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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

“YE HEARD A VOICE”

This week we have been reading of Israel on the brink of entering the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. These promises were given to Abraham in 1920 B.C. Israel was about to enter the land of Canaan 469 years later. The last 40 years were spent wandering in the wilderness because of their refusal to enter the promised land at Kadesh-barnea. When they left Mount Sinai to go to the land promised, they travelled 11 days to Kadesh-barnea. The 12 spies spent 40 days exploring the land. Had they obeyed God, they could have entered the land in 50-some days; but because of their unbelief, they spent 40 years (14,600 days) in the wilderness. Six hundred thousand men over 20 years of age left Egypt; all died in those 40 years, with only Joshua and Caleb being allowed to enter. Another 600,000 men stood on the bank of the Jordan, waiting to enter their inheritance.

Moses spoke to those waiting to enter the land, reminding them:

“... the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb (Mount Sinai), when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children.

And ye came near and stood under the mountain; and the mountain burned with fire unto the midst of heaven, with darkness, clouds, and thick darkness.

And the LORD spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude: only ye heard a voice.”

Deuteronomy 4:10-12.

God made a covenant with His people; Moses spoke of that covenant, reminding the people who were preparing to enter the land promised to Abraham’s seed:

“... if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon you, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice;

(For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he swore unto them."

Deuteronomy 4:29-31.

Moses further reminded his people:

"Did ever people hear the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as thou hast heard, and live?

Out of heaven he made thee to hear his voice, that he might instruct thee: and upon earth he shewed thee his great fire; and thou heardest his words out of the midst of the fire.

And because he loved thy fathers, therefore he chose their seed after them, and brought thee out in his sight with his mighty power out of Egypt:

To drive out nations from before thee greater and mightier than thou art, to bring thee in, to give thee their land for inheritance, as it is this day." Deuteronomy 4:33,36-38.

This morning we have listened to Moses' words to his people:

"Hear, O Israel! Thou art to pass over Jordan this day, to go in to possess nations greater and mightier than thyself, cities great and fenced up to heaven,

A people great and tall, the children of the Anakims, whom thou knowest, and of whom thou hast heard say, Who can stand before the children of Anak (giants)?

Understand therefore this day, that the LORD thy God is he which goeth over before thee; as a consuming fire he shall destroy them, and he shall bring them down before thy face: so shalt thou drive them out, and destroy them quickly, as the LORD hath said unto thee."

Deuteronomy 9:1-3.

Moses himself was not permitted to enter the land because of his (and Aaron's) failure to sanctify God at the rock. Can we enter into Moses' mind as Israel camped by the Jordan, ready to enter the land, and himself left out? He sought God's permission to go in, but was refused. He did not fret or argue, but spoke to his people, urging them to believe in God's help, to obey the voice that they heard.

Moses, after being allowed to view the land, died upon Mount Nebo and was buried in the land of Moab near Beth-peor, to the east of the Jordan river. He was 120 years old, having lived in Pharaoh's house for 40 years, in Midian for 40 years, and wandered

with Israel for another 40 years. He was a friend of God:

“... the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend.” Exodus 33:11.

Moses was recognized by God as “(...very meek, above all men which were upon the face of the earth)” (Numbers 12:3). When the Lord Jesus returns to this earth to rule over it, as promised by the Almighty, Moses will be among those judged to be righteous, and placed on Jesus’ right hand, when he will hear the voice of Jesus.

“... Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world”

Matthew 25:34.

Today we see Israel fighting to preserve their land - no longer His chosen people. They are beset by the Palestinians (Hamas) on the west and Hezbollah on the north. This is the enmity between the Arabs and the Jews through many centuries. They became a nation in 1948, and there has been warfare ever since, as the Muslims vow to destroy Israel as a nation and a people. This will continue until Jesus returns “conquering and to conquer.” The land promised to Abraham and to David shall be established, and Jesus Christ will reign over all the earth, along with His saints - those who have “heard a voice” and obeyed it, relying upon the Almighty to bring His purpose to fruition.

