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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

**“GOD HATH NOT GIVEN US THE SPIRIT OF FEAR”**

Paul wrote these words to his brother, Timothy, who was like a son to him. The chronology reveals that Paul wrote them in 66 AD - perhaps the last words of Paul, as he expressed:

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

I have fought a good fight, 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.

The Bible dictionary indicates that Paul was beheaded by Nero shortly after having written these words to his beloved Timothy.

What was his message to Timothy?

“... I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee, by the putting on of my hands.”

II Timothy 1:6.

The thought of “stir up” - as used here by Paul - involves a stirring up a fire to rekindle its burning. When we think of fire, it brings to mind that fire burning upon the altar, consuming the sacrifice being offered as a sweet savor unto God. That fire was to be ever burning, as God commanded Israel:

“The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out”

Leviticus 6:13.

The fire of the Spirit of God was required to accomplish that sweet savor. Paul spoke of that fire, that Spirit of God, as “... the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.” Paul must have baptized Timothy, causing him to be born of water and of the Spirit, having been buried into the death of the Lord Jesus, and having risen a new man of spirit. This is the gift of God, the grace of God, making possible the hope of eternal life according to the promises made with Abraham and David. Being flesh and tempted, we do need a stirring up of that fire which consumes our flesh.

Paul also encouraged Timothy, reminding him of the help granted to fight temptation:

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." II Timothy 1:7.

"Fear" - as Paul used it here - involves timidity, dread, holding one back from doing that which is right, afraid to face what is required. The gift of God, His grace, removes that timidity, helping one to grow in strength and confidence, having been "stirred up." Certainly God's gift does not foster timidity in those striving to be subject to His word. What does God's gift give to help us in this determination? Paul makes it very clear:

"... but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."  
II Timothy 1:7.

As Paul was on his way to Damascus, in his zeal to persecute the followers of the Lord Jesus, He was shown the gift of God - His power - as the light from heaven blinded him, and he heard a voice, saying:

"... Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" Acts 9:4.

Through God's power, Paul was converted, and called to be:  
"... a chosen vessel ... to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:  
For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake."  
Acts 9:15-16.

Paul received his sight and was filled with the Holy Spirit, as Ananias put his hands upon him. Subsequently, he was baptized, and went forth preaching the gospel to the Gentiles, being strengthened. He knew "the gift of God":

"... of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."  
II Timothy 1:7.

"Gift" involves a favor granted - not something earned, but given as an expression of love. Such was the gift of God to Paul, and which he passed on to Timothy, while approaching the end of his own life. This gift is granted to those who are "called, and chosen, and faithful" - as we have considered in a recent Bible Class.

The first part of that gift granted is "of power" - the power of God working with, on behalf of, and through those whom He has called and chosen to be His children. Paul and the apostles received that power to do miracles. We cannot perform miracles, but we can know and feel His power on our behalf as we seek to serve God

and are allowed to approach unto Him through Jesus Christ, our Mediator.

The second gift of God is "of love" - God's love is for those, like the faithful servant who plainly said to his master:

"... I love my master, ... I will not go out free."

Exodus 21:5.

The faithful servant served his master, expressing his love for him who was his righteous master. John helps us to understand the close bond between a righteous master and a faithful servant.

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation (mercy seat) for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit."

I John 4:7-13.

It was in such love that Paul desired to "stir up" Timothy, to ensure, to enhance the power granted to him - and to ourselves today, as we seek to serve God in a way that is acceptable to Him.

To further help, Paul spoke "of a sound mind" as being a part of that gift of God. We might ask: What is a sound mind? The word "sound" involves discipline, self-control, to be sober, giving the thought of being circumspect. A mind which is disciplined is controlled by reason, by commands, by obedience to that which is pleasing to God. Paul was originally disciplined in the letter of the law, pleasing self - not the Almighty. After his conversion and baptism, his mind was disciplined in accordance with God's law - a mind based upon God's word. As such, he became a "chosen vessel" doing God's work, giving his living and his very life to the service of his Master.

