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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"

"THAT I MAY KNOW HOW FRAIL I AM"

"FOR I KNOW THEIR WORKS AND THEIR THOUGHTS"

"A BIBLE CLASS"

"EZEKIEL"

"SIGNS OF HIS COMING"

"NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS"

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## AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

### "A LITTLE SANCTUARY"

In our portion this morning we have been with God's prophet, Ezekiel, as he was in Babylon among the captive children of Israel. He was among those taken to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar in 595 BC, seven years before the final captivity of Judah - the end of Israel as a nation. Ezekiel prophesied as directed by the Almighty, concerning the coming captivity. As he did so, he said:

"... Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou make a full end of the remnant of Israel?"  
Ezekiel 11:13.

God answered His prophet:

"... Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come."  
Ezekiel 11:16.

By 588 BC, Israel was scattered, cast off among the heathen. Yet God answered His prophet's question: "... wilt thou make a full end of the remnant of Israel?" - assuring Ezekiel there would be "a little sanctuary" in the countries where His people were scattered.

We might ask: What is a sanctuary? It is a consecrated place, made holy, hallowed, where God would be among His people, the remnant of Israel in captivity. Ezekiel was sent to Babylon at the time of Israel's first captivity to be a prophet, a watchman, a messenger of God to encourage, to warn, and to lift them up. His message was:

"... Thus saith the Lord GOD: I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel. And they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable things thereof and all the abominations thereof from thence.

And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh,

and will give them a heart of flesh:

That they may walk in my statutes, and keep my ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

But as for them whose heart walketh after the heart of their detestable things and their abominations, I will recompense their way upon their own heads, saith the Lord GOD."

Ezekiel 11:17-21.

The Lord assured Ezekiel, and through Ezekiel His people, that there would be a "remnant of Israel." There would be a sanctuary, though little, in the lands where they were captives, and that He would gather them and assemble them again in the land promised to Israel since the time of Abraham.

The Almighty required Ezekiel to speak to His people in captivity in Babylon "... whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house)" (Ezekiel 2:5). To those who did hear, Ezekiel brought this message of encouragement and hope that the faithful would be gathered and assembled as a nation in Israel; that there would be for them "a little sanctuary". To those who refused to hear, there would be no sanctuary, no remnant - only the recompense of God.

To help Ezekiel and those who listened to God's word, Ezekiel was shown a vision of the sanctuary to be established in Jerusalem when the Lord Jesus returns to establish the kingdom of God. In Ezekiel chapters 40 through 48, we are shown that vision of the sanctuary and the city of Jerusalem. The vision ends with the words of God:

"... and the name of the city from that day shall be, The LORD is there."  
Ezekiel 48:35.

The LORD will be there when His sanctuary shall be built - not "a little sanctuary, but a magnificent dwelling place in the midst of His people. To those in captivity in Babylon, such circumstances would seem impossible; but the faithful, those who listened to Ezekiel's message, would look forward with hope and trust in God's word to His promised purpose.

God had prophesied through Jeremiah that the captivity in

Babylon would last for 70 years. Cyrus, king of Persia, made a decree:

“... in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,  
Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The LORD his God be with him, and let him go up.”

II Chronicles 36:22-23.

Under this decree, nearly 50,000 of Israel under Jeshua and Zerubbabel returned to Jerusalem and rebuilt the temple which had been destroyed 70 years before. Thus the prophecy of Ezekiel came to pass, as “a little sanctuary” was built in Jerusalem - a forerunner of the sanctuary to be built when the Lord Jesus returns to establish the kingdom of Israel. Surely the Almighty was there to stir up Cyrus, thus allowing the 50,000 to go up to rebuild the temple and the city of Jerusalem.

Reading of Ezekiel’s circumstances under God’s direction, we can perceive what a great responsibility he had to accomplish that work. To help him, to strengthen him, the hand of the Lord was upon him guiding in all that was required. For example, he was dumb for seven years - only able to speak as God spoke to him:

“... I will make thy tongue cleave to the roof of thy mouth, that thou shalt be dumb, and shalt not be to them a reprover: for they are a rebellious house.