Much has happened to Israel since the time of Moses. We feel the “crossing of Jordan” and “entering the land” will be soon! Let us heed Moses’ words:

“Hear, O Israel: Thou art to pass over Jordan this day, to go in to possess nations greater and mightier than thyself, cities great and fenced up to heaven;

Understand therefore this day, that the LORD thy God is he which goeth before thee, as a consuming fire he shall destroy them, and he shall bring them down before thy face: so shalt thou drive them out, and destroy them quickly as the LORD hath said unto thee.” Deuteronomy 9:1,3.

Israel heard the voice of God speaking directly out of the cloud, so all Israel heard and feared. They pleaded to have God speak to Moses, and Moses then convey His words to them. How often we read: “And the LORD spake unto Moses”!

We hear His voice through Moses, the Psalms, and the prophets - through all His Word. We are a few who hear His voice today. As we hear Him, should we not obey His word as we live, struggling, to overcome our natural fleshly thinking, striving to honor and

glorify God, hoping for a place in the kingdom to come - such as promised to David: a son, a king, a throne, a house, a kingdom - all to last for ever?

We have the example of faithful men on record for our help - those who have heard the voice of God. We think of Elijah, persecuted by Jezebel and Ahab, he fled for his life, wishing he could die, as he cried out:

“... It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life...”

I Kings 19:4.

An angel provided him with food, and he traveled for 40 days to Mount Horeb (Sinai). There God spoke to Elijah:

“... the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountain; ... but the LORD was not in the wind.... The LORD was not in the earthquake; .... the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice....”

I Kings 19:11-12.

God spoke to Elijah, and gave him Elisha as a fellow-sojourner in the Lord's work. How powerful is the “still, small voice” of God!

Paul journeyed to Damascus to persecute the followers of the Lord Jesus, and was blinded by a great light from heaven:

“And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest....

And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?”

Acts 9:4-6.

The voice also spoke to Ananias, that he should go to Saul and heal his blindness. Ananias objected because he knew of Saul's persecution of Jesus' followers, But again the voice spoke:

“... Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me....

For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.”

Acts 9:15-16.

Paul was healed of his blindness, baptized, and spent the rest of his life in obedience to God's word, until he was executed by Nero, having suffered great things for approximately 30 years.

There is another example of one who heard the voice of the Lord. John, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was exiled on the isle of

Patmos "... for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 1:9):

"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest (and hearest), write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches..." Revelation 1:11.

God revealed much of his purpose with this earth, and John did write, for our help, what the voice directed him in revealing God's promised purpose.

We have heard the Almighty's voice through many who heard His voice or the voice of His Son, Jesus Christ, and His prophets, to help us, a few, close to entering the land promised to His faithful people. Among the last words John heard (and saw in vision) on Patmos were:

"... I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea (nations).

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he shall dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God" Revelation 21:1-3.

This is our hope, Brethren and Sisters, our desire, our goal: to hear the voice of Jesus to His saints at His right hand:

"... Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Matthew 25:34.

What greater joy can there be known to man than to hear His voice, and to be called and chosen to rule with Jesus Christ as kings and priests for eternity, fulfilling His promises from the time of Adam!

J.A.DeF.

## LEGION

In our daily portions from Mark, we read of a most remarkable instance of healing by the Lord Jesus of one afflicted with a severe mental disorder who was known as "Legion":

"And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him no, not with chains:

And, always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying and cutting himself with stones."

Mark 5:2-3,5.

Two other gospels add more information about this same situation:

"And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gargaseses, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way."

Matthew 8:29.

"And they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is over against Galilee.

And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs."

Luke 8:26-27.

This demented man was obviously well known in that area for many feared him. The Lord Jesus used this opportunity to heal Legion and witness to the power of God within Himself, to His disciples and the immediate onlookers.

Rather than threatening the Lord Jesus, as he did others, Legion approached beseeching Him for help:

"But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him,

And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.

For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.

And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many."

Mark 5:6-9.

There was close by a huge herd of swine feeding - some two thousand in number. In loosing Legion from his affliction; which was viewed in those days as an "unclean spirit or devil", the popular term used to describe mental illness, He directed this same illness into the swine:

"Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding.