Can we see how Paul, in love for Timothy, could help to stir him up, as he wrote:

“... God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love and of a sound mind.” II Timothy 1:7.

Paul further encouraged Timothy:

“Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner; but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.” II Timothy 1:8-9.

Here is God’s grace, His gift of love granted to those who seek to serve Him. Paul further encouraged his beloved Timothy:

“Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Spirit which dwelleth in us.” II Timothy 1:13-14.

As we perceive Paul’s love for Timothy, in writing this last epistle, does it encourage us, Brethren and Sisters? Can we hold fast to the form or pattern given of God through His sound words, His commandments, His covenants, His signposts - all leading in that strait and narrow way to the hope of eternal life when Jesus Christ returns to establish God’s kingdom on this earth? Let us heed Paul’s words:

“... God hath not given us the spirit of fear (timidity); but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” II Timothy 1:7.

J.A.DeF.

**"O LORD . . . UNDERTAKE FOR ME"**

In our recent portions we have once again been reading of the life and times of Hezekiah, the 12th king of Judah, and one of only a few who were faithful to God's precepts. His name translates as "Yahweh strengthens" and how true this was, not only in a personal but a Spiritual sense as well.

In Isaiah are recorded Hezekiah's reflections after his brush with death when he was told by the prophet to set his house in order:

"In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live.

Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the LORD,

And said, Remember now, O LORD, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight.

And Hezekiah wept sore." Isaiah 39:1-3.

He prayed and wept sore and God heard his cry, healing him and extending his life an additional fifteen years. Upon his recovery, Hezekiah reflected upon this time of illness and grief saying:

"I said in the cutting off of my days, I shall go to the gates of the grave: I am deprived of the residue of my years.

I said, I shall not see the LORD, even the LORD, in the land of the living: I shall behold man no more with the inhabitants of the world." Isaiah 38:10-11.

These were his thoughts after hearing the prophet's pronouncement from God. He knew in death there is no ability to see man or the Lord, for the grave is the end of all flesh. Once in the grave, there is no further opportunity to do either good or evil - it is the end.

Solomon was another who like Hezekiah, understood the truth of man's death - unlike thousands today who believe in the false doctrines of heaven-going or the continuation after death of an immortal soul, as he wrote:

"For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion.

For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.

Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun." Ecclesiastes 9:4-6.

Hezekiah knew his opportunity to serve God, to walk in righteousness or to seek forgiveness, would shortly cease and he described his death in terms of finality saying;

"Mine age is departed, and is removed from me as a shepherd's tent: I have cut off like a weaver my life: he will cut me off with pining sickness: from day even to night wilt thou make an end of me." Isaiah 38:12.

He related his life to the unfolding of a tent or the cutting from the loom of the weaver's work - the end of a project, knowing he would soon be gone. In his grief he cried out to God for mercy, help and deliverance from this sentence of death:

"Like a crane or a swallow, so did I chatter: I did mourn as a dove: mine eyes fail with looking upward: O LORD, I am oppressed; undertake for me." Isaiah 38:14.

He was "oppressed", or as that word means, in anguish, as many would when told they had only a few days to live. In his sorrow, he turned to God appealing in prayer, "undertake for me".

The prime root of this word "undertake" is to braid or mix, giving security and strength. When we think of how combining and braiding several fibers together makes a rope of great strength, we can understand more fully of what Hezekiah was seeking.

Because he had walked in faithfulness and now turned to God for help in time of trouble, he was heard. He was cured of his illness and fifteen additional years added to his life:

"What shall I say? He hath both spoken unto me, and himself hath done it: I shall go softly all my years in the bitterness of my soul.

O Lord, by these things men live, and in all these things is the life of my spirit; so wilt thou recover me, and make me to live." Isaiah 38:15-16.