But when I speak with thee, I will open thy mouth, and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD...”

Ezekiel 3:26-27.

On another occasion, as a sign, he was required to lie on his left side for 390 days, and upon his right side for an additional 40 days, as a witness to the iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah. Through these and many other works, Ezekiel was a help and strength to the remnant of Israel and the ‘little sanctuary’ in the land of their captivity.

Ezekiel himself knew the strength of God as he was shown the visions of God's grace. One of those visions was the pattern of the sanctuary to be built:

"In the five and twentieth year of our captivity, in the beginning of the year, in the tenth day of the month, in the fourteenth year after that the city was smitten, in the selfsame day the hand of the Lord was upon me, and brought me thither."  
Ezekiel 40:1.

It was a long time into the captivity where Ezekiel was a sign and a watchman to the captives. He may have been discouraged at times, for the majority did not hear, but forbear. The Almighty's hand would lift him up, encourage him in his work, as He brought about the vision of the temple:

"In the visions of God brought he me into the land of Israel (then desolate), and set me upon a very high mountain,... And he brought me thither, and, behold, there was a man, whose appearance was like the appearance of brass, with a line of flax in his hand, and a measuring reed; and he stood in the gate.

And the man said unto me, Son of man, behold with thine eyes, and hear with thine ears, and set thine heart upon all that I shall shew thee; for to the intent that I might shew them unto thee art thou brought hither: declare all that thou seest to the house of Israel."  
Ezekiel 40:2-4.

As part of the vision of the sanctuary of the LORD, there was a river which flowed out from under the altar, coming out of the east gate of the temple. The Almighty spoke of that river:

"And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: ... and every thing shall live whither the river cometh. And by the river ... shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed:..."  
Ezekiel 47:9,12.

John, exiled on the Isle of Patmos for the word of God, saw a similar vision:

"... he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits,... and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.”  
Revelation 22:1-4.

Here is the end of God’s purpose for those who have striven to be His servants. This brings to mind the words of David, the servant of God, the man after God’s own heart:

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”

Psalm 1:1-3.

It is our struggle to be a part of that “remnant of Israel” - that “little sanctuary” - now in our time of probation as His servants. It is our hope to be among those who are on Jesus’ right hand at His judgment, to whom He will say:

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

Matthew 25:34.

J.A.DeF.

THAT I MAY KNOW HOW FRAIL I AM

PSALM 39:4

This 39th Psalm, written by David is entitled:

“To the chief Musician (or the One who overcomes), even to Jeduthun (acceptable praise), a Psalm of David.”

“Acceptable praise” is only achieved by the consummation of the flesh, as taught in type by the sacrifices consumed by the fire on the altar. This type also teaches of the Lord Jesus, who was the perfect sacrifice through a complete control over His flesh nature. He allowed the Spirit to fully control His every word and deed throughout His life, when at the end He willingly offered Himself as an offering for all those who believed and would believe on Him.

David, the author of our titled verse, was king over all Israel. Being in such a lofty position, he could have felt proud and self-satisfied. But unlike his son Solomon, who in later years as king, relished his exalted position, David struggled to maintain the demeanor of a humble servant of God - not a man of position and esteem. In this endeavor he prayed:

“LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am.”

Psalm 39:4.

Being flesh, he knew how easy it was to spiritually stumble and therefore made a constant effort to control his tongue and not say anything that would give offense and cause him to sin:

“I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me.

I was dumb with silence, I held my peace, even from good; and my sorrow was stirred.”

Psalm 39:1-2.

In the moment, when the flesh is stirred by anger or even sorrow, the thoughts tumble out unhindered. But when a moment to think is taken, control is exercised from within to temper what is about to be spoken and this David well knew. This action of pause and control could be termed, “acceptable praise” to God.

“My heart was hot within me, while I was musing the fire burned: then spake I with my tongue.”

Psalm 39:3.

David knew that the sum of his days on earth was brief in the greater picture, for he wrote:

"The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Psalm: 90:10,12.

And with a similar thought from our fifth verse in the 39th Psalm David wrote:

"Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah." Psalm 39:5.

Because of the flesh nature, every man at his best is only vanity, and David was determined to keep this thought foremost in his mind to combat the pride of the flesh which is inherent in all.

King Saul pursued David for years in an attempt to kill him and stop his ascension to the throne of Israel. David was given the opportunity to kill Saul while he slept in the cave, yet he restrained himself and the urgings of his companions, to rush headlong and take matters into his own hands. Instead, he resisted not only his own fleshly impulses of retaliation, but the evil counsel of his friends:

"And he said unto his men, The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD's anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD.

So David stayed his servants with these words, and suffered them not to rise against Saul. But Saul rose up out of the cave, and went on his way." I Samuel 24:6-7.

In weakness - yielding oneself to God, there is strength of spirit which is pleasing before the Almighty:

"I was dumb, I opened not my mouth; because thou didst it.

Ospare me, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more." Psalm 39:9,13.

He knew he would die eventually, but with hope in God there was a means of "recovery" as spelled out in the sure mercies God had promised - a son to rule over God's kingdom for eternity. Through belief, David had faith in a resurrection to come - the gift of life eternal at the judgment seat of Christ, his greater Son.

This hope is reflected in the Lord Jesus' own words:

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek

and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.  
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30.

All those that "labour and are heavy laden", refers to those who have suffered physical hardship and the mental and spiritual stress of dealing with tribulation in this life. To these, the Lord Jesus offers His yoke to help bear their burdens. A yoke is used to carry heavy weights - distributing it across the shoulders, enabling the body to carry more than just the hands alone can manage. By allowing the Spirit to control His every thought and deed, the Lord Jesus could say His burden was light, with the Father's help.

During the hours immediately before His crucifixion, the Lord Jesus struggling to overcome, prayed for deliverance saying:

".O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

Matthew 26:39.

The frailty of His flesh was exerting itself, yet He would not yield to it saying, "not as I will, but as thou wilt". He endured until the end, not succumbing to its persuasions but controlling it with help from the spirit's teachings as an example to all who believe on Him:

"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:"

I Peter 2:21-23.

David had a real perception of how weak he was as a man and knew that the only means of recovery was to apply the spirit of the Lord's teachings in a faithful walk. Knowing he was frail and needy, he turned to God with appropriate praise - endeavoring to consume the flesh nature within him as the only remedy:

"I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart."

Psalms 40:8.

M.C.S.

“For I know their works and their thoughts - - -.”  
(Isaiah 66:18)

These words relate to the divine pronouncement:-

“- - - the Lord (will) plead with all flesh - - -.”  
(Isaiah 66:16)

Perhaps an aspect of the present order of things, which undoubtedly is not ignored by heaven, is indicated in the following:-

“Also, thou son of man, prophesy - - -. Ye mountains of Israel, hear the word of the LORD. - - -

The enemy hath said against you, Aha, even the ancient high places are ours in possession - - - and are taken up in the lips of talkers. - - -

Therefore thus saith the LORD GOD; I have lifted up mine hand, surely the nations that are about you, they shall bear their shame.

But ye, O mountains of Israel, ye shall shoot forth your branches, and yield your fruit to my people of Israel; for they are at hand to come.”

(Ezekiel 36:1-3)  
and (Ezekiel 36:7-8)

How significant is the reference to Israel being “taken up in the lips of talkers.” Never before in mans’ history has there been so much talking. Radio and Television spreads a message, world wide, night and day as never before.

Various countries of the Middle East think they have a right to Israel. They believe some of their people ought to be living there having controlling authority. Propaganda goes forth on their behalf via Radio net works and newspaper publications. God however has made His position clear through His holy word; the prophecy declares” I know - - - their thoughts - - -.” (Isaiah 66:18). But He gives a sure, comforting promise:-

“For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.”  
(Isaiah 66:22)

A BIBLE CLASS

**“THE LAND THAT IS BROUGHT BACK FROM THE SWORD”  
Ezekiel 38:8**

Ezekiel was a prophet sent by the Almighty to the people of Israel who were taken captive in 595 BC by Nebuchadnezzar, during the reign of Jehoiachin, king of Judah. Ezekiel was one of three prophets sent during those difficult years for Judah and Jerusalem. The other two were Jeremiah, who remained in Jerusalem; and Daniel, who prophesied to the kings of Babylon and Persia. God was with His people through the work of these three prophets.