And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them.

And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea."

Mark 5:11-13.

Were this situation to occur today it would spark great interest as well - with many coming to visit the site to speak with the man healed and learn of the story in detail. This was such a remarkable situation, one would think it would stir faith, belief and repentance in many. But what was their reaction? We read on in Mark:

"And they that fed the swine fled, and told it in the city, and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that was done.

And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.

And they that saw it told them how it befell to him that was possessed with the devil, and also concerning the swine.

And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts."

Mark 5:14-17.

The Lord Jesus' work was to preach the kingdom of God, that men would repent - think and walk differently, leaving their old immoral fleshly habits and seek to walk in justice and truth pleasing to the Almighty. His acts of healing which displayed the Father's power within Him, were to convince those whose hearts could be touched, of the sincerity of His mission.

It is obvious that Israel was in need of repentance, evidenced alone by the keeping of a herd of two thousand swine - an animal designated unclean and forbidden to a faithful Jew under the dietary laws of God. It is obvious there was no observance of God's laws among His people in things small or great. Yet to Legion, once tormented unspeakably by mental illness, his gratitude was genuine



and his repentance evident:

“And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him.

Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.” Mark 5:18-20.

Legion was not ungrateful for the miracle of healing done by the Lord Jesus. From this record in Mark, it is evident once his illness was removed, he sought to change his life and walk in faith and belief with newness of life, giving honor and glory to God and His Son by repeating this remarkable story of healing to all that would listen.

How many onlookers could have been turned to the same path of salvation after witnessing this powerful event! Yet only one man - Legion, seems to have taken it to heart and made a difference in his life.

What is the message for us today after reading this stirring record of healing and compassion? Born of the flesh, we are all prone to its frailty and uncleanness - prey to disease of both body and mind and in need of cleansing in order to be whole and acceptable before God.

After his healing, Legion wanted to follow the Lord Jesus as one of His disciples, yet the Lord told him he could best serve by witnessing of the “great things the Lord hath done for thee”. What a transformation his new life would exhibit to those who had known him previously, while in the grips of mental illness. We don’t know how many may have been moved to repentance and belief after hearing the stirring record of this one man’s account, but we can hope his labors brought forth fruit for the record to conclude that, “all men did marvel” (Mark 5:20).

Legion’s name speaks in figure of how many we are that are diseased both in body and spirit. Born of the flesh, we are flawed and not whole - all are in need of spiritual healing in order to be at one with God and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

M.C.S.

**“--- I beseech thee: by whom shall Jacob arise?  
for he is small.”**

**(Amos 7:2)**

Today there are six million Jews in Israel. Its countryside is rich and lovely, but what a hard and toilsome journey the Jews have had to take, to get where they are today. But even now there is still trouble to mar the enjoyment of the land of their forefathers. There is still a situation as prophesied by Jeremiah who said:-

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

Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it:

it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble; but he shall be saved out of it --- they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.”

(Jeremiah 30:5-9).

The Jews have been stalwart and determined to hold on to the land of their ancestors, that is, now that they have returned to it. How remarkable has been that return. Before the 2nd World War, some of Britain’s Jewish people became interested in Israel; though they did not have any power there. Oliver Cromwell had granted them permission to dwell in England and to keep their Mosaic faith. As the 2nd World War approached the British Union of Fascists became troublesome to them; but then when the war commenced, British Fascism became discredited, as Hitler’s Nazi hordes stormed across Europe. Naturally, after the war, the Jews began to seek for an opportunity to live in the land where they had once been a nation. The prophet Amos had prophetically prayed:

“I beseech thee: by whom shall Jacob arise?”

(Amos 7:2).

Britain before, during and after the war, kept a military presence in Israel; amongst its soldiers was an officer (Wingate) very greatly in sympathy with the Jewish settlers. They call him “The Hayedid”, that is a friend. Israel, called Palestine at the time, was his absorbing interest. At times he would be heard singing some of the Psalms of David, in Hebrew. Though not a Jew, he longed to see the Jews established in the State of Israel; but he also, with his

experience, was convinced the settlers would have to be defended against the Arab world. He associated with an important officer of a Jewish defence force, called the Haganah, and becoming eventually a Major-General, he was at the time a great help to the Jews. There was Arab rebellion against both British rule and Jewish settlements, with Britain tending to lean more towards the Arabs, frequently its soldiers confiscating what few weapons the Jews had. However this Jew's British officer friend urged them on in their Zionist ambition, and gave very valuable advice and instruction to them. As a result, when the Jews took to the offensive they were a great success. His influence on the emerging Israeli nation was considerable and though he did not live to see the eventual establishment of the Jewish state in 1948, he was to leave the Jews with the military techniques, which make them into the superior force which keeps the Arabs at bay. Moshe Dayan, a member of Jewish Haganah was associated with this British officer, and Dayan said of him, "he was never wrong, I never knew him to lose an engagement. --- If we were 20, and the Arabs 200 --- he would say, "all right, there is a way to beat them --- we can turn the situation in our favour." This briefly refers to how Jews were helped in becoming the nation of Israel; and also of course being due to their own great efforts. So this nation of six million Jews has become formidable against a hostile Arab world which surrounds it. But even so, "the time of Jacob's trouble" continues.

At the time of writing, after Israel has gone to considerable lengths to let the Palestinians of Gaza have a separate state, Arabs have kidnapped a nineteen year old Jewish soldier. Two other Israelis are also reported as being detained by the Arabs of Gaza. The Jews, as a result have stormed across Gaza's northern border, and they hold captive eight Palestinian ministers and a number of Hamas officials (of the ruling Arab group).

Will there be a Jewish-Arab war again? This is the fear. Alas then, though many Jews are now back in the land of their forefathers, and though they prosper as a result of their enterprise, they still are in a state of having an enemy close at hand, who are looking to do them an injury. It is "trembling, of fear, and not of peace." But the scripture hope promises:-

"(Jacob) shall be saved out of it --- they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king---."

(Jeremiah 30:9)

A BIBLE CLASS

“WHEN THOU MAKEST A FEAST,  
CALL THE POOR...”

LUKE 14:13

We are considering the words of “Luke the beloved physician” (Colossians 4:14). Luke was a close companion of Paul in his travels to preach the Gospel. We are given a glimpse of his mind as he wrote the record entitled LUKE:

“It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus (loved of God), That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.” Luke 1:3-4.

A physician is one who heals. As a physician, no doubt Luke could heal physically; but he also helped those in need spiritually.

In Luke chapter 14, we read:

“... as he (Jesus) went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the sabbath day, that they watched him (kept an eye upon him).

And, behold, there was a certain man before him which had the dropsy.” Luke 14:1-2.

He knew the evil mind of the Pharisees, and asked:

“... Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath?

And they held their peace. And he took him, and healed him, and let him go. And they could not answer him again to these things.” Luke 14:3-4,6.

Jesus then taught through a parable concerning a man invited to a wedding feast, and who took a place in one of the chief rooms. The man who invited this presumptuous one, rebuked him:

“When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him.

And he that bade thee and him come and say unto thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room.

But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee.

For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Luke 14:8-11.

Jesus taught by this parable that the Almighty looks with pleasure upon those who humble themselves, looking to Him as the true judge to lift one up, for He knows each mind.

Jesus further taught concerning a feast:

"... When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompense (repay, render again) be made thee." Luke 14:12.

What is the motive in bidding friends, rich neighbors, or relatives? Is it thinking of self, of enjoyment for self, or of being exalted by those bidden, or looking forward to being invited to their feasts? Jesus further instructed:

"But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind." Luke 14:13.

The word used for "feast" in Luke 14:13, is different from the usual word for feast. The Concordance renders it: "a convivial entertainment" - rather than a feast on a sabbath or holy day. The motive is to please self rather than glorify God. By inviting the poor, maimed, lame and blind, the Lord Jesus continued to speak:

"And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just." Luke 14:14.

When one of them (the Pharisees) heard these things, he said to Jesus:

"... Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God." Luke 14:15.