In gratitude Hezekiah vowed to "go softly" or gently all his days in "bitterness" of soul. This word "bitterness" means to chafe as when two parts of our body are rubbed together, causing pain. He had a brush with death and was saved through God's mercy and care and for this he would always be thankful. In gratitude he vowed to walk carefully throughout his future days.

This intervention in Hezekiah's life is evidence of God's covenant with His people. He will be there to comfort, care and deliver from trouble, those who respond with obedience and cry out to him in prayer:

"Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.

For the grave cannot praise thee, death can not celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth.

The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day: the father to the children shall make known thy truth."

Isaiah 38:17-19.

Only the living can praise God by service to Him in obedience - there is no hope after death to make amends or seek forgiveness for past failures. For the responsible to His word, his life is sealed in the grave until the return of Christ, when each will be resurrected and held accountable at His judgment seat.

This same thought was in Moses' mind as he addressed Israel shortly before his own death:

"... Set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law.

For it is not a vain thing for you; because it in your life: and through this thing ye shall prolong your days in the land, whither ye go over Jordan to possess it."

Deuteronomy 32:46-47.

Through what thing? - the realization that those who set their heart upon God, have the hope of seeing the end He has promised through His word - the only means of life for man. Those who have entered into a covenant relationship with God, who during their time of probation, walk gently in bitterness, realizing the nature of their flesh which chafes against the spirit within, causing trouble and pain, value His care and seek Him as the only source of help.

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

I Peter 5:6-7.

We must value that care and what God has revealed to us through His word to find the help and strength necessary to walk after the example of His Son. The purpose of our probation is to exhibit an appreciation for His covenant, knowing He will undertake for us but only as we endeavor to walk after His precepts with obedience and humility:

"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.

He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

Even the youths shall faint; and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Isaiah 40:28-31.

The prophet's words help us to realise, that being flesh we will become faint, weary and discouraged as did Hezekiah, yet God will perform on behalf of those that trust in Him if we but cry "undertake for me".

M.C.S.

**"I AM THE LORD THAT MAKETH ALL THINGS - - -"**

(Isaiah 44:24)

God's testimony is clear, through the Word of Truth; through His inspired prophet He declares:

"I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself; That frustrateth the tokens of the liars, and maketh diviners mad; that turneth wise men backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish."

(Isaiah 44:24-25)

The Eternal then goes on to say:-

"I have made the earth, and created man upon it; I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded - - - .

For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited; I am the LORD; and there is none else."

(Isaiah 45:12 & 18)

Do we accept these words which are from the Most High, or do we heed the words of science, falsely so called?

This is what science is saying about mankind:-

“There is another source that reaches much further back than written records. In fact, it pre-dates all forms of writing. It is also irrefutable because it cannot lie. It is DNA: accessible to every one of us because we all carry it within us, in every cell. --- DNA is how past generations speak to us. DNA profiling was a major discovery of the 20th century. --- the breakthrough came in 1989 when DNA was extracted from old bones. Until then, no one thought that DNA could last more than 20 minutes outside the freezer.”

Following an archaeological investigation in 1991 some old remains claimed to be 5000 years old, were found in the Tyrol, Austria. This has become known as “Oetzi the Iceman.” A Professor of human genetics who investigated this skeleton which was found in the ice, claimed to have extracted and analysed the DNA of these remains. But he went further than this in saying that he had found a direct descendant in a person living in Bournemouth, England! This led to the exposition:- that 97 per cent of modern Europeans are descended from one of seven women, who lived at various times in the Ice Age, in different parts of Europe and the Near East. He called these “clan mothers” linked by mitochondrial DNA. He made the following statement:-

“Obviously, there weren’t just these seven women once upon a time in the Ice Age, there were lots of females alive at the same time. But they didn’t all survive to maturity, they didn’t all have children and some only had sons.--- But these seven did all survive long enough to have at least two daughters and start off the lines of descent that reach right down to all of us living today.”

Now such science, so called, is listened to at the present time. But what of God’s Word which has been pushed to the background? It declares concerning Noah and the universal flood:-

“--- Neither will I again smite any more EVERY LIVING THING, as I have done.

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”  
(Genesis 8:21-22)

The Scripture then goes on to explain who were the progenitors of today’s world populations. They were Shem, Ham and Japheth. A detailed list of their descendants is given, and the word of God specifically says;—

“These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their

generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood." (Genesis 10:32)

This is the truth which gave simple understanding to former generations, as well as the present time, before terms such as "Mitochondrial DNA" have emerged. But what does science of the present time say? Note the following so called scientific explanation:-

"A belief of the "Christian" sect known as creationism is that all the world was populated from the descendants of Noah's three sons. In other words all tribes and races came from a common ancestral population. Creationists are forced to place this common population, consisting of eight persons, some time after the Flood since they believe in the extinction of all people by a universal Flood. - - -

The science of ethnology and anthropology have shown that every single racial type that existed prior to the Flood existed after it. This proves that the Flood was confined to a specific geographical area. All people on earth were not destroyed by the Flood as creationists claim. In Luke 17:26-29, Christ likens the 'days of Noah' with the 'days of Lot'. In each case the people experienced a catastrophe which 'destroyed them all'. Yet everyone acknowledges that in the days of Lot all the people on earth were not destroyed, only all the people in Sodom were. Likewise, only all the people in the Flood were destroyed, not all the people on the earth."

Oh, what a twisting of scripture is this! What did Jesus say?:-

"For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them ALL AWAY; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." (Matthew 24:38-39)

The so called scientific explanation would indicate that God's judgment was partial. But God is perfectly just; He did not punish one section of the earth, but spared another section. Jesus spoke the truth; "the flood came and took them all away." And note what Peter declared:-

"God - - - spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly." (2 Peter 2:5)

Science brings up all sorts of reasons, why there could not have been a universal Flood. It declares that the life that now exists, both human and animal could not have developed, as now seen

from just those forms of life that issued from Noah's Ark.

God's overruling power, furthering His wonderful purpose is left out of this consideration. Are we to believe science or are we to believe Christ and God's witness in His Holy Word? Christ declared:-

" - - - the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me." (John 14:24)

It is God's word that ought to be exalted, not the science of men, however plausible their explanations may appear to be, God's testimony is:-

"I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself." (Isaiah 44:24)

The word of God raises the question and also the warning:-

"Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?

I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded." (Isaiah 45:9-12)

In quoting again this verse 12, may we underline that this is the truth, and the explanations of science, falsely so called, should be rejected.

**A BIBLE CLASS**

“Take heed therefore how ye hear”

Luke 8:18

These words of our consideration were spoken by the Lord Jesus after teaching the Parable of the Sower as recorded in Luke:

“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

In Mark where this parable was also recorded, is a similar conclusion - “He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.”

In the Parable of the Sower, the seed which was sown was the word of God, capable of bringing forth fruit, depending upon where it fell and took root. It mattered greatly whether it fell - on stony ground, among thorns, on the wayside or on good fertile ground. It was not the fault of the seed if it did not grow, but rather its environment.

In God’s kindness, He sent His Son - that word made flesh, to Israel that they might hear, but most refused to hearken, providing no fertile ground for that seed to flourish:

“He came unto his own, and his own received him not.  
But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:”  
John 1:11-12.

Many are called but few chosen because they don’t really hear with their heart - not making that word a governing power in their living. Paul gave a sober warning of the same nature to the Hebrews when he wrote:

“Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.  
For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward;  
How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which

at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;”

Hebrews 2:1-3.

As the Lord Jesus explained this Parable of the Sower to His disciples, He described many examples of those that “hear” the word:

“Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.

And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

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 8:12-15.

All of these areas where the seed fell “heard” that word, but how they heard was important. If they heard only superficially, not allowing that word to govern their entire living, they soon wandered out of the way because they did not allow the spirit to take root. This is why Jesus said, “Take heed therefore how ye hear” (vs.18).

James wrote of those that hear the word and the blessing it could bring to their living if they became “doers” and not “hearers” only:

“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

James 1:22-25.

