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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 WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE"

Again we find help from the words of Paul as he wrote of his warfare against his flesh:

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh.

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.)

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled." II Corinthians 10:3-6.

What is our warfare? It is the enmity-the struggle between the lusts of the flesh and the fruits of the Spirit. That struggle has existed since man's failure to obey the word of God in the Garden of Eden, and God said to the serpent:

"...I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed: it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Genesis 3:15.

To "bruise" is to snap, overwhelm, or to break. That warfare leads to death, as God sentenced all men to become dying creatures through the disobedience of Adam and Eve. That warfare will and does continue as long as man exists. In His mercy, God has granted a means of escape from the law of sin leading to death, by the provision of Jesus Christ, the seed of the woman. He conquered the temptation of His fleshly nature, became the Victor over His flesh, and the means of redemption for those who, like Him, are struggling in that warfare to break the power of the flesh, and allow the power of the Spirit to rule in their living.

We, Brethren and Sisters, began that warfare when we were baptized - buried with Christ and raised from the waters of baptism to be a new man, born of the Spirit. We need help in our warfare, our time of testing. Do we conquer that flesh, crucify it, as did Jesus? NO! We fail, but God in mercy provides a means of atonement through the Lord Jesus, if our determination and faith is steadfast,

strengthened by those weapons which “are not carnal (fleshly), “but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds” - as Paul has shown us.

We might ask: What are those weapons that can help us conquer our flesh? Paul makes this very clear as he wrote to his Ephesian brethren:

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

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

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”  
Ephesians 6:10-11,13.

What is this “whole armour of God”?

“...loins girt about with truth, ...the breastplate of righteousness, ... feet shod with ... the gospel of peace, ... the shield of faith ...the helmet of salvation and (finally) ... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

Ephesians 6:14-17.

It is significant that this armor is defensive, to protect the one who wears it. The only exception is the final piece of armor - “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” It was through the word of God that the Lord Jesus conquered His temptations in the wilderness, following His baptism by John. His answer to His fleshly temptations was: “...It is written.” The word of God was His strength, and by it He conquered His carnal nature, getting the victory. His ultimate victory was as He died on the cross, never having sinned, and cried out in triumph: “It is finished.” His warfare was complete.

How does this apply to us, Brethren and Sisters? Let us listen to Jesus’ words to His disciples just prior to His victorious death;

“... If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it and whosoever will lose his life (carnal) for my sake shall find it.”

Matthew 16:24-25.

Can we then more fully understand Paul's words to his brethren in Corinth?

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ... bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." II Corinthians 10:3-5.

Jesus brought into captivity - conquered, defeated every fleshly thought throughout His 33-1/2 years of obedience to God's word. When tempted, His thought was: "... Abba, Father ... not what I will, but what thou wilt" (Mark 14:36). Further, "It is written" - the sword (word) of God. Can we see why Jesus said to Peter who drew a sword and cut off the high priest's ear:

"Put up thy Sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?" John 18:11.

Jesus' armor, His strength was the sword of the Lord - that word which enabled Him to be the Victor.

Paul, before his conversion on the way to Damascus, fought a warfare - not against self, but against the followers of Jesus. His weapons were carnal:

"...he made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison." Acts 8:3

When Stephen was stoned (he died a victor), the witnesses:

"... laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul (Paul)." Acts 7:58.

Further, Paul:

"...yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem."

Acts 9:1

Here Paul used the weapons of the flesh - threatening, imprisoning, persecuting the followers of Jesus. We know what

happened to Paul on his journey to Damascus. He was blinded by a great light. He heard a voice: "... Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" He was blinded for three days. Then Ananias, at God's command, went into the house where Paul was, and put his hands upon Saul, saying:

"... Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Spirit. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

And when he had received meat, he was strengthened."

Acts 9:17-19.

Thus Paul began a new warfare, having new weapons - not carnal, but spiritual - and gave his life to denying himself, taking up his cross, and following Jesus. He struggled, "bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." How could he do this? He perhaps would think: What would Jesus do? Or, simply, "It is written" - for that is what Jesus did. To bring into captivity implies a prisoner of war - one who has been captured and no longer is an adversary. Paul expressed his mind in this warfare:

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Nay, in all things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

Romans 8:35-37

Paul suffered all these things, and could say:

"I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full, and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Philippians 4:12-13.