Let us look at Ezekiel’s work with His people. He was sent to encourage and strengthen their faith while captives in Babylon. Our subject is an example of God’s hand upon His people. The Almighty directed Ezekiel to:

“... set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog,...”  
Ezekiel 38:2-3.

This work was given to Ezekiel in 587 BC - one year after the final captivity of Judah and the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple of God, because of their turning away from the Almighty to the worship of idols. Ezekiel was given a vision to encourage the captives regarding “... the valley which was full of bones” (Ezekiel 37:1). In this vision, the dry bones were assembled, given flesh, sinews, and life by the hand of God, assuring His people:

“Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.  
And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,  
And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.”  
Ezekiel 37:12-14.

Ezekiel also was shown a vision concerning two sticks: one for Joseph, the stick of Ephraim with the names of the ten tribes of Israel; and the other stick with the name of the tribe of Judah. In this vision, the two sticks were joined together, symbolizing the restoration of the nation of Israel in the land promised by the Almighty (Ezekiel 37:15-28). These visions were to encourage God's people in captivity - that God has promised to restore the nation of Israel to dwell safely in their own land, the Son of David as king, with a covenant of peace, when the Lord Jesus returns to gather His people.

With this assurance, God revealed to Ezekiel and His people (in chapter 38) the coming of Gog, a nation to the north of Israel, who will overrun the land of Israel, dwelling in peace:

"... in the latter years thou (Gog) shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword (Israel), and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel; which have been always waste; but it is brought forth out of the nation, and they shall dwell safely all of them." Ezekiel 38:8.

Gog will invade Israel, as Ezekiel was shown:

"And thou (Gog) shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwall'd villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates,  
To take a spoil, and to take a prey; ... upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, ... that dwell in the midst of the land (Israel)." Ezekiel 38:11-12.

The people of Israel in these visions were gathered out of the nations where they had been exiled. Israel, who had been scattered among the nations after the conquering of Jerusalem in 588 BC, by the sword of Nebuchadnezzar, will be returned to Jerusalem and the land promised to Israel. Those living once again in peace in the land will be invaded by Gog, a power of the north; but God will intervene and destroy the forces of Gog:

"... I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and

great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD.”  
Ezekiel 38:22-23.

As Gog is destroyed, the Almighty saith:

“... Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name;

When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations;

Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen (by the sword of Nebuchadnezzar): but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there.

Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.”  
Ezekiel 39:25,27-29.

With the return of the Lord Jesus as king, the Almighty will establish the nation of Israel. Christ and His people, found to be suitable to reign with Him, will rule over the world in peace, giving glory to God, according to His purpose with this earth, as promised by His word.

Today the signs in the earth reveal that the second coming of Jesus Christ is near, to establish this restored kingdom of Israel. Let us give earnest heed to His words:

“... then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud, with power and great glory.

And 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.DeE.

EZEKIEL

We have recently begun to read of the prophet Ezekiel and his record, which speaks of the glory and power of Yahweh to save.

In the first chapter of Ezekiel, we find him with those in captivity in Babylon:

“Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.

In the fifth day of the month which was the fifth year of king Jehoiachin’s captivity,

The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him.”

Ezekiel 1:1-3.

The word of the Lord came “expressly” or with purpose, to Ezekiel the priest, in the form of visions of whirlwinds, great clouds, fire and out of the midst of this awesome sight, the likeness of four Living Creatures. This was the hand of God upon Ezekiel to reveal His glory and might in a manner that would impress and rivet his attention - and he was awestruck!

“And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it.

...This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.”

Ezekiel 1:26,28

Understandably so, Ezekiel fell on his face in fear, but the voice from the vision reassured him and gave him a charge:

“And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee.

... Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me:

they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto this very day.

For they are impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD.

And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them."

Ezekiel 2:1,3-5.

The work would be arduous and Ezekiel would be required to depend upon God in order to perform this duty, yet God encouraged him:

"... be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions; be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house"

Ezekiel 2:6.