This is the recompense, the reward, for those who are good neighbors to the needy. They deny themselves in order to help those

who lack. This makes us think of Jesus' words concerning the recompense in the resurrection to His judgment seat:

"... he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of this world.

For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

... Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Matthew 25:33-36,40.

Let us heed Jesus' words concerning those who think of others, rather than self, who hope for recompense at the time of judgment; those who heed Jesus' words to His disciples:

"... 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 for my sake shall find it.

For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward (recompense) every man according to his works."

Matthew 16:24-25,27.

Our hope is to be among those who "... shall eat bread in the kingdom of God." Are our works acts of love, not of self; acts of giving, not receiving; works which please God rather than self? Let us remember the Lord Jesus' words to His followers:

"Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations.

And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me;

That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

Luke 22:28-30.

J.A.DeF.

## THE COVENANT OF PROMISE

We are helped through Paul's letter to his Corinthian brethren as he reminded them of God's promises:

"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

II Corinthians 7:1.

In the previous chapter he explained how one could attain unto those promises saying:

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

II Corinthians 6:17-19.

This was God's covenant with His people - an agreement between two. He would be their Father if they would obey His word. In order to obey His word, they must first come out from among the world by departing from its flesh-oriented lifestyle, which seeks to please self and not God.

This was not a new concept that God was putting forth first through Paul. The separation between good and evil has been the foundation of His word and His covenant from the beginning. In a figure of this precept, God's first work of creation was to make a difference between the two:

"And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness."

Genesis 1:3-4.

To Israel in the wilderness, again God reiterated His promise through Moses, that if they kept themselves separate from the world's evil, endeavoring to walk in holiness, they would be unto Him a peculiar treasure:

"And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel;

Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.

Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep

my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.” Exodus 19:3-06.

God had brought them out of bondage, separated them from the world at that time and from those that had enslaved them. He led them by Moses to Himself, that they might learn His word and walk therein as a holy people.

To those of like precious faith years later, Peter gives the same message of hope, possible through the blood of Christ:

“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.”

I Peter 2:5-6.

This word for “priest” gives the connotation of “being at one with God” - dominating oneself to control the thinking of the flesh and allowing the spirit man within to become uppermost. Peter explains that to exert such control is to, “offer up spiritual sacrifices”, after the example of the life of the Lord Jesus, and acceptable to God.

In order to become “perfect” or complete as that word means, one must make a conscious effort towards walking in holiness, separate from the natural wickedness inherent in the flesh and in the surrounding world, which know not God or His precepts. However, because the flesh is so prone to failure - sin and alienation from God is a constant possibility. Knowing the frame of man, God in His mercy, established a priesthood under the law. They would serve as mediators between God and man, teaching Israel by figure one aspect of the work of their coming Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. Only as Israel brought their offerings for sin to these priests, could approach be made to the Almighty and forgiveness and atonement granted. Today, only through belief in the Lord Jesus and acknowledging the sacrifice of His perfect life, can approach be made to God through Him as our Mediator and High Priest, seeking forgiveness and atonement for our failures.

“... Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth.



Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

Revelation 1:5-6.

Only by keeping one's mind fastened upon that covenant can there be a hope of attaining unto the end promised. What mercy God has bestowed upon mankind through the gift of His Word and the free will offering of His Son, that we as failing creatures have the hope of being "at one" with Him.

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

Eccl. 12:13.

This same message have all the prophets brought to God's people - as did Moses to Israel while in the wilderness:

"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live. That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."

Deuteronomy 30:19-20.

This record has been preserved to strengthen and encourage us as we endeavor to walk after the example of our High Priest, the Lord Jesus, in the fear of God. In kindness, He has given His word to show us the path and how we must walk, in order to please Him.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not."

John 1:1,4-5.

God in His great mercy has shown us the means of putting down our flesh - through the provision of His word and in the example of the life of His Son, the Lord Jesus. He is the Light and the Word perfected, by which we may see the way we are to go and walk therein, in order to keep and be blessed by God's covenant of promise .

M.C.S.

