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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

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AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

"IN THE BEGINNING"

This morning we have begun the yearly reading of the Word of God, starting with Genesis, Psalms, and Matthew. The first words of the Bible are:

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."
Genesis 1:1.

In John's gospel, we read:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
The same was in the beginning with God." John 1:1-2.

How did God create the heaven and the earth?

"... the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep..."
Genesis 1:2.

The scripture further tells us:

"... the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.
And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
... and God divided the light from the darkness."
Genesis 1:2-4.

How great is His power! He created the earth as we know it today by His Word. His creation was carefully planned in His great wisdom and knowledge. The creation was in six days as follows:

1. Light - divided from darkness
2. Firmament - Heaven: waters separated from sky
3. Dry land - Earth
4. Sun, moon, and stars
5. Creatures - beasts, fish, fowl
6. Living creatures - Man
7. God rested - the Sabbath

When the creation was finished:

"... God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good..."
Genesis 1:31

Adam was created on the sixth day, after all that had been created for his living. Eve was created from Adam's rib, as "an help meet for him" (Genesis 2:18). All that God had created was perfect. Adam and Eve were allowed to live in that perfect creation, as long as they obeyed the one law that God commanded:

“... Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat;
But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”
Genesis 2:16-17.

Why did God ordain this law? It was a test of their trust in Him. Would they obey God’s word, awed by His power, through which He had created their earthly domain? We know the results. Eve was tempted by the serpent (Satan - sin in the flesh), and she did eat of the tree, and gave to Adam and he also ate of it disobeying God’s command. Thus man was sentenced to be a dying creature, and has been ever since. Yet God in His mercy and grace, promised man the hope of eternal life, through the provision of the seed of the woman:

“... I will put enmity between thee (serpent) and the woman, and between thy seed, and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”
Genesis 3:15.

That enmity quickly came to pass, when Cain in anger killed Abel. Thus the Word of God was established in the beginning.

Our second reading this morning is from the Book of Psalms; these are the words of David, who lived 3000 years after Adam and Eve. David was known as a man after God’s own heart (See Acts 13:22). The Psalms reveal David’s mind, his meditations concerning God’s purpose - His Word. David wrote:

“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.

The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.”
Psalm 1:1-6.

Here again is the enmity between the seed of the woman (the righteous) and the seed of the serpent (the ungodly). David knew that enmity, and asked:

“Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together against the LORD and against his anointed, saying,

Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the LORD shall have them in derision.

Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.” Psalm 2:1-5.

David knew that the ungodly would be condemned by God, and would perish in His judgment. However, he had hope through God’s promise of a king, a throne, a kingdom, a house, a Son to be for ever, if he was accounted to be among the righteous. He spoke of that hope to be accomplished by the greater Son of David, the Lord Jesus Christ, who would bring about God’s promise:

“Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel” Psalm 2:6-9.

David did become king over Israel; Israel did flourish under his rule, which extended from the river of Egypt to the Euphrates. The greater Son of David shall accomplish God’s purpose when He returns to establish God’s plan for this earth. David’s spirit is further revealed for us:

“Serve the LORD with fear (awe), and rejoice with trembling.

Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.” Psalm 2:11-12.

David put his trust in the Almighty, submitting to God’s word, in the hope of Israel.

Our third portion is the beginning of the New Testament, as we read:

“The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David,
the son of Abraham.” Matthew 1:1.

God made covenants with Abraham and David concerning His purpose with this earth, to be accomplished by His Son Jesus Christ.

How appropriate that the New Testament begins with the generations of Jesus Christ, from Abraham’s day, as the One to fulfill God’s promises. The record in Matthew tells us:

“So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations.”
Matthew 1:17.

It was a total of 42 generations, from the promises given to Abraham to the accomplishment by Mary’s delivery of the Son of God - Jesus Christ. He was to be named JESUS - a Saviour; also “...Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us” - as prophesied by Isaiah:

“...the LORD himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel,”
Isaiah 7:14.

Further, Isaiah prophesied concerning Jesus:

“For unto us a child is born: unto us a son is given: and the government shall he upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father. The prince of peace.

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”
Isaiah 9:6-7.

The Lord Jesus came, born of a woman, subject to all the temptations of the flesh, yet never sinned. He said, during His first test in the wilderness, after his baptism by John the Baptist: “It is written.”

