

DECEMBER 2006

A Monthly Magazine issued by

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"

"AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD"

"YE ARE NOT YOUR OWN"

"SEEK UNTO THEM THAT HAVE FAMILIAR SPIRITS"

"A BIBLE CLASS"

"ANGER RESTETH IN THE BOSOM OF FOOLS"

"SIGNS OF HIS COMING"

"NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS"

All Communications

D. Lancaster,
227 Moston Lane East,
New Moston,
Manchester M40 3HY,
England.

J. A. DeFries,
146 Gardner Street,
Fredonia,
New York 14063,
U.S.A.

AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

"WE HAVE WAITED FOR HIM"

In our recent reading in Isaiah, we find Judah in sore straits during the reign of Hezekiah, as Sennacherib king of Assyria was threatening to destroy Jerusalem. Also, Hezekiah was informed by Isaiah that he was about to die (II Kings 20:1). These events happened in 715 - 712 BC, shortly after Shalmanezar king of Assyria in 721 BC conquered the ten tribes of Israel, destroyed Samaria, the capital of the ten tribes, and took the ten tribes to Assyria in captivity. Having previously been helped by Isaiah, God's faithful prophet, to fear God, Hezekiah prayed for His help. The Almighty heard the king, and he was cured of his fatal illness. Sennacherib's army was destroyed by God's power, without so much as shooting an arrow into Jerusalem. God was gracious in His help for Hezekiah; and He can help us today, Brethren and Sisters, if we turn to Him in prayer, seeking His deliverance.

Isaiah, under God's hand, warned of the situation in the world at the time of Hezekiah:

"Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof.

The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant" Isaiah 24:1,5.

In these circumstances, help was promised to Hezekiah, as Isaiah prophesied:

"When thus it shall be in the midst of the land among the people, there shall be as the shaking of an olive tree, and as the gleaning grapes when the vintage is done.

They shall lift up their voice, they shall sing for the majesty of the LORD, they shall cry aloud from the sea.

Wherefore glorify ye the LORD in the fires, even the name of the LORD God of Israel in the isles of the sea."

Isaiah 24:1 3-15.

There was a remnant - the two tribes led by Hezekiah - who sought God's help. They received that help to endure those difficult

times, as they glorified God. It was a severe test for Hezekiah and Judah! Would they rely on the Lord as He promised to care for His people? Isaiah brought God's help as he spoke to Hezekiah and Judah:

"And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth.

And they shall be gathered together as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited.

Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously."

Isaiah 24:21-23.

This is God's promise to those who trust in His word, His covenant. The Lord shall bring deliverance from their enemies, when the Lord Jesus returns to establish the peace of Jerusalem.

Inspired by the promise from the Almighty, Hezekiah and Judah put their trust in Him, and were delivered from captivity, and their king was promised an additional fifteen years of life. The mind and spirit of Hezekiah and Judah were expressed in these words.

"... it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

Isaiah 25:9.

They looked forward to the deliverance promised by God, to all those who put their trust in Him - who wait for Him - to be established during their time of probation, and ultimately to come about when Jesus returns, to establish the kingdom of Israel for ever. The word "wait" used here means to bind together, to gather, to look, to tarry. How did they wait upon the LORD, as Sennacherib threatened Jerusalem? They were not idly waiting! They trusted in God; they went about works evidencing that trust. For example:

"... (Hezekiah) strengthened himself, and built up all the wall ... and raised it up to the towers... and repaired Millo in the city of David, and made darts and shields in abundance.

And he set captains of war over the people, and gathered

them together to him in the street of the gate of the city, and spake comfortably (to the heart) of them, saying,
Be strong and courageous, and be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that is with him: **for there be more with us** than with him:
With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested (relied) themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.”
II Chronicles 32:5-8.

Further:

“... Hezekiah the king, and the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz, prayed and cried to heaven.” II Chronicles 32:20.