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

**“- - - KNOWLEDGE SHALL BE INCREASED.”**

**(Daniel 12:4)**

The above quotation is from a prophecy which undoubtedly relates to Christ's second coming. Daniel speaks of the coming of "Michael", and of the resurrection:

**“- - - many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”**  
(Daniel 12:2).

In this context there is a particular focus in the prediction that at such a time, KNOWLEDGE SHALL BE INCREASED.

People of the nineteenth century had no idea of how man's inventiveness would suddenly surge forward, after the many centuries of modest improvement. A professor of Natural Philosophy and Astronomy of University College, London, (who lived 1793 to 1859) had this to say:-

**“Rail travel at high speed is not possible, because passengers, unable to breathe, would die of asphyxia.”**

A few years later a memo at Western Union (1878), said:-

**“This telephone has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us.”**

A British mathematician and physicist, president of the British Royal Society said in 1895:-

**“Heavier - than - air flying machines are impossible.”**

The President of the Michigan Savings Bank, advised Henry Ford's lawyer, in 1903, not to invest in the Ford Motor Co. He said:-

**“The horse is here to stay but the automobile is only a novelty, it is a fad.”**

Note what Albert Einstein said in 1932:-

**“There is not the slightest indication that nuclear energy will ever be obtainable. It would mean that the atom would have to be shattered at will.”**

Twenty seven years later IBM, eventual founders of Xerox, predicted that a market for photocopiers would be too small for production of copying machines to be set in motion! And in 1977 the President of Digital Equipment Corporation declared:

“There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home.”

When a Cambridge Aeronautics Professor was shown a plan of the jet engine, he made the remark:-

“Very interesting Whittle, my boy, but it will never work.”

Now look at the situation a few years later, and in considering what has developed, recall what the Bible says:-

“- - - many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. - - -”  
(Daniel 12:4).

But what has come with these amazing inventions? Surely the world is potentially a more dangerous place! Recently a British Defence White Paper declared:

“Technology will leave aircrews grounded as complex computers take the controls to fly spy missions, or drop bombs on the world’s trouble spots - - - the future of aerial combat lies in unmanned aerial vehicles that can stay aloft for longer, drop precision bombs and do not put pilot’s lives at risk.”

The American President has been voicing uneasiness about Iran saying it was to go ahead, to develop nuclear power. Some have criticised his warning statements, but consider what Iranian leaders have been saying:-

“Israel is a ‘rotten dried tree that will be annihilated by one storm’. - - - Like it or not, ‘the Zionist regime will be eliminated.’ Iran had successfully enriched uranium - - - a significant step toward the large-scale production of enriched uranium for fuelling nuclear reactors (or for making atomic bombs).”

Israel, in 1981, made a “get-in-first” strike against Iraq’s nuclear research centre at Osirak, near Baghdad, managing to destroy it. Iran has been more crafty. Its nuclear sites are dispersed around the

country and heavily protected. Moreover its nuclear research is not a recent project, it has been doing this for more than twenty years, only revealing it recently. As this situation is reflected upon in this modern world, how significant and comforting are the words of the prophet Daniel. At the time of the end:-

“- - - At THAT time shall Michael stand up - - - and there shall be a time of trouble such as never was - - - and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.” (Daniel 12:1)

**NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR OCTOBER 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

At the time of this writing, there is intense warfare between Israel, the Hamas Arabs in the Gaza Strip and the Hezbollah in Lebanon. There is destruction in Israel due to Arab rockets and in Lebanon by Israel's planes and artillery. The U.S.A. is seeking peace but with no success to date. We wonder where this will result in the soon coming of Jesus Christ, who alone can establish peace for Israel, as promised by God and His prophets.

Interest continues, seeking information and literature, bringing encouragement and gratitude.

J.A.DeF.

**MANCHESTER**

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

As the work continues, provision for its witness is received not only from His unfailing word, but there are other sources, that also help us to perceive how the times continue to move onward, towards the culmination foreordained. How helped we are to have such encouragement, for we cannot of ourselves solely attain unto the understanding which is of His mercy.