The “doer” in James’ epistle is the man who hears the word

and uses its spiritual wisdom daily in his living, thus endeavoring to provide fertile ground for that seed to spring forth in fruitfulness.

“. . . 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.

For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath.”

Mark 4:24-25.

The measure to be meted is either life everlasting or rejection at Christ's judgment seat at His return. The final words of the Spirit in Revelation leave a message of hope for those endeavoring to be doers of His word:

“Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.”

Revelation 22:14.

M.C.S.

**"THE LORD POSSESSED ME"**

**Proverbs 8:22**

Our chapter speaks of God's wisdom granted to those who seek to serve Him, the Source of all wisdom. The word 'wisdom' is used to be wise, having knowledge, and applying it. The Almighty revealed His wisdom in His creation of the earth, as our verse under consideration shows:

"The LORD possessed me in the beginning of my way, before his works of old." Proverbs 8:22.

We know His work of creation, as recorded in Genesis chapter 1: First, there was light; second, the firmament, separating clouds above from water beneath; third, there was dry land, herbs, and grass; fourth, was sun, moon, stars; fifth, water creatures, fowl; and the sixth day, cattle, creeping things, beasts of the earth, and ultimately, man - Adam. How wise was His creation - the work of six days, progressively providing what was necessary for every living creature, and finally, for man's life.

We remember how Solomon sought wisdom and understanding when he became king in David's place. God said to him:

"... Ask what I shall give thee." I Kings 3:5.

He sought God's help to judge Israel. God heard Solomon, and gave him "a wise and understanding heart," as well as riches and honor, so that:

"... Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt." I Kings 4:30.

From this God-given wisdom, Solomon wrote the Proverbs to instruct his people in wisdom's way;

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother." Proverbs 1:7-8.

With these thoughts in mind, let us listen to Solomon's inspired words concerning wisdom:

"For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding;  
I have strength” Proverbs 8:11,14.

Solomon moved in God’s wisdom, and ruled over Israel in righteousness and justice. He recognized that:

“I (wisdom) lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment:  
That I may cause those that love me (wisdom) to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.” Proverbs 8:20-21.

Solomon feared, revered the Lord, and ruled over his people with justice, in obedience to God’s word. However, as he grew old, his fear of the Lord began to diminish as he sought the pleasures of the world. By the end of his life, he had married many strange women, and had many concubines, so that “his wives turned away his heart”:

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

I Kings 11:6.

How easily one can lose the fear of the Lord, and in doing so, can also lose the wisdom given to lead one in the way of righteousness:

Let us remember that the Lord possesses all wisdom, and grants it as a gift to those who fear His name. The all-wise God is “. . . the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort” and grants His wisdom to help those who reverence His name. How can we grow in the fear of God? We find the answer in our consideration of Proverbs chapter 8:

“The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.  
I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.” Proverbs 8:13,17.

Do we, Brethren and Sisters, seek the wisdom of God? Are we moved by the love of God in granting it, enabling us to respond in love to His mercy and grace in our living? James helps us:

“Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation (way of life) his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

But the wisdom that is from above (from God's possession) is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits (of the Spirit - Galatians 5), without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace" James 3:13-18.

Let us heed the warning of God's wisdom:

"Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.

For whoso findeth me 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 8:34-36.

As we read these words of Solomon, let us remember his end of life, as he turned from God's wisdom; for "his wives turned away his heart after other gods" who possessed no wisdom.

J.A.DeF.

## SIGNS OF HIS COMING

"Israel shall be saved in the Lord with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded, world without end. - - -

Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations: - - - In the LORD shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory."

(Isaiah 45:17, 20 & 25)

It is sixty years since the dreadful Nazi holocaust of the Jews. The Nazi enemy wanted to obliterate them. But however powerful those who oppose God's purpose, the Almighty will most surely prevail. God has declared "Israel shall be saved."