We are beginning again to read what “is written” - the

scriptures which reveal God's purpose with this earth. It was 42 generations from Abraham to the first coming of the Lord Jesus. It is approximately 2000 years since His death, resurrection, and ascension to the throne of His Father. He shall return to accomplish His Father's will! We do not know when He will come, but signs in the earth reveal it may be very soon. At the end of the Revelation, as revealed in vision to John on the Isle of Patmos, Jesus said:

“... behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

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

Revelation 22:12-14.

Jesus is the first and the last - the beginning and the end!

As we start reading from the beginning, we look with hope to the end, which His Word promises to those who have striven to grow in faith, in hope, and in love for God - the One who makes possible His purpose with this earth. In the beginning, it was “very good” - but it has been polluted by those who are the ungodly.

“Then cometh the end, when he (Jesus) shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.”

I Corinthians 15:24-25.

Let us begin again our reading of “It is written” - striving to conquer the fleshly nature we all possess, sustained by the Word of God. In starting anew, may we be more enabled to heed Jesus' words to Peter:

“... 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 (crucify) his life (flesh) for my sake shall find it.”

Matthew 16:24-25.

J.A.DeF.

CAREFUL TO MAINTAIN GOOD WORKS

In our portions in Titus we have been permitted to get a glimpse into the heart and mind of Paul as he gave encouragement to Titus, while leaving him with an important charge:

“To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:” Titus 1:4-5.

Crete is a small island of one hundred and forty miles long, just to the south of Greece. However, at that time it was a bustling center of more than one hundred cities. Titus was given the work of establishing the followers of Christ into ecclesias in every city there and thereby further the gospel of Christ.

Those grounded and experienced in the faith were to be appointed as bishops, to minister to and lead the flock of Christ. Paul was very explicit in the qualifications these elders must possess:

“If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.

For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;

Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.” Titus 1:6-9.

Paul then goes on to speak of the qualities that those of the congregation must possess - the older men and women as well as the younger generation and servants alike. Teaching all how they should conduct themselves in order to walk in a manner that is acceptable before God:

“This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God

might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.” Titus 3:8.

To be “careful” is to deliberately exercise thought and care, not speaking or acting rashly or without guidance or restraint.

We know from Paul’s letters to the Corinthians of how highly he esteemed Titus as he relates to them a circumstance when Titus’ help was a means of strength and comfort to him.

“For, when we were come into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without were fightings, within were fears. Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus; And not by his coming only, but by the consolation wherewith he was comforted in you, when he told us your earnest desire, your mourning, your fervent mind toward me, so that I rejoiced the more”.

II Corinthians 7:5-7.

As the Corinthians were struggling, it was Titus who delivered Paul’s letter of admonition to them and no doubt stayed to help and strengthen them in the way of righteousness as Paul’s letter confirms:

“Did I make a gain of you by any of them whom I sent unto you?
I desired Titus, and with him I sent a brother, Did Titus make a gain of you? walked we not in the same spirit? walked we not in the same steps?
Again, think ye that we excuse ourselves unto you? we speak before God in Christ: but we do all things, dearly beloved, for your edifying.”

II Corinthians 12:17-19.

We can see the bond of fellowship there was between them as brethren, and how Paul commended the work of Titus to encourage those at Corinth in the faith. A vital point he leaves with Titus is to:

“... speak thou the things which become sound doctrine;”
Titus 2:1.

The basis of the Truth must be founded on sound principles from God's word alone, not from private interpretations or the traditions of men, as the scribes and Pharisees practiced. This is why Paul emphasizes that the man of God be "careful to maintain good works", for by these works will all be judged at Christ's judgment seat.

"... Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;
Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.
Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.
They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate."
Titus 1:13-16.

Only by the evidence of fruitful works and a faithful walk could Titus know if those at Crete were called of God, to a fellowship with Him and His Son. As Paul also wrote to his Hebrew brethren, the emphasis was to hold fast unto the knowledge they had received through Christ:

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)
And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works;"
Hebrews 10:23-24.

How do we apply the word we have received in our daily lives? Are we "careful" as Paul admonished, in both word and deed to exercise restraint in all we say and do? Only by so doing, as Paul says can we hope to "maintain good works" if we walk after His example, in the hope of finding approval through His mercy.

M.C.S.

IN THE LAST DAYS

“--- Perilous times shall come --- men shall be blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy --- incontinent, fierce ---.” (2 Timothy 3:1—3)

The deterioration of human behaviour in recent years is very obvious. Some of the comments in the media are very descriptive. Some of the details are herewith quoted as follows:-

“During the 1950's --- I would have loved my housemaster caning boys in front of an entire class --- (but) Such strict discipline meant that classroom misbehaviour did not happen.”

“---The Establishment, from which we expect some sort of social guidance, is at the point of surrendering all sense of honesty, loyalty, and value within our society.”

What a sombre description of the modern situation. It is a fulfilment, as warned of would come, as seen in the Apostle Paul's letter to Timothy.

Another lament coming from an important political spokesman reads as quoted here:-

“--- In truth we have never been more uncivil towards one another. Behaviour is bad and getting worse. Last year there were twenty thousand physical assaults on shop staff. --- And we have seen a deterioration in behaviour in other ways --- from swearing and verbal abuse to littering public places.”

The writer of such words raises the question:-

“What can we do to reverse this trend of bad behaviour?

How can we put good manners back into our society? ---”

“This means parents understanding that it is their responsibility to bring up their children with the right values. It means neighbours understanding it is their responsibility. ---”

The difficulty neighbours have in endeavouring to influence others in their communities to better behaviour, is referred to in the following media comment:-

“It would be far less daunting to intervene and challenge bad behaviour if (they) knew that others would be there to support (them) - - -.”

Another horror of the present deteriorating situation in human behaviour has this comment:-

“- - - Look how social pressure confronted the great evil of racism. Society as a whole stood up to some vicious things with a nasty ideology. I want to see a similar determination against bad behaviour - - - there will be setbacks. But I (want) to start the debate now, so we can begin working towards a future where anti-social behaviour is unacceptable and intervention against it is backed up by the whole of society. One area where intervention is more possible now is among our youngest children. The habits children learn are often hard to shift as they get older. - - - The petty bad behaviour that is accepted today makes the space for the more serious crime of tomorrow - - - we need a radical change. - - -”

In the yearning of some of these comments, which appear in the media, is the hope expressed that ultimately an improvement in human behaviour may be achieved. The true situation is, as is expressed in the Holy Word:-

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come - - - evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse - - -.” (2 Timothy 3:1 & 13)

Men have allowed this moral decline to grow and continue. And such a situation exists because it is “the last days”. The solution to it is to be the coming of Jesus; so the Apostle Paul, writing in the Spirit declares:-

“- - - the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; - - - to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.” (1 Timothy 6:14—16)

STAND IN THY LOT

In the last chapter of the book of Daniel, at the conclusion of the many prophecies given through the Spirit, Daniel was given the assurance that his faith would be rewarded in the kingdom of God:

“But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.”

Daniel 12:13.

To “stand in thy lot” before the judgment seat was the hope of Israel, and the great reward held out to those who submit their living to Him - to the Jews first and now to the Gentiles through belief in the Lord Jesus Christ:

“Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:

That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.”

Hebrews 6:17-20.

Through those two immutable or unchangeable things - the word of God and the fulfillment of that word in the Lord Jesus' sacrifice, Paul says, we may “lay hold upon the hope set before us”. This was the same hope set before those to whom God's word came from the beginning, as He offered them a choice to serve Him, or allow the thinking of the flesh to rule in their living.

Because the desire to serve the Almighty was foremost in Daniel's mind, he was given a prophecy concerning the latter days to share with generations to follow. Regarding this in particular, the Spirit assured Daniel when he questioned, “O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?”

“And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up, and sealed till the time of the end.

Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.”

Daniel 12:9-10.

God has written a Book of Remembrance with the names of those who will stand before the judgment seat of Christ, gathered throughout the ages, beginning with Adam. At the end of His purpose, the graves will be opened, and those who have died with a knowledge of God’s word will be awakened, to be gathered with the living at Christ’s return, to His judgment seat:

“And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.”

Daniel 12:2-3.

We are told that those approved at Christ’s judgment seat will shine as brightly as stars - radiating the light of the Spirit as His saints. In the kingdom age, they will go forth preaching the gospel to the entire world. Not reflecting that light as when in probation, but as stars who have their own light source, because they are now immortal beings - part of the Spirit.

Sharing that hope of being among this glorious throng, Paul encourages the Hebrews to look upon their time of probation as a race to be run, with the prize of eternal life to be attained if victorious:

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,”

Hebrews 12:1.

All races have a beginning and a finish line. This one cannot be won by speed but instead by patient enduring over the time of one’s probation. There will be hurdles and obstacles during the course, perhaps sorrow and suffering to endure to test one’s faith,

but the end is not reached nor the prize obtained, without faith and perseverance. It is a time given for God to test and search the hearts and minds of those that desire to be known as His. This is the gift of God - that He has called us out of darkness and ignorance into His light, with the promise of a reward to those that endure in faith.

Throughout the eleventh chapter of Hebrews is recorded the history of many faithful who patiently ran this race through great tribulation. Paul reminds us that Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham and Moses, all died in faith but received not the promises. They are still asleep in the grave, awaiting the call to judgment that will come at their Lord's return:

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." Hebrews 11:13.

Peter reminds us of the blessing we share as Gentiles, to be part of this same hope - the hope of Israel:

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:
Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy." I Peter 2:9-10.

The mercy of God comes when there is an embracing of His Truth and separating oneself from the evil pursuits of this world. Once coming from the darkness of ignorance into His light, we are warned by Peter not to entangle ourselves again in our former manner of life.

"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb,
The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that
was washed to her wallowing in the mire."

II Peter 2:20-22.

Daniel's demeanor while living as a captive in Babylon was a powerful witness to his faithfulness to God's word, even in the face of death. The record of his life is an inspiration to those of like-precious faith who came after him. With a sure belief and singleness of mind, he saw through the eyes of faith, the One to be sent of God as a Savior for His people.

Peter reminds those in his day of Moses' belief and conviction in the same One promised of God:

"For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you

And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days."

Acts 3:22-24.

God's word does not change. From the time of Abraham, Moses and Daniel through to the present day, this hope has been held out as a reward to those who run the race in faith. Daniel looked forward to standing in his lot at the judgment seat of Christ and as we look to that same hope set before us, let us endeavor in patience that race set before us.

M.C.S..

A BIBLE CLASS

"THEY HAVE HOLPEN THE CHILDREN OF LOT"

Psalm 83:8

These are the words of David, as he wrote this Psalm concerning the enemies of Israel:

"For lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head.

They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones.

They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance."
Psalm 83:2-4.

These words, written so long ago, illustrate the confederacy (verse 5) against the nation of Israel today, as the Arab nations join to destroy the nation of Israel! The hatred on the part of the Arab confederacy will continue until the Lord Jesus returns to establish the kingdom of God upon the earth, when He and His people will go forth "conquering, and to conquer" (Revelation 6:2).

The enemies of Israel and of God are listed by David in this Psalm: Edom, the Ishmaelites, Moab, the Hagarenes; Gebal, Ammon, Amalek, the Philistines. Tyre, and Assur - an impressive confederation against one nation - Israel! All these have assembled and "have holpen the children of Lot." The word "holpen" means to arm, to help, might, power, and strength. Lot was the nephew of Abraham, the "friend of God." Peter spoke of the deliverance of Lot from the city of Sodom - a city destroyed by God because of its evil ways:

"And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

(For that righteous man [Lot] dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished."
II Peter 2:7-9.

Just (righteous) Lot was delivered by God because of his righteousness. It was not Lot who was "holpen" by God's enemies;

but, as David wrote: "... they have holpen the children of Lot. Selah." Who were the children of Lot whom the confederacy helped? The record in Genesis reveals who they were:

"... Lot went up out of Zoar (after leaving Sodom), and dwelt in the mountain, and his two daughters with him: for he feared to dwell in Zoar: and he dwelt in a cave, he and his two daughters,"
Genesis 19:30.

Lot's wife left Sodom with Lot and his daughters, but looked back, and "she became a pillar of salt." The two daughters of Lot conspired the firstborn saying to the younger:

"Our father is old, and there is not a man in the earth to come in unto us after the manner of all the earth:
Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father."
Genesis 19:31-32.

They did, and both conceived a son: the firstborn bare a son, and called his name Moab, the father of the Moabites. The younger also bare a son, and called his name Ben-ammi, the father of the children of Ammon. These were the children of Lot. Among the people who formed a confederacy to "holpen the children of Lot" were Moab and Ammon. They were among those who helped the children of Lot to seek the destruction of Israel, the children of Abraham.

David meditated concerning the hand of God upon the nations that continually sought the destruction of Israel. With God's help, these enemies were defeated, and Israel was established as a nation, from the river of Egypt to the Euphrates. David sought that help, as he wrote in our verse under consideration: "Selah" - revealing his trust in God. The word "Selah" was also used by Job, as he spoke of God's wisdom:

"... where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding?
Man knoweth not the price thereof, neither is it found in the land of the living:
It cannot be valued (selah-ed) with the gold of Ophir...
The topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it, neither shall it be

valued with pure gold.

God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof.

Then did he see it, and declare it; he prepared it, yea, and searched it out,

And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding."

Job 28:13,16,19,23,27-28.

The thought of Selah concerns God's wisdom - in effect, saying, **Value it, considering the end!** This was David's mind, as well as Job's, in meditating upon God's wisdom. David continued his prayer:

"Do unto them (Israel's enemies) as unto the Midianites: as to Sisera, as to Jabin, at the brook of Kison." Psalm 83:9.

He spoke of God's help in these victories of Israel, and continued through Verse 14. David also prayed, as he valued God's power, considering the end:

"Let them be confounded, and troubled for ever; yea, let them be put to shame, and perish:

That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH (LORD), art the most high over all the earth."

Psalm 83:17-18.

In the end of God's purpose with this earth, there will be no more enemies of Israel. They will be destroyed by the Lord Jesus, as He conquers all those who seek the destruction of His people. As we look to that end, praying with importunity and fear, for help to glorify His name, let us rejoice in "the sure mercies of David" - revealed to him as he cried out: "SELAH."

J.A.DeF.

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

"This know also, that in the last days
perilous times shall come."

(2 Timothy 3:1)

The deterioration of human behaviour now, is very noticeable to the older generation as it looks back on to what was experienced by them in their earlier days. Journeys, sometimes taken, which resulted in late arrival in city centres, were undertaken without any qualms. Can it be said this is the situation today? Some city areas are not even safe in daylight hours for such to be crossed on foot.

Some young people who gang together, are very arrogant. Among such groupings are those who delight to cause senseless damage to properties. But in some areas, of what really is a good earth, are those who wish to damage life. Their schemes kill and maim, and the motive is not the result of a personal antagonism, but rather solely to disrupt and terrify.

The message of the Spirit through the Apostle Paul is that when such deterioration arises, and increases, it will be "the last days". One of the things which are condemned is that "men shall be - - - blasphemers". It must be admitted there has always been a degree of blasphemy, but it was a largely guarded blasphemy, a degree of care being shown as to what to say, and when to voice it. Media expression of blasphemy was very greatly frowned upon. Such care in behaviour of speech has now slipped away, with the taking of God's name in vain being accepted in human discourse. The scripture also warns, for these last times, of deteriorating behaviour in the younger generation, the words of scripture are that they shall be "disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy". How noticeable this is; the Authorities in some areas are in a dilemma as to what to do, as children who are disobedient to their parents, turn up at school with disrespect for their teachers. The crude behaviour of such is described in the words that they would be "unthankful and unholy". The scripture also foretells of a lack of "natural affection". The breakup of human relationships, though always in evidence among a section of failing humanity, has never been to the degree that now exists. Oh, what unhappiness there is now, resulting from marriage breakups, and also for turbulence in family life. Then there is the pinpointing of what is so disturbing to the Authorities, because they

wonder how to deal with it. In the peril of these last days men were to become "false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good." How forcibly this is brought home upon reflection when the Authorities (in Britain) it is seen, experience a degree of shortage of prison places. The violence, particularly amongst the younger generation, is very troubling. Of course this comes because there is the loss of veneration of earlier years, and this loss is because, as the scripture says, there will be "a form of godliness - - - denying the power thereof". The sombre words of the Apostle are, that "evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." (2 Timothy 3:13)

A recent press article, having the heading, "BRITAIN'S BREAKDOWN IN TRADITIONAL VALUES", made comments, some of which are now herewith quoted: -

"Why our way of life is on the slide."

"A nationwide survey - - - revealed more than half of local residents think crime undermines the sense of community where they live."

"The breakdown of marriage, and the splitting—up of a family unit was seen to be the second most important factor in damaging community spirit."

"The internet follows TV as a major cause of concern, along with popular culture role—models having a negative effect."

The deteriorating way of life was quoted in percentage figures of the increase as:-

"Fear of crime - fifty five per cent."

"Breakdown of families and marriages - forty five per cent."

"Television culture - forty three per cent."

The words of scripture are pertinent, but as the times bring less regard for them, so does behaviour deteriorate as a result, and the voice of scriptural rejection is raised. So comes to pass the words of the Apostle Peter:-

"- - - that there shall come in the last days scoffers - - - saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." (2 Peter 3:3—4)

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR JULY 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

In response to the request of Carol Stokes, an interview was arranged for April 20th. In response to the fervent prayers of all, indication of a right spirit was clearly shown. Baptism is scheduled, God willing, for May 10th. We rejoice at the guidance given in this merciful gift of God after a long period of help and guidance.

Increased violence and corruption in the world portends the soon return of Jesