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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

**"LET COME ON ME WHAT WILL"**

This morning our minds have been directed to God's servant, Job. The Almighty spoke to the adversary, Satan:

"... Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?" Job 1:8.

Job was a servant of God, a bondman - one bought with, a price - dedicated to serving his Master in obedience to His requirements, because he loved his Master. He was not a slave, but a grateful and faithful servant, showing uprightness through fear of his Lord. This was a trusting relationship as Job turned away from evil.

We have read this morning, as Job responded to Zophar's accusations of hypocrisy and lying.

"Hold your peace, let me alone, that I may speak, and let come on me what will." Job 13:13.

Job could have responded in anger and self-justification but instead expressed his trust in God, realizing that whatever happened to him was under the control of his Master, the Almighty. He feared God, he loved God, in his determination to eschew evil Job continued his response to Zophar's false accusations:

"Wherefore do I take my flesh in my teeth, and put my life in mind hand?  
Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.  
He also shall be my salvation for an hypocrite shall not come before him." Job 13:14-16.

Job was not thinking of himself, but rather gritted his teeth, knowing and trusting that the Almighty would give him strength to endure whatever would come, even if it cost him his life: "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him...."

As we consider Job's trust in his Master, he reminds us of the

One who had complete trust in God - His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. God demanded His life, required Him to die, to fulfil God's promise of One to come who, by perfect obedience and love for His Father, would give His life, to become the means of redemption for His people. Like Job, He said in His time of struggle to glorify God:

"... not my will, but thine, be done." Luke 22:42.

Jesus knew what was to come; He was to die, as God required, the unblemished Lamb of God. Was not Jesus' strength and determination like Job's?

"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him..." Job 13:15.

The word used for "trust" involves having a hope, to stay, to tarry, to wait. It gives the thought of patience, a waiting upon God, no matter what may come.

To most people, Job is noted for his patience. James wrote to his brethren on the subject of patience:

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

Be ye also patient: stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." James 5:7-8.

The husbandman tills the soil, plants the seed, and waits for that which will come forth, bearing the hoped-for fruit - helped by God's provision of moisture from the rain, and strength from the earth. It takes a certain time for this process, dependent upon the kind of fruit ... it can't be hurried, but in its own time fruit appears, ready for the harvest. James goes on:

"Take my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.

Behold, we count them happy (blessed) which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." James 5:10-11.

What was "the end of the Lord" concerning Job? God granted him greater riches, children, and esteem from his brethren, for in his enduring, he attained to what God had in mind. Through his endurance and trust in His Lord, Job justified God's words: "... there is none like him in the earth." Job received even greater blessings because of enduring the year of affliction, revealing his trust in God, as he spoke to the Lord:

"Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand (request) of thee, and declare thou unto me.  
I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.  
Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

Job 42:4-6.

Prior to his great afflictions, he had heard God, subjecting self to His service, as His servant. Through his testing, he justified God's conviction that he would endure, because he was one "that feareth God, and escheweth evil" - even to the point that God might slay him. Indeed, in the midst of his afflictions, he asked that he be slain, to relieve the struggles he was enduring! He emerged from the afflictions closer to God. He had been a hearer, subject to God's word; but now his eyes were opened to the mercy and grace of God toward those who trust in Him, even in the depths of suffering.

David wrote concerning God's hand upon him:

"Before was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.  
... teach me thy statutes.  
It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.  
The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver.  
I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me."

Psalm 119:67-68,71-72,75.

David was known as a man after God's own heart, a result of his obedience, his subjection to God, and his quick repentance when he failed. He realized that affliction was in God's mercy and lovingkindness.

Job was helped during his time of afflictions, perceiving God's hand at work, so that he could say: "... but now mine eye seeth thee." He had been a faithful servant, one who feared God and eschewed evil. But now, after a year of patience, trust, enduring afflictions, he had a greater knowledge of God's mercy and lovingkindness toward all those whose hearts are fastened upon Him; who trust that whatever might come to pass, God knows each need and provides for it.

The Almighty knows all the thoughts and intents of the heart, as Paul exhorted his brethren concerning the hope of entering into the rest of God's kingdom. He warned concerning those who could not enter into that rest because of unbelief:

"Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." Hebrews 4:11-13.

Job was patient, waited, and trusted upon God; he was moved by fear, recognizing that God knew all his thoughts and intents before they even came to pass. Can we see why Job besought God:

"Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: and I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me.

I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee." Job 42:4-5.