Palestine a century ago was a poor land, but with the return of the Jews it has prospered. Sadly the Arabs have not appreciated the benefits which the Jews have brought to the land, in which Arabs have shared to a degree. There is amongst the Arabs a strain of Islamist thinking which to a degree echoes the totalitarianism of the Nazis; it goes as far as preaching "redemption through violence." To be just; all Muslims are not of such extreme thinking, wanting to live peaceful lives. But Israel has suffered from very troubling stealthy Arab violence, by a fanatic element, prepared indiscriminately to take away Jewish lives, by themselves suicidally causing explosions.

Palestinians particularly have hated Jewish settlements in those areas of Israel described as Gaza and the West Bank. Gaza became the home of 8,500 Jews, who were greatly outnumbered by 1.3 million Palestinians. Israel's leader has now courageously, against some of his own people's objections, caused the Jewish vacation of Gaza. Israeli troops, on an arranged date, evacuated the Jewish settlers and their supporters. Since then there has been some improvement to the Palestinian Israeli difficulties. Understandably some Jews feel grieved, for they unavoidably think back to what some of them suffered in the 1950's when hundreds of thousands of Jews were ejected from Arab countries. But Israel's leader had been looking practically at what the position was in Gaza. The Jewish settlers numbering a few thousands were surrounded by 1.3 million Palestinians. These Arabs are the descendants of Arabs who fled Israel proper, at its creation in 1948. They congregated in Gaza, but then came the Six Day War in 1967, and so they were under Jewish rule again, when in that conflict Israel conquered Gaza. Gradually Arab terrorism arose and increased. It was a great drain on Israel,

as they protected settlers from Arab attacks, losing of course, lives of Israel soldiers. A majority in Israel came to feel uneasy about the territorial situation of their occupying Gaza and the West Bank. One of their respected statesmen voiced the plea:

“ --- not to turn our nation that escaped slavery in ancient Egypt into a nation of masters in the land of Israel.”

So the hope now is, that there is a chance of being able to live peacefully with the Palestinians after years of violence with sad casualties on both sides. This will be a beginning of a greater establishing of this National Home for the Jews. It is a wonderful fulfilment, and very significant in its indication. Through Isaiah the spirit declared:-

“Surely, shall one say, in the LORD have I righteousness and strength; even to him shall men come; and all that are incensed against him shall be ashamed. In the LORD shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory.”

(Isaiah 45:24-25)

Today's happenings indicate that blessing and the prosperity of righteousness, is getting nearer for the suffering Jews, and their becoming more established in the land is indicated by population figures:-

In Israel there are 5.1 million Jews compared to 1.1 million Arabs.

In the West Bank there are 2.3 million Jews to 350,000 Arabs.

The Jewish population in the promised land, of course, will increase more and more. These events are leading on to the establishing of God's Kingdom, at the return of the Lord Jesus. It is perhaps the greatest sign in the world today of how God's purpose is working out; and note what the scripture also says will result:-

“I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.” (Isaiah 45:23)

The deliverance of the Jews and Israel, in a complete sense, will also bring salvation to this troubled earth; when all peoples will be caused to submit to God's righteousness, in His overruling solutions, which will save this divided world.

**NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR DECEMBER 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

As we come to the end of another year, our minds reflect upon its happenings - hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, unrest and cruel warfare. Our mind goes to Jesus' words concerning His return to establish God's kingdom on this earth: "When these things begin to come to pass, then look up and lift up your heads: for your redemption draweth nigh." (Luke 21:28) Will this coming year bring that hoped for but feared time of judgment?

Our thoughts and prayers are for some who are ill, seeking God's healing and comfort as it is His will.

J.A.DeF.

MANCHESTER, Ryecroft Hall, Audenshaw.

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

As the months go by matters arise which need careful deliberation.

What comfort it is that we can seek in prayer for heavenly guidance; as also for the counsel of our Brethren and Sisters.

We are finite creatures; but the comfort is, that our Creator knows our weaknesses, and is to us a Father.