As Ezekiel was given this charge, he was also given a specific title:

"Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me."

Ezekiel 3:17.

God explained it would not be his responsibility if he spoke and they did not heed; but it would be his responsibility to proclaim whatever word God sent to them. He was told by the Spirit that he was to speak only when instructed by God. His tongue would cleave to the roof of his mouth and he would be dumb until God gave him leave to speak:

"And I will make thy tongue cleave to the roof of thy mouth, that thou shalt be dumb, and shalt not be to them a reprover: for they are a rebellious house.

But when I speak with thee, I will open thy mouth, and thou shalt say unto them, Thus said the Lord GOD; He that heareth, let him hear; and he that forbeareth let him forbear: for they are a rebellious house."

Ezekiel 3:26-27.

Later, the prophet was told to lie on his left side for three hundred and ninety days - representing the years of the iniquity of the children of Israel. Then to lie on his right side for forty days,

representing the years of iniquity for the house of Judah. A total of 430 days of immobility - a year and two months! Can we imagine the strength of will this would require on Ezekiel's part to yield to God's instructions?

Ezekiel's name means, "God will strengthen", and perhaps this was the essence of God's message to Israel. His life and actions were out of the ordinary to prove that God was with him, and to say to Israel, here is an obedient servant who walks not in his own ways, but willingly obeys his Master.

The apostle John, exiled to the Isle of Patmos was also given visions from God, for like Ezekiel he was to proclaim God's word. He was given a little book - a symbol of the word of God, by an angel and told to eat it up:

"And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up: and it was in my mouth sweet as honey:  
and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.

And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings."

Revelation 10:10-11.

The joy of hearing God's word and its promise of salvation to the faithful, was to John "sweet as honey". Yet the tribulations that would accompany him in this journey of prophesying, in order to make his flesh conform would become a bitter trial.

Likewise to Ezekiel, God's word brought an initial joy and sweetness but would also be accompanied by lamentations and woe as he struggled in obedience to fulfil the tasks given:

"...Son of man, eat that thou findest; eat this roll, and go speak unto the house of Israel.

And he said unto me, son of man, cause thy belly to eat, and fill thy bowels with this roll that I give thee. Then did I eat it; and it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness."

Ezekiel 3:1,3.

In the wilderness, Moses read the book of the covenant before the people and they filled with the joy of its hope and promise, were quick to say, "All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient." The words were easy to say, but difficult to accomplish,

as their flesh natures resisted restraint and rebelled. Yet God's mercy and might to save was always there, if they would but hear and turn to Him.

We know of the Lord Jesus' struggle to yield His body in perfect obedience. However, unlike any before or after Him, He was the only One to perfectly obey, through faith and trust in God:

"And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:  
That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:8-11.

In so doing, he became the Lamb of God - the perfect sacrifice, whose blood alone can redeem men from their lives of sin and death, if they will but believe in Him and follow after His example.

To those who like Ezekiel and John, who can eat up the little book of His word and do it, is promised a hope of life everlasting when the bitter tribulations brought about by the flesh, will be at an end:

"The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for ever.  
All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.  
For the kingdom is the LORD's: and he is the governor among the nations." Psalm 22:26-28.

M.C.S.

## SIGNS OF HIS COMING

“I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, (margin confidently).”  
(Ezekiel 38:11)

At the time of writing, the British Prime Minister is going to a great effort for peace in the Middle East. To begin with he had talks in Washington, with the United States President. As he came from this discussion, the Prime Minister said, “You never succeed unless you carry on trying”. He went on to say, “This is what we found in Ireland, (referring to the bitter Protestant, Catholic conflict). You do not accept that you ever give up as I’m sure its possible to resolve this (the Israel, Arab conflict) and if we do, it will signal across the world.”

As the American President and British Prime Minister stood side by side at the White House, for perhaps the last time before they come to the end of their terms of office, the President looked forward to success of what he has tried to do in Iraq. The British politician spoke of “the way forward to make sure we succeed.” The President said sectarian bloodshed in Iraq “is bad”. His assessment was that the situation “Is immensely tough and challenging.” The sentiment expressed after this Meeting of the leaders is that Britain and America should, however, continue to make efforts, for example, “calling an international summit in how to stop civil war in Iraq, with the involving of Iran and Syria, and leading with an Israeli- Palestinian agreement.