Through his afflictions, through waiting upon God, he could express: "... let come on me what will." Job grew to know and to perceive that whatever came upon him, and what would come upon him, was from God in His mercy and love for His faithful servant.

Paul, on the way to Damascus, was blinded by a bright light, unable to see for three days. Like Job, He became one of God's servants, being converted, and revealed his mind to his brethren in Corinth:

“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation (affliction), that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation aboundeth by Christ.

And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation.”

II Corinthians 1:3-6.

Job was determined to face whatever might come upon him, knowing and fearing God as His Master. He is an example for us as we face difficulties, trials, testing - all of which God in His mercy and love places upon us to sustain in our striving to serve Him, as required in His faithful servants. Are we not helped as we contemplate Job's integrity, which he retained throughout his time of testing? Yes, he showed patience! But there was much more than just patience, as he grew in trust that whatever was to come upon him, was under the hand of his Master - “...- the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort.” Can we say, as did Job: “... now mine eye seeth thee” - and, now I am more able to “... let come on me what will”?

J.A.DeF.

## ZEPHANIAH'S WARNING

Recently we have again read the book of Zephaniah, a prophet who conveyed the word of God sometime during the thirty-one year reign of Josiah in approximately 641-610BC, and contemporary with the prophet Jeremiah. The impact of these two prophets must have impressed Josiah, for he was one of only a handful of faithful kings.

Zephaniah's message was a warning of God's wrath to come upon an unfaithful people:

"I will utterly consume all things from off the land, saith the LORD.

I will consume man and beast; I will consume the fowls of the heaven, and the fishes of the sea, and the stumblingblocks with the wicked; and I will cut off man from off the land, saith the LORD.

I will also stretch out mine hand upon Judah, and upon all the inhabitants of Jerusalem:" Zephaniah 1:2-4.

God was no longer an influence in their living - they had turned their backs on His word and precepts, serving idols, just as the inhabitants of the land:

"...I will cut off the remnant of Baal from this place, and the name of the Chemarims with the priests;  
And them that worship the host of heaven upon the housetops; and them that worship and that swear by the LORD, and that swear by Malcham;  
And them that are turned back from the LORD; and those that have not sought the LORD, nor inquired for him."  
Zephaniah 1:4-6.

He warned through His prophet that he would not take this lightly, but would search out Jerusalem for wickedness:

"And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil."  
Zephaniah 1:12.

These were the circumstances during which Zephaniah came to speak to those of Jerusalem, foretelling of the wrath to come upon His people. But to the few who would hearken to the prophet's words and seek the Lord, there was still hope. Even the translation of Zephaniah's own name spoke of the Lord's mercy, for his name means, "Hidden of God":

"Before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD come upon you, before the day of the LORD's anger come upon you. Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD's anger."  
Zephaniah 2:2-3.

To be "hid" under the protection of a covering, and the "hidden" of Zephaniah's name come from two different words but with the same meaning. There was a means of grace and hope to those who sought Him in humility, seeking a covering under the shelter of His wings.

When we read of the history of King Josiah, we are told how he was impressed by this same word and sought to walk after the example of King David:

"Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jedidah, the daughter of Adaiah of Boscath. And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left." 2 Kings 21:1-2.

Before Josiah, reigned several wicked kings, Manasseh and Josiah's own father Amon, of whom we are told:

"And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, as his father Manasseh did. And he walked in all the way that his father walked in, and served the idols that his father served, and worshipped them: And he forsook the LORD God of his fathers, and walked not in the way of the LORD." II Kings 21:20-22.

It was no wonder that King Josiah and the people knew not God's word, being led astray for years by kings who worshipped the heathens' idols. However, when Josiah instigated the repair of the Lord's house, the book of the law was found and brought to him.

"...And Shaphan read it before the king,  
And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of  
the book of the law, that he rent his clothes."

II Kings 22:10-11.

To rend one's clothing was a sign of utmost grief and this was Josiah's state of mind as he realized how far from serving God all of Judah and Jerusalem had gone. Because the idolatry of the land truly distressed Josiah, God had mercy upon him and sent this message:

"... As touching the words which thou hast heard;  
Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled  
thyself before the LORD, when thou heardest what I spake  
against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that  
they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent  
thy clothes, and wept before me;

I also have heard thee, said the LORD.

Behold therefore, I will gather thee unto thy fathers, and  
thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace; and thine  
eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this  
place. And they brought the king word again."

II Kings 22:18-20.

Zephaniah's words no doubt were an encouragement and help to Josiah, for during his reign he made a covenant to walk after the Lord's testimonies and commanded the people to keep the Passover. He ordered the high priest Hilkiah to cleanse the temple of all the vessels made for the idols and he burned them outside of Jerusalem. He removed the idolatrous priests whom his fathers had ordained and defiled all the high places they had used to burn incense and to offer their children through the fire to Molech. All of these an abomination to God.

Because of his faithful reactions and intent, Josiah was helped during his reign. Though he was only thirty-nine at his death after

a reign of thirty-one years, his death was not a cutting short, but rather a mercy to remove him from the devastation and judgment to come shortly upon the land. Referring to this time it is written:

“And like unto him (Josiah) was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him.

Notwithstanding the LORD turned not from the fierceness of his great wrath, wherewith his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations that Manasseh had provoked him withal.

And the LORD said, I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there.” II Kings 23:25-27.

How encouraging to read that Josiah’s response hid him under God’s hand from the wrath to come because he sought God with all his heart. This grace and hope is extended to all those who humble themselves, even during times of great evil and distress, as in the days of Josiah.

This same prophecy of Zephaniah can influence us as well today to trust in His mercy during our times of tribulation, even if it be in the release of death. Believing in faith that His word will be accomplished while we await the return of the Lord Jesus (whether we are alive or asleep in the grave), to gather those hid under His name, is our hope.

M.C.S.

## THESE TROUBLED TIMES

"The earth was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence."  
(Genesis 6:11)

"But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."  
(Matthew 24:37)

"They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all."  
(Luke 17:27)

At the beginning of this year the following report appeared in the National Press:-

"Millions of revellers welcomed in the New Year across the country --- but the celebrations were marred by a wave of violence.

The skies above London were lit up by a dazzling array of fireworks as midnight arrived. But, on the ground, emergency services were stretched as they dealt with a flood of attacks, across the country, police were on high alert as some public houses and clubs took advantage of the new 24 - hour drinking legislation. ---

A senior police officer said, "We have had officers shot at, bricks thrown at police vans and colleagues being attacked by gangs of drunken youths while trying to make arrests. Almost without exception these incidents were caused by people having too much to drink. It is one of the worst nights of violence I have ever seen. ---"

An official involved in dealing with law and order said, "We are horrified that there have been so many stabbings on what is an evening of celebration for most people." Another official said, (a police Inspector), "This morning there is only one free cell in the whole --- of my area --- it is one of the worst nights of violence I have ever seen." Another police spokesman declared that there had been more emergency calls than in previous years.

As this evidence is contemplated, the words of Jesus come to mind, who prophesied that at the time of His return to this good

earth of God's Creation, humanity would be very failing creatures. It would be as in the times of Noah, as described in the book of Genesis, when the earth was corrupt with human behaviour and FILLED with violence.

Many young people today relish a fight. Some like to cause deliberate damage. And how applicable to the modern condition of things are Christ's words:- "They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark." At the time of Noah, his contemporaries were not alarmed at that deterioration. To a degree it is the same today; usually the older ones, who in their earlier years saw better times, are those who now lament.

Consider the following statistic:-

"Almost half of the babies born in Britain today do not have married parents - - - more couples cohabit without getting wed - - - but although the number of babies born to single parents is still rising, also many couples are registering their children's birth jointly, indicating they have committed themselves to raising their family together - - -."

But how different this all is to the earlier years of the last century, when there was far more respect for marriage. It is recognised that children born out of wedlock are at higher risk of mental and emotional problems. These are more likely to be a trouble in school. It is one reason for problems among the young, as compared to the early part of the last century, when few births occurred outside marriage. Now there is a very large divorce rate, and in certain cases some are divorced and then re-married, only to be again divorced and married again.

Oh, how truly applicable are the words of the Lord Jesus about the happenings in today's world, conveying hope to those with "ears to hear", that there is to be a divine solution to this present evil.

**A BIBLE CLASS**

**"GIVE A PORTION TO SEVEN..."**

**Ecclesiastes 11:2**

Ecclesiastes was written by Solomon, as we read:

"The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem."  
Ecclesiastes 1:1.

The word "Preacher" comes from a root meaning to gather, to assemble - giving the thought of a gathering or an assembling of those who seek to learn, to hear the words of the Preacher.

Paul spoke of a preacher as he wrote to his Roman brethren:

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.  
How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"  
Romans 10:13-14.

Paul also spoke of the help he was granted on his way to Damascus, in writing to Titus:

"(God) ... hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour."  
Titus 1:3.

Solomon, the Preacher, taught his people the word of God, which he had learned from his father, David. As he became king after David's death, God said to him:

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

Solomon requested wisdom and understanding, for he felt himself to be:

"... but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.  
Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge

thy people, ... for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?"  
1 Kings 3:7,9.

God gave Solomon great wisdom, as well as riches and honor. From the Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, we read how he used this wisdom and understanding to teach his people. These teachings are with us today to help us in our desire to grow closer to God.

An example of his preaching with that wisdom and understanding is seen in our subject today. He wrote:

"Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.

Give a portion to seven, and also to eight: for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth.

As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all.

In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good."

Ecclesiastes 11:1-2,5-6.

The bread - the teaching, the support of life - which is cast upon the waters, is carried by those waters to where we do not know! It is not under the control of our hands, but it is carried to a resting place where it can provide life for any who may find it after many days. In doing so, one casting the bread may give a portion, a part of it, to seven or possibly to eight, providing for the needs even among the evil that may be upon the earth.

When we think of bread, we remember the manna in the wilderness, which sustained Israel for 40 years, along with the water from the rock. Jesus taught of that manna:

"...Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven: but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.

For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

... I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."

John 6:32-33,35.

The Preacher taught:

“Give a portion to seven, and also to eight...”

Ecclesiastes 11:2.

The word “portion” means an inheritance, an allotment, a part, or a partaking of that which is valuable, useful, or needful. David expressed his mind concerning his portion:

“My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee.

But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.”

Psalm 73:26-28.

David was a man after God’s own heart, and was sustained by God’s hand upon him.

The Almighty has promised a portion, an inheritance in His kingdom, to a few - a remnant whose hearts are circumcised, the flesh cut off. We do not know where the bread cast upon the waters may come to rest, bringing the hope of salvation through the word of God. James helps us as he likens the casting of bread upon the waters, to the planting of seed in good ground:

“Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receives the early and latter rain.

Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.”

James 5:7-8.

The signs in the earth portend the soon coming of the Lord Jesus. Let us cast our bread upon the waters, realizing that “... thou shalt find it after many days.” We know not where it may go, but under God’s hand, it may give an inheritance, a portion to a few, according to His will.

J.A.DeF.

**"HE WEAKENETH MY STRENGTH IN THE WAY"**

**Psalm 102:23**

The title of this Psalm written by David is addressed as:

"A Prayer of the afflicted when he is overwhelmed, and poureth out his complaint before the LORD."

We know of David's many trials and afflictions and how he was only able to endure because he trusted in God's presence near at hand to help and strengthen:

"Hear my prayer, O LORD, and let my cry come unto thee.  
Hide not thy face from me in the day when I am in trouble;  
incline thine ear unto me: in the day when I call answer me  
speedily".  
Psalm 102:1-2.

He knew where the only source of spiritual strength was and appealed to God, knowing his own strength was feeble:

"For my days are consumed like smoke, and my bones are  
burned as an hearth.  
My heart is smitten, and withered like grass; so that I forget  
to eat my bread.  
By reason of the voice of my groaning my bones cleave to  
my skin.  
I am like a pelican of the wilderness: I am like an owl of the  
desert.  
I watch, and am as a sparrow alone upon the house top."  
Psalm 102:3-7.

He knew his flesh would know affliction and that these tests were necessary to prove the man of spirit within, yet they were still very real and painful and often he must have felt alone and helpless, were it not for God. The remedy for those bowed under the weight of affliction and depression is to call upon the Lord, as David writes:

"But thou, O LORD, shalt endure for ever; and thy  
remembrance unto all generations.  
Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time  
to favour her, yea, the set time, is come.

For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof." Psalm 102:12-14.

Though his own flesh was weak, David kept in mind the enduring promise of God to His people. Here he speaks of the mercy which will one day be bestowed upon Zion - in the kingdom of God when His Son returns to gather His people to Him:

"To declare the name of the LORD in Zion, and his praise in Jerusalem;  
When the people are gathered together, and the kingdoms, to serve the LORD." Psalm 102:21-22.

In our verse under consideration, David laments his own lack of strength, saying:

"He weakened my strength in the way; he shortened my days" Psalm 102:23.

In another Psalm David uses this same word for strength in a similar plea to the Lord:

"For my life is spent with grief, and my years with sighing: my strength faileth because of mine iniquity, and my bones are consumed.

I was a reproach among all mine enemies, but especially among my neighbours, and a fear to mine acquaintance: they that did see me without fled from me.