As God saw these activities of Hezekiah, heard his words of encouragement to Judah, and heard their prayers and cries:

“... the LORD sent an angel, which cut off all the mighty men of valour, and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he was come into the house of his god, they that came forth of his own bowels slew him there with the sword”
II Chronicles 32:21.

The Almighty, pleased with Hezekiah's reliance and waiting upon Him, saved Jerusalem and healed Hezekiah's illness.

We have the example of other faithful men who waited upon the Lord, such as David, who wrote:

“I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

And he put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD. Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee; if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.”
Psalm 40:1-5.

David waited patiently on many occasions, seeking to please God. He did fail when he precipitously forged ahead, as his flesh lusted unlawfully. When he realized his failures, his response was: "I have sinned against the LORD" - and he endured the consequences.

Brethren and Sisters, do we willingly wait for the Lord? Are we praying with importunity, seeking His help in times of trouble, as did Hezekiah with Isaiah's help?

The Lord Jesus helps us, as He spoke in a parable to His disciples:

"I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; and knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

Luke 11:8-10.

Those who ask (pray), seek, and knock, in God's wisdom, may not always hear His response quickly; but if the request is made "nothing doubting," in due time God will answer.

God has promised the return of the Lord Jesus to the earth, to gather those responsible to His judgment seat. Those chosen will be placed on His right hand, hearing Jesus' words:

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

Matthew 25:34.

Let us wait for the Lord, with our lamps furnished with oil, so that when the Bridegroom comes, we may hope to go in unto the marriage, and hear His Words:

"... Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

Matthew 25:21.

J.A.DeF.

**"YE ARE NOT YOUR OWN"
(I Corinthians 6:19)**

Throughout his epistle to the Corinthians, Paul writes giving practical help for life in the Truth, in order that they may continue to walk acceptably before the Lord. In this regard he writes of the precept of being "bought with a price" saying:

"What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost (Spirit) which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

I Corinthians 6:19-20.

After a knowledge and good confession of faith from the word of God, one rises from the waters of baptism a new creature - burying behind the old man of sin and its life beneath the waters, and rising a son or daughter of God, born of the spirit. However, the warfare now has just begun between the spiritual man newly born who endeavors to walk in righteousness, and the carnal nature within him that seeks to please itself. This spiritual gift born at baptism does not come without a price - it has been bought by the sacrifice of Christ - His blood willingly offered that all who believe in Him may have the hope of life. Therefore, Paul's admonition is to "glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." Once born of the spirit, we can no longer walk after our own inclinations and continue to be in harmony with God and his Son. Our bodies are not our own, as the Lord Jesus exemplified by laying down His life for His brethren.

"For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and the living."

Romans 14:7-9.

There is no other way to be part of the household of God without being aligned to the cornerstone - Christ:

"For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." I Corinthians 3:9-11.

When a child is born, he comes into the world naked and unlearned. As knowledge grows so do worldly experiences and possessions. Hopefully for those called to a knowledge of the Truth, so does a growth in spiritual gifts. When death comes so comes an end to any future development, whether it be a life of submission and obedience to the Lord, or one steeped in the pursuit of fleshly pleasure and worldly accomplishments.

"As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.

For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more."

Psalm 103:15-16.

God in His kindness, first taught Israel of the spiritual concept of living not unto oneself in the law of releasing a Hebrew servant after six years service:

"If thou buy an Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve: and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing.

If he came in by himself, he shall go out by himself:

if he were married, then his wife shall go out with him.

And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free:

Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl; and he shall serve him for ever."

Exodus 21:2-3,5-6.

If the servant valued his master's loving care, he would not want to leave his service. If we are faithful servants of the Almighty, we too have the hope of not only being joined to him eternally, but also set free from the bondage of the flesh at the end of our time of

service. If found approved at Christ's judgment seat and marked forever as His, we will be eternally free from the curse of sin and death that we have carried our entire natural lives.