So at the time of writing this, the British Prime Minister has been visiting Middle East countries and Egypt, leading ultimately, it is hoped, to United States and British troops being brought home from Iraq.

About the same time Israel’s Prime Minister has been, on his part, showing restraint, in the face of Arab attack. Previously Israel had agreed to withdraw troops from the Gaza strip, under certain terms, with the Arabs. But following the ceasefire, some Palestinians broke the agreement by firing rockets into Israel on two separate occasions; these landed in open fields, causing no injuries, but tempered the hopes that the truce had brought the end of five months of clashes between Arab groups and Israel’s army. The Israeli Prime Minister said “I have instructed our defence officials not to respond and to give this ceasefire a chance to take full effect.” The Palestinian

President ordered his security officers to send forces to the Palestinian border to prevent further rocket attacks by an hostile Arab faction. The Palestinian President has also been trying to end the violence for months. He is a moderate, and is working for peace, so this may end international sanctions, that has been imposed on the Palestinians, to bring about the end to Palestinian militancy, such as the rocket attacks and other violence.

Now what has been happening in the Middle East, is beginning to conform with what Scriptural prophecy has declared for these last days. Let us look at what has been written:—

“- - - the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.”  
(Ezekiel 38:8)

Israel, and the recovery of the Jews of their nationhood, has been a world wonder. Other nations of the past, which in the course of events were lost, so that now all that remains of their greatness are historical ruins, will never, now, have a revival. But Israel has been a different matter. The scripture refers to the present position of the Jews as:—

“--- them that are at rest, that dwell safely (confidently)---.”  
(Ezekiel 38:11)

Arab attempts to disrupt their prosperity and overthrow their position, has, time after time, come to nought. It is what the prophecy has declared. They are:—

“- - - people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land.”

(Ezekiel 38:12)

In a hostile world these people have considerable support. Because of that support, the British Prime Minister at the present time is travelling about the Middle East. Scriptural reference to this is in the following terms:-

“---the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof (speaking up as supporters of the re-born Israel against any perceived threat say) Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? - - -” (Ezekiel 38:13)

The threat to the Jews is specifically scripturally declared:-

“In that day when my people Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it?

And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, --- a mighty army:

And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land, it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the nations may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee...--”

(Ezekiel 38:14-16)

The United States and British leaders are upholders for Israel keeping to its position in the Middle East. Meanwhile Israel has been very efficient in protecting itself. But north of the land of the Jews there are unfriendly peoples, such as Syria and Iran; the prophecy also speaks of other opposition which is to arise against this re-born nation.

As world news, time to time, centres on Israel, it is a vivid fulfilment of what was declared so long ago. There is an outcome, ultimately, of what we see taking place. The leaders of the United States and Britain will fail in their efforts for peace and prosperity in and around what was formerly Palestine. But the Jews will be saved, as divinely promised:

“Behold, it is come, and it is done, saith the Lord God; this is the day whereof I have spoken (that is, divine intervention).

And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth --- and they shall spoil those that spoiled them,---”

(Ezekiel 39:8-10)

“And I will set my glory among the nations, and all the nations whall see my judgment that I have executed---”

(Ezekiel 39:21)

“Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God which --- have gathered them unto their own land ---”

(Ezekiel 39:28)

This time is now approaching!

**NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR MARCH 2007**

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

Response to mailing of invitations for literature in Pennsylvania has been encouraging in our "casting of bread upon the waters".

We are grateful for help in health problems in response to prayers of all.

J.A.DeF.

**MANCHESTER**

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

With the coming of March is the coming of Spring. It is the time of the resurrection of nature; the trees are coming to life again after their sleep of the Winter. In this phenomenon of nature, the Most High gives hope to man, of a resurrection yet to come, if only man will take heed.

This will bring together once again those who had the joy of former fellowship. What a comfort is allowed to those who have this belief, through the knowledge which the Father in Heaven has given.