, Tokyo and Los Angeles. In fact it’s government has been boasting that it has been successful in preparing for missiles with nuclear warheads. What does China think about this situation? China has announced that it will block any United Nations Security Council move to impose sanctions on North Korea if that nation refuses to have talks about eliminating nuclear weapons. Of course North Korea started by saying it was developing “peaceful” nuclear operations; but Inspectors who were endeavouring to monitor such operations at Yongbyon were expelled in 2002; and now it has been

announced that the country has launch-ready systems. This preparation has of course been costly, and so another worry that emerges is, will North Korea's regime put its nuclear technology up for sale? North Korea has sold weapons in the past; will it sell nuclear bombs? One political observer has made the comment, "the most likely buyers are probably terrorists rather than other governments." Washington has expressed the warning that if there is any sign of this happening, then America will act. South Korea and Japan have followed by urging North Korea to abandon nuclear arms. But just think of the situation, if North Korea's government was in urgent need of finance, and to save its position, it could prosper by selling nuclear weapons to terrorists! What would those terrorists be capable of doing? The madness of such organisations is seen in the actions of their suicide bombers, who would have no compunction about having a nuclear bomb strapped around them; for it is evident their aim is to kill as many people as possible when they bring about their own demise.

No wonder then, that, though it is careful not to over alarm, the United States' Government is concerned about the possible proliferation of nuclear weapons. At present America is perhaps concentrating more on Iran, even though Iran is not expected to go fully nuclear until 2008. But the fact is now becoming clearer, that the world is indeed under threat of a developing nuclear holocaust. This is the fulfilling of Christ's warning, which indicates that the time of His Coming approaches:-

" - - - except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved. - - -" (Matthew 24:22)

**NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR MAY 2005**

HAMBURG, NEW YORK, Corner Southwestern Blvd. & Pleasant Avenue.

Sunday: Breaking of Bread 11:30am

Sunday Afternoon Class: 1:45pm

Midweek Bible Class: Forestville, Hamburg & Fredonia

Every Third Week: Revelation Study

Gratitude is felt for the answer to prayer concerning ill health among some of our brethren and sisters. Truly the words of James are true, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much", (James 5:16).

The annual summer outing is scheduled for August 6th, God willing.

J.A.DeF.

MANCHESTER, Ryecroft Hall, Audenshaw.

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

We are still getting requests in response to our advertising of our booklet on the subject of "doctrines". What is particularly noticeable is the degree of interest on Bible subjects in Ireland as distinct from the disregard in England.