Paul was strengthened by his conversion in approximately 35 AD, until his death in Rome at the hands of Nero about 65-66 AD.

As he approached the end of his life, he wrote to his beloved son in the faith, Timothy:

“I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

I have fought a good fight (warfare), I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

II Timothy 4:6-8.

Paul will be among those at Jesus’ right hand when He judges those responsible. No doubt Stephen will be among those also. Can we imagine Stephen’s reaction as he sees Paul amidst those granted eternal life? Paul would be quick to express his sorrow and seek Stephen’s forgiveness. Stephen would quickly grant his forgiveness for Paul’s participation in his stoning. They would rejoice together, sharing the joy of their Lord!

Let us strive to be with Paul, Stephen, and all those who, although they have walked in the flesh, have not used the weapons of the flesh. Rather, they have fought to bring “every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and (have striven to bring) into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” How can we do so, Brethren and Sisters? Paul speaks to his Roman brethren, and to us:

“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,

J.A.DeF.

**"I WISDOM DWELL WITH PRUDENCE"**

**Proverbs 8:12**

Often in the Proverbs Solomon speaks of "wisdom" - God's wisdom found in His word. The great importance of wisdom is seen in the last of this 8th chapter where the Spirit says:

"For whoso findeth me (wisdom) findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD.

But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul:  
all they that hate me love death." Proverbs 8:35-36

Only through God's word can man hope to escape the bonds of death inherent to all flesh - through a faithful walk based on belief in the gospel and the name of Jesus Christ.

Wisdom in our verse under consideration gives the thought of using understanding with skill:

"I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions." Proverbs 8:12

This indicates more than just mental knowledge, but a using of that wisdom as it is taught, to increase one spiritually.

The thought of "prudence" has both good and bad connotations. It can mean discretion but also can be used as subtlety or guile. Discretion is the quality of having prudence - exercising sound judgment with caution - managing one's affairs with care. The thought of prudence is found in the Proverbs more than any other place in the scriptures.

"The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning" Proverbs 16:21

"Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open his folly." Proverbs 13:16

"The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going." Proverbs 14:15

Paul was one who was prudent in his witness to God's word.

In one instance he was brought before the Jew's council and perceiving that it was comprised of both Sadducees and Pharisees, he wisely used the knowledge of their differences to cause a division among them, resulting in his rescue from that dangerous situation, where they sought to do him harm:

"But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question. And when he had so said, there arose a dissension between the Pharisees and the Sadducees: and the multitude was divided.

And when there arose a great dissension, the chief captain, fearing lest Paul should have been pulled in pieces of them, commanded the soldiers to go down, and to take him by force from among them, and to bring him into the castle."

Acts 23:6-7,10

The Lord Jesus was another who prudently used His knowledge of the word to deflect the treachery of the priests and elders who opposed Him and sought to silence His preaching:

"And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? And who gave thee this authority?

And Jesus answered and said unto them. I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, whence was it? From heaven, or of men?

And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him?

But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet.

And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things."

Matthew 21:23-27

Through the power of the Spirit, the Lord Jesus knew their questions were not posed from a desire to learn the Truth, but rather

to ensnare Him. God's wisdom was not within their hearts for their endeavors were directed to magnify self and their positions of prestige among the people, not to humbly serve the Almighty and His Son.

"When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;  
Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee."  
Proverbs 2:10-11

The ability to be prudent is impossible without godly wisdom for it is the foundation of right thinking. A reward is held out only to the prudent who use that knowledge wisely - a crown of victory to those who seek to serve and honor Him through humility and selflessness.

David was one who endeavored to walk in wisdom as he wrote in the Psalms of this same hope - to be one day among His saints:

"Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.  
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 30:4-5

The ultimate favor of the Lord is the gift of everlasting life for those found acceptable in His mercy, at Christ's judgment seat. The "joy" that will come in the morning on the dawning of the new day which will herald Christ's kingdom, at His return.

"For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD."  
Proverbs 8:35

M.C.S.

**“---HE HATH SET THE WORLD IN THEIR HEART.---”**  
(Ecclesiastes 3:11)

“--- God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.”

(Ecclesiastes 7:29)

As the years go by, man adds more and more to his knowledge. This is the result of the faculty God has given to man above all other life. But to increase knowledge without due reverence to the Supreme Being, who is the source of all things, is to tread an uncertain path. The sad fact is that man has more confidence in his findings than what is really warranted. Many of his theories are complicated in their explanation, but they are taught to the young, who are expected to absorb them. Consider, as an example, the following comment. It is about a visit to the Galapagos Islands:-

“I was on the Galapagos Islands, 600 miles out into the Pacific from the coast of South America, where rare wildlife is all around you ---. I saw them just as Charles Darwin did 180 years ago when he landed from HMS Beagle and they inspired his theory of evolution. The 19 islands emerged from the sea by volcanic eruption six million years ago --- the remoteness of the Galapagos meant the wildlife evolved through natural selection without outside interference, making it a living laboratory of natural history ---. The iguanas and giant tortoises (give) the islands a prehistoric atmosphere ---.”

It will be seen that such comments leave out any consideration of Noah's flood and the biblical declaration:-

“Every beast, every creeping thing, and every fowl, and whatsoever creepeth upon the earth, after their kinds (families) went forth out of the ark.” (Genesis 8:19)

So began a new start, and the beginning of a multiplication of life, which is now seen in all the earth in such a varied abundance of living creatures. The inference that the Galapagos and its creatures go back six million years, is seen to oppose what the holy word of God testifies. There is not the slightest thread of evidence to suggest six million years of evolution.

Recently, what was thought to be a startling announcement was made in the following terms:-

“Scientists pin hopes on fossil discovery - - -. A newly-discovered prehistoric ape may be a Missing Link in the evolutionary chain leading to humans. The 13 million-year old creature, whose fossil remains were unearthed in Spain, is thought to be the oldest known common ancestor of modern great apes, it was revealed. - - - Pierolapithecus catalaunicus dates back to a ‘dark age’ in primate development about which little is known. During this period 11 to 16 million years ago, known as the Miocene, there was an evolutionary split between the great apes and the lesser apes which include modern gibbons and siamangs. Experts now bracket humans in the ‘hominidae’ family of great apes, along with orang-utans, chimpanzees, bonobos and gorillas - - -. Although it was discovered in Spain, scientists believe it probably also lived in Africa, the birthplace of humans.”

The difference between this fossilised creature and the monkey is said to be its rib cage which is wider and flatter than the monkey. The shoulder blades of Pierolapithecus lie along its back, whereas monkeys have shoulder blades attached to the sides of the rib cage, like dogs. The reason for this comment appears to be the inference that Pierolapithecus having shoulder blades in this position, its shape is similar to the human frame. This has resulted in the comment about a link in the evolutionary chain leading to humans. But what needs to be realised, is that this kind of rib cage in the fossil, is just as evident in the modern ape.

If the evidence is faced up to fairly and squarely, there is no indication at all, of any connection or link, in the descent of the ape and the descent of man. And the very name given to the fossil, of Pierolapithecus catalaunicus, is the scientific fraternity endeavouring to convey their very particular knowledge, as a result of their research.

The book of Ecclesiastes says, men “have sought out many inventions”, and invention, as described by the dictionary, is “an original contrivance”. But it can also mean “fiction or fabrication, or imaginative conception”. Darwin started the doubt, and others

since have added to his suggestions, and such comments are conveyed to the young, while the Bible is put at one side. So the unique testimony of the Word of God is not appreciated. Its truth is indeed simple and uncomplicated, but the power of that simplicity no longer makes an impression. No wonder then that the world fails to understand what the Bible is saying; and so as scripture says, "the world is set in the heart" of mankind.

A BIBLE CLASS

"CAN A MAN TAKE FIRE IN HIS BOSOM?"

Proverbs 6:27

The Proverbs are wise sayings, written by Solomon, inspired by God to:

“. . . know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;

To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;

To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.” Proverbs 1:2-4.

The Proverbs cover a multitude of subjects, revealing the wisdom that the Almighty bestowed upon Solomon.

Our subject today is addressed by Solomon:

“My son, keep thy father’s commandments, and forsake not the law of thy mother.

For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.” Proverbs 6:20,23-24.

The Almighty has given us commandments, to make sin “exceeding sinful” (Romans 7:13). His commandments are like signposts pointing out the path that leads to His kingdom for those who heed His directions and His warning of danger. David wrote:

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” Psalm 119:105.

We, being flesh, are subject to the temptations of our nature, as are all men. John warned:

“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.” I John 2:16-17.

Even David, a man after God’s own heart, succumbed to the lust of the flesh, in the matter of Bathsheba, to the extent that under the law he should have been stoned. He quickly repented and was forgiven by His merciful God, but endured tribulation the rest of his life for having turned aside to the ways of the flesh. These lusts are ever present to test our love and fear of God. Will we keep His

commandments; will we walk in the way of life; or, will we wander from that divinely illuminated path?

Solomon, in his God-given wisdom, revealed why God gave these commandments:

“To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of the strange woman.

Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.

For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.”  
Proverbs 6:24-26.

The strange woman, the evil woman, the whorish woman, the adulteress personifies the temptation of the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, warned against by God’s law - His signposts which say: DANGER AHEAD. For a part of his life, Solomon was subject to God’s word, and prospered; indeed, he was a great king, known for his wisdom and understanding, and having great riches - all granted because of His obedience to God’s word. The Almighty, knowing man’s temptations, gave instruction for future kings over Israel:

“... he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt...

Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away:

neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold. And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book...

And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them.”  
Deuteronomy 17:16-19.

As Solomon grew older, richer, more powerful as king, we know how he turned from the way of life to the way of the flesh.

“But king Solomon loved many strange women, . . .

Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel,

Ye shall not go in to them, ... for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods; Solomon clave unto these in love.

And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines:  
and his wives turned away his heart." I Kings 11:1-3.

Obviously Solomon ceased the daily reading of the commandments of God written in Deuteronomy and lost his fear and love for God.

This brings us to our subject:

"Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?

Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?"

Proverbs 6:27-28.

Can one "play with fire" and not be burned? The answer obviously is NO! The bosom is that which encloses the heart; the feet represent one's walk. Solomon's heart was turned from God to the flesh. His walk was away from the path of life. He became "an old and foolish king who will no more be admonished" (Ecclesiastes 4:13). The word "admonished" implies to be enlightened, and is used to shine, to teach, or to give warning. Solomon left the light of God's word, embraced strange women, and turned to building temples:

". . .for all his strange wives, which burned incense and sacrificed unto their gods." I Kings 11:8.

How strong is the "lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life . . . which is of the world"!

Let us remember:

". . . the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." I John 2:17.

J.A.DeF.

**"TAKE HEED THEREFORE HOW YE HEAR"**

**Luke 8:18**

These words spoken by the Lord Jesus in Luke were a follow-up to His teaching of the Parable of the Sower, given to His disciples. In that parable He sited occasions of where that seed (God's word) would fall - on the way side, rocks, thorns and good ground.

The purpose of the word was to give spiritual understanding to those who received it with an open heart. Therefore, as a conclusion to this parable, He said to His disciples:

"Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have." Luke 8:18

The word "hear" used in this instance means "to understand". It is not the basic element of hearing that the Lord Jesus' spoke of, but rather the internalizing and perception of God's message of Truth within one, similar to the good ground upon which the seed fell.

"But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience." Luke 8:15

As they use that word in their living, it is reflected in their actions, as the Lord Jesus goes on to explain:

"No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light."

Luke 8:16

What is truly in the heart will be manifest in one's living - whether it produces light or darkness. Those who have received that spirit of understanding from His word and use it daily, live in hope of receiving the blessing of everlasting life from God. This same message of spiritual increase to those who hear with understanding, is reiterated in the record from Mark:

"And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.

And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear."

Mark 4:8-9

To that seed which fell on good fertile ground came great fruitfulness - a bounty of reward and blessing. And similar to the admonition in Luke "to hear", Mark's record says:

"If any man have ears to hear, let him hear,  
And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what  
measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto  
you that hear shall more be given." Mark 4:23-24

This is an exhortation not only to hear the word, but more importantly, to apply it in one's living, for only by so doing is there the hope of God's reward.

"The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made  
even both of them." Proverbs 20:12

In a natural sense, man was created with ears and eyes in order to receive information by sight and sound and then to apply this in whatever direction he so desired.