I am forgotten as a dead man out of mind: I am like a broken vessel." Psalm 31:10-12.

He felt as a broken vessel before God - his own strength and will yielded up so that God might fill him with the ways of the spirit, qualities pleasing to Him:

"The LORD looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men.

From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth.

He fashioneth their hearts alike; he considereth all their works.

There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength." Psalm 33:13-16.

Man cannot deliver himself - not even a king with the strength of armies at his command, yet so few have come to understand this valuable lesson. Only he who humbles himself, knowing his strength can only be found in the Lord has hope:

"Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him,  
upon them that hope in his mercy;  
To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in  
famine.

Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our  
shield."  
Psalm 33:18-20.

Paul comes to mind as one who was hindered by weakness a "thorn in his flesh" - a constant reminder to him of his own inability and that his only strength was to be found in the Lord:

"And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."

II Corinthians 12:7-10.

Was not this David's spirit as well? To become weakened in the flesh but thereby built up by the spirit was his goal in order to be known as a servant of God.

M.C.S.

## SIGNS OF HIS COMING

“- - - Seal the book, even to the time of the end:  
MANY SHALL RUN TO AND FRO, and knowledge shall  
be increased.” (Daniel 12:4)

To the reverent mind the scripture has a revealing power. Sadly, however, in these evil, deteriorating times, a majority disregard or even despise the Bible. But the true position is, that God, in His greatness has looked down to reveal to mortal man His connection with this earth and the people upon it.

At the time of the prophet who penned the above words, mechanisation as compared to what now exists, was somewhat primitive, though there was considerable skill seen in various building projects, ruins of which are found in various parts of the world, and such traces do still impress.

The words of Daniel, however, in the 12th chapter of his book, looked well beyond his time, and the significant expression was that it was particularly a message for “the time of the end”.

At the end men were to have more knowledge, and one particular feature of such a time was very great movement of the peoples in that “many shall run to and fro”. How truly this has come to pass. The world is full of motor vehicles. One example of the increase in cars is that in Britain alone, in 2005, more than 340,000 of the more popular mini-cars were sold; this figure not taking into consideration sales of smaller cheaper versions from far eastern countries. There are, of course, many other types and models. Plans exist for 130 new car models to be on the roads later this year ranging from Eastern economy vehicles to luxury convertibles.

There are figures available that are indicative of the expansion of car production. For example Land Rover, the Birmingham based maker, owned by Ford, claims it sold more cars during 2005 than ever before in the company’s history. Ford have also had great success with its small Fiesta car. This vehicle came on the British market in the summer of 1976, and in the following 30 years well over three million have been sold. It was Ford’s first front-wheel-drive car, and was popular, and remained so. The business of

providing for "many running to and fro" is very great. For example in Britain alone there are considerably more than three hundred firms dealing with motor insurance, which has been a legal requirement since 1931.

Oh., how true and significant, are the words of scripture, to help our faith. God in His wonderful greatness knew all those years ago how man, the creature of His handiwork, would develop. And to those, who, in necessary humbleness, would realise, for all the scientific developments of mankind, they still remain puny creatures of the dust: God shows there is to be an omnipotent over-ruling to bring about a true success to His creatures of this good earth. So the preserved, inspired word of heaven declares.-

"At that time (the time of the end) shall Michael (One like God - - Jesus Christ) stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people (the prophet Daniel's people) - - - and 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 (the resurrection) - - -. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament - - -." (Daniel 12:1-3)

What a wonderful hope is set before the faithful in these words of the Most High; and the nearness of their fulfilment is undoubtedly indicated in the world around us, in the increase of knowledge and technology; but, alas, also a time of disbelief, and of a failing of respect for scripture, which has a wonderful, unique, sublime message.

**NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR JUNE 2006**

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

Continued response to our monthly mailing to the general public encourages us in this witnessing.

Our Sister, Nancy Brown has been recuperating in a rehabilitation center from a fall resulting in a fractured pelvis. She will soon be transferred to an assisted living facility.

Our Brother Steiger has undergone an operation for a ruptured disc, which has caused intense pain.

We are grateful for God's guidance and help in these circumstances.

J.A.DeF.

**MANCHESTER**

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

It is a blessing that we are enabled to have speedier contact with our Brethren and Sisters in the U.S.A., not only by telephone, but through fax facilities when details for discussion are needed.

We rejoice over the successful treatment for one of our Brethren, which has brought him relief from great pain.