Paul, before his conversion to Christ, was considered a faithful servant of the high priest at Jerusalem. Through a misplaced zeal of faith, he sought out and persecuted the followers of the Lord Jesus. Yet when his deeds were revealed as contrary to God's will by the voice of the Lord Jesus, he was smitten in his heart and ashamed for his wickedness against God and His people. He immediately committed his life to the Lord, becoming a true servant of the Master in preaching His word wherever he was sent. In submitting, he realized his life was not his own but belonged to the Almighty, and after a life endeavoring to be a servant of Christ, he could say near the time of his death:

"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.

There has been a price paid when we are "not our own", therefore we have a responsibility to live up to the debt made through the blood of Christ on our behalf.

How can we be faithful servants? By realizing what must be foremost in our lives - not our own desires but the will of our Master, and endeavor to walk after the example of His Son.

M.C.S.

**“ --- Seek unto them that have familiar
spirits, and unto wizards --- ”**

(Isaiah 8:19)

Where there are a people, who claim extra spiritual powers, this is indicative of either deception, or of self deceiving.

The scriptural warning is:-

“--- should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?

To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”

(Isaiah 8:19-20).

The meaning in the original hebrew rendered “no light in them”, is “NO MORNING IN THEM”. People who claim to be in contact with those who have passed from this life, obviously look towards an immediate life, which they believe is there in a transition to a beyond as the individual expires. These thinkers, if this be true, do not need to look to God’s promise of a morning yet to come; when the night of present evil has passed away, with the power of God’s resurrection.

Isaiah, in his prophecy, warns against looking, with any respect, to those “that peep, and that mutter”, (Isaiah 8:19). Obviously there were such people in his day, but his warning is just as necessary for these times, and where such ignorance prevails the world is as he describes it:-

“--- behold trouble and darkness, dimness of anguish ---.”

(Isaiah 8:22).

A recent media report describes an extreme element still very evident of work of some who are falsely claiming special religious direction. At the end of last summer, on the Dartmoor estate of the Duchy of Cornwall, an area of nearly seventy thousand acres, which is a royal trust of Prince Charles, evidences of very terrible cruel practices have been discovered. Sheep, of which many roam about this wilderness of southern England, have been found, with necks broken, having had their eyes and tongues cut out. Often they have been found mutilated in their organs of propagation, and those examining these carcasses think it possible some were alive when hideous actions were performed upon them.

There was a roughly built den near the scene of one attack. At another place the animals were laid out in a line, with their heads twisted around to give the appearance of looking backwards. Again a further evidence of ritual slaughter found the sheep laid out in the shape of a seven-pointed star, which was one of the popular symbols of Victorian occultism. The particular area where many of these practices have occurred is near the attractive market town of Tavistock. Nearby is also the Merrivale stone circle, a relic of what, in history is described as the Bronze Age. The superstition of that time described this ritual complex as "The Gateway of the Dead." Apparently new cults and religions are arising, and so a kind of mysticism is embraced by some. The state of the minds of such is evidenced by their practices, seen in the maimed sheep, occurring in times of phases of the moon, particularly full and new moons.

One farmer who had lost twelve sheep, killed in four attacks, voiced uneasiness in the remark, "We are getting very scared. There is no question about it. If these people can kill and mutilate sheep, what might they do to us? We are pretty isolated and you do wonder who is out on the moor at night." This farmer would not allow himself to be identified for fear of reprisals. He however went on to explain that he thinks such, who are so behaving, link themselves to the Roman god Janus, who is referred to as the god of gateways. Dead sheep are often left in front of a gate, and their heads are twisted round as though looking through it. A sheep found dead last August, in the vicinity of Borringdon Hill, appeared to have a half moon symbol carved into its flesh! These details show to us what human nature is capable of doing, and reveal to us that these so called modern times, still have evidences that evil practices of the past are still at work. Additionally, in another aspect, the behaviour of those who are prepared to sacrifice their own bodies in killing not only themselves, but others also who are in their vicinity, believing that to martyr themselves in this way ensures transition to a life in another spiritual dimension; oh! how Isaiah testifies against such behaviour:-

"-- should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?

To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."

(Isaiah 8:19-20).

A BIBLE CLASS

**"WHOM HE DID FOREKNOW...
THEM HE ALSO GLORIFIED"
Romans 8:29-30**

The theme of Paul's teaching in Romans chapter 8, has to do with the enmity between the flesh and the Spirit. He began the chapter:

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.

That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

Romans 8:1-4.

How is one "in Christ Jesus"? By baptism into His name, with the old man of flesh buried into His death. One is baptized of water and of the Spirit, and arises from the water a new man, born not of water alone, but of water and of the Spirit. Thus the enmity begins between the old man under the law, and rising a new man after the Spirit. Paul wrote to make this clear:

"For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."

Romans 8:5-8.

Paul further helps us:

"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

Romans 8:13-14.

The sons of God, those who live after the Spirit of God, can be:

“... heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.” Romans 8:17,19.

The “earnest expectation” of those who are striving to be sons of God, is the hope of eternal life when the Lord Jesus returns, to gather these sons of God to be eternally of the Spirit - as kings and priests with Christ. Paul further wrote:

“For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.” Romans 8:24-25.

Those who are born of water and of the Spirit have this hope, wait with patience for the coming of Jesus Christ, seek God’s help in crucifying their flesh, and glorify Him by obedience to His will.

For those who are so doing, Paul reminds:

“... we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28.

The Almighty looks upon the heart of those who seek to honor Him, and calls them according to His purpose. What is “His purpose”? This word also is used as “shewbread” - in Hebrews 9:2. The shewbread was on the table of shewbread in the holy place of the temple in Jerusalem, symbolizing the twelve tribes of Israel who, according to God’s purpose, will be gathered into the kingdom of God when Jesus returns to establish it according to His Father’s purpose. Who will fit into His purpose? We know from the scriptures: Those who have been called. David was one called, as Samuel went to Jesse’s house to anoint a king over Israel. Samuel looked upon Jesse’s first-born and said:

“... Surely the LORD’S anointed is before him. But the LORD said to Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused (not called) him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.” I Samuel 16:6-7.

Finally, David was called when the Almighty said to Samuel: “... Arise, anoint him: for this is he” I Samuel 16:12.

God looked upon the heart - as He did in calling Abraham, Moses, Joshua, and many others. Solomon also was called; but in his latter years, he allowed his heart to be turned unto idols, offending God, and so lost his calling.

How does God call according to His purpose? Paul again helps us:

“... Whom he did foreknow (looked on the heart), he also did predestinate (pre-ordain) to be conformed to the image of his Son that he might be the first-born among many brethren.

Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified (judged to be mete, righteous): and whom he justified, them he also glorified (worthy of praise, honor, and esteem)”

Romans 8:29-30.

When we think of one glorified, we think of the Lord Jesus, as he spoke to His Father:

“I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”

John 17:4-6,11,17.

Paul asked:

“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?”

Romans 8:31-32.

How blessed are those who have been called to the hope of eternal life through the mercy and grace of God!

J.A.DeF.

ANGER RESTETH IN THE BOSOM OF FOOLS

Ecclesiastes 7:9

What a help is this kernel of spiritual understanding given through Solomon, in order that one may grow in the spiritual attributes that God looks for in His people. At the end of Ecclesiastes after a lifetime of searching out all manner of wisdom, he concludes by saying:

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”
Ecclesiastes 12:13.

Early in his reign, King Solomon was given the inestimable gift of great wisdom by God and with it he diligently applied himself to search out the ways of both man and God:

“I the Preacher was king over Israel in Jerusalem.
And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith.
I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit.”
Ecclesiastes 1:12-14.

In spite of his wisdom, we know from the scriptures that at the end of his life Solomon was seduced away from God's path by his many strange wives - building temples and groves in Israel in order that they might worship their false gods. What a dishonor this was to the Almighty, who had placed Solomon on the throne of his father David and endowed him with limitless wisdom, riches and esteem because of his faithfulness as a young man.

Using this wisdom given of God, Solomon speaks further of the danger of anger - a characteristic of the flesh, which must be controlled by one of the spirit:

“Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.”
Ecclesiastes 7:9.

Solomon also speaks in the Proverbs on this same subject of anger:

"The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression." Proverbs 19:11.

The man of spirit recognizes that anger is a character flaw - inherent in all flesh, and endeavors to control it, knowing such effort gives glory to God.

To the world, a fool is a simpleton or a joker. But in the spirit's eyes, the scripture describes a fool more seriously as one who blatantly rejects God's understanding - one who does what he alone thinks is right and refuses correction.

"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.
A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame." Proverbs 12:15-16.

The fool as well as the wise man are known by their deeds and one who is hasty to display anger is obviously not in control of his own spirit, as James exhorts:

"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:
For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God." James 1:19-20.

James in his epistle speaks at length of the dangers of surrendering to one's natural fleshly tendencies and the need, through control and restraint, to walk blameless before God:

"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:
But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.
Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." James 1:13-15.

A surrendering to one's baser emotions reminds us of the first record of anger that grew into rage and eventually murder. This anger began as jealousy because Abel had a greater perception and

love of God and brought an acceptable offering, while Cain's was rejected:

"But unto Cain and to his offering he (God) had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? And why is thy countenance fallen?

If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door.

And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him."

Genesis 4:5-8.

Cain's unwillingness to control his anger and his refusal to heed God's counsel to change his ways resulted in the murder of his brother, for which he will answer at the judgment seat of Christ.

How quickly feelings can rise to a boiling point when one feels hurt or wronged (whether real or imagined) - a natural reaction of the fleshly man. Yet if he had made amends for his unacceptable sacrifice, the result may have been different. However, his pride got in the way, along with resentment of God's correction and his jealousy and anger spilled over unto Abel.

Being flesh, we have all reacted at times in anger and later regretted our loss of control. A display of anger often accomplishes nothing positive, but only stirs up similar violent emotions and reactions in others. On the other hand, love and the positive attributes of the spirit have a different effect, as Paul explains:

"Charity (love) suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."

I Corinthians 13:4-7.

Conversely, anger does vaunt itself and is focused on self, not the welfare of others, erupting when easily provoked and seeking

revenge or harm on another. The man of spirit, seeking to follow the Lord's guidelines, doesn't dwell on self, but looks to the interests of others and is more able to control the fleshly man within because of his knowledge of what God requires.

A young child who has learned no self control, displays his frustration with temper tantrums when he doesn't get his own way. But as one matures, these impulses must be harnessed and tamed if only to cope in the workings of everyday life. Through God's word is the knowledge of what man's nature is capable of and how it must be controlled in order to please the Almighty and be known as one of His.

Moses, even though known as a meek man, was provoked to anger at the rock when he was instructed by God to bring forth water for the people. God specifically instructed Moses to "speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water". Yet because the people clamored in anger for water, provoking him, he too responded to their contentious manner in kind, striking the rock with his rod:

"And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?

And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also."

Numbers 20:10-11.

He failed to give glory to God for providing water from the rock, because he was provoked to anger. After so many years of faithful service, his anger at this moment overrode his better judgment and for this he was denied entrance into the land promised. How he would regret his hasty words as he was denied the culmination of his work of bringing Israel into their inheritance. Yet God in mercy allowed him to view the land from the top of the mount before he died:

"And Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, that is over against Jericho. And the LORD shewed him all the land of Gilead, unto Dan.

And the LORD said unto him, This is the land which I swear unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither.

So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD."

Deuteronomy 34:1,4-5.