Solomon was one upon whom that word fell and although it appeared at first that he was of the "good ground", he proved later in his life to be as those who are choked by thorns. The cares, riches and pleasures of this life were more important than endeavoring to walk in God's word. He himself became as one of those of whom he wrote during a time when he was gifted with the wisdom of the spirit:

"He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even  
his prayer shall be abomination." Proverbs 28:9

David, his father, was another who knew God's word and proved to be a ready hearer as he wrote in the Psalms:

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my  
path.  
I have sworn, and I will perform it, that I will keep thy  
righteous judgments." Psalm 119:105-106

His reaction upon hearing the word was to walk in that light, growing spiritually. The times when he listened not to the word, but to his inner carnal nature, were the times when he failed grievously - with Bathsheba and in numbering Israel. He recognized when he was foolish and had failed to hear with understanding. In Psalm 51 he pours out a heart full of repentance, seeking forgiveness for his failure:

“Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

Wash me throughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight:”

Psalm 51:1-4

Do we hear as we should? Do we daily seek after God’s word as our only source of spiritual food, desiring to grow in understanding and reflect it in our living?

The Lord Jesus’ final message in Revelation to the seven churches, was seen in vision by John, which shows those found approved, blessed by God and His Son for their faithfulness. Among those who are called to partake of this blessing among this faithful throng are those who have heard with a hearing ear:

“I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the off spring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”

Revelation 22: 16-17

M.C.S.

## SIGNS OF HIS COMING

“And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push - - - .”

(Daniel 11:40)

The question might be asked, who is the king of the south? A simple explanation could be a power, or powers, in association, being concerned in southern regions and being capable of a degree of dominance.

The United States obviously is very concerned, particularly, in southern areas of the world. What happened in Iraq is an evidence that America is ready to intervene in such places; and what is additionally significant is Britain, which is ready to join with the United States to help to uphold a degree of influence and control.

This alliance which, in the case of Britain, also brings in Australia and New Zealand; nations in the south, reveals that political position in these last days is overruled, conforming to God's plan revealed in His holy word.

The United States, of course, is obviously the greater of the two powers, but it should be understood that Britain is also a great power. What is perhaps not realised, is Britain's concern with southern regions. Note some of the places where British troops are deployed.

Though not a large contingent, there are soldiers from the United Kingdom in the Falkland Islands. Also they are involved in Afghanistan. There are British units on training and operations based in Oman, UAE, Bahrain and Qatar. Additionally they are in Cyprus. Also there are some in Belize, Brunei, Bosnia and Kosovo. Though in the main these are only token forces, if trouble suddenly developed in these places, obviously reinforcements would be sent. At the time of writing, plans are in hand for forces to be sent to the Sudan, to help that country to establish needy peace by resisting certain trouble making organisations.

Britain has a strategy of making its armed forces more transportable, these to be deployed as a rapid reaction force to reach

continental and African trouble spots. This means increasing the total armed services on British soil, to be ready for any eventuality that arises. In building up its home forces Britain is expected to reduce the number of troops in foreign bases, but this does not negate what the actual position is to continue to be. The United States along with Britain is the "King of the South", which God's holy word reveals will exist "at the time of the end."

What then of nations in the North? Russia was nearly overcome by the German Nazi forces, but this was not allowed to be, and finally the Nazis were obliterated at the conclusion of the last World War. China also has now become a great power, though formerly it suffered very greatly at the hands of Japan, before that nation was subjugated by the United States. Yes, there is now a "King of the North". Such a political world alignment is not by chance circumstance, it is the wonderful purpose of God working out towards a final, overruled, conclusion:-

"- - - at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince - -  
- and there shall be a time of trouble such as never was  
since there was a nation - - -, and at that time thy people  
shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in  
the book.

And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall  
awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and  
everlasting contempt.

And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the  
firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as  
the stars for ever and ever.

(Daniel 12:1-3)

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

We are especially grateful for counsel received from our brethren in Manchester. Surely "in the multitude of counsellors there is safety." (Proverbs 11:14)

Requests for financial help have been received from Mauritania, Kenya and Uganda. We are not in a position to provide financial help but gladly respond to requests for spiritual help.

J.A.DeF.

MANCHESTER, Ryecroft Hall, Audenshaw.

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

In this troubled country, where the population has been affected by terrorists strikes, intended to cause disruptive fear, we are still enabled to meet in peace and quiet for the Breaking of Bread and for Bible Study. Our Meeting Room stands in the middle of grounds not only abundant with trees, but beds of beautiful flowers.

For such a wonderful provision we are profoundly grateful.