What a sober warning is to be gleaned from these words of Solomon, outlining the dangers of anger and wrath growing uncontrolled in the heart of one who endeavors to please God.

"Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools."

Ecclesiastes 7:9.

The only means of conquering the flesh is through the wisdom contained in God's word - to exhibit love, restraint and control instead of giving place unto wrath.

M.C.S.

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

"They shall come all for violence."
(Habakkuk 1:9)

At the time of writing, even the head of the Roman Church has retracted over his quoting on a historical criticism of the Eastern Arab Religion. One demonstration from the Eastern Zealots called for him to be killed. The British police took no action on this threatening which spoke of a "holy war", the preliminary to which was the burning of the effigies of the leader of the Roman Church, even though he had expressed regret for his quoting of the Roman emperor's comments from the 14th century.

Iran's Ayattollah Chief has supported such Arab militancy; one of his declarations is significant, as follows, saying in his condemning of the United State's political position:-

"It is part of the crusade against Islam started by America's Bush. The Great Satan is playing its role."

Thus he is supporting the heated reactions from all over the Middle East, as being justified. Roman churches, for example, in the West Bank have been fire bombed, and in Somalia a nun was shot down as a warning. Muslims in Jordan have voiced dissatisfaction over the Pontiff's apology, saying it has not gone far enough. An Arab leader has given the following warning:-

"The Muslims take their religion very seriously and non-Muslims must appreciate that, and must also understand that there may be serious consequences if you insult Islam - - -."

Actually, as so very well already realised, there has been considerable violence before the present threatenings. Killings have occurred at the hands of Muslim zealots in New York, Madrid, London, Mumbai, Bali and Baghdad. In the middle East and Asia the religion's ambition is to act not only through its teaching, but also in political control.

Looking at Habakkuk's prophecy, though some of the foretelling has been seen to have been fulfilled in happenings of the past, some of the prophecies have, undoubtedly, to be yet fulfilled. For example:-

"Thou (the LORD) wentest forth for the salvation of thy people, even for salvation with thine anointed, (thy Christ)"
(Habakkuk 3:13)

Certainly, Israel, in its present position in the world needs to be saved from a preponderant threat of enemies from the East. That such a salvation is near, seems indicated by signs of the times. The violence that troubles the world, in some aspects, is strangely unusual in the suicide bombings that strike fear and death in an unexpected way. Consider what the Spirit through the prophet says:-

"They shall come all for violence - - -." (Habakkuk 1:9)

The scripture, of course, goes on to say:-

"- - - their faces shall sup up as the east wind, and they shall gather the captivity as the sand."

(continuation of verse 9)

This is a following on in a very violent time, and is something Israel is preparing itself for. Habakkuk then further prophetically declares:-

"Then - - - he shall pass over, and offend, (imputing) this his power unto his god."
(Habakkuk 1:11)

So there is to be at some time an initial success of the adversary. But heaven, as always, will be in control. Habakkuk declares his encouraging faith:-

"Art thou not from everlasting, O LORD my God, mine Holy One? we SHALL NOT DIE, O LORD, thou hast ordained them for judgment; and, O mighty God, thou hast established (founded) them for correction."

(Habakkuk 1:12)

The very difficult Eastern question is to be solved at the appropriate time, by overruling Heavenly power. The spirit gives comforting prophetic assurance for these last days (as follows):-

"And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie; though it tarry, wait for it because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

(Habakkuk 2:2-3)

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR DECEMBER 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

As another year draws to a close, with the world in turmoil, increasing crime and terrorism, we look with hope for the return of the Lord Jesus to establish the kingdom of God centered in Jerusalem, bringing peace and righteousness to this world.

Let us remember Jesus' words: "when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." (Luke 21:28)

J.A.DeF.

MANCHESTER

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

Another year is approaching its conclusion, and this brings His return nearer. It is a wonderful blessing that we know this, and have the help of each other to keep us in such remembrance, which alas is greatly missing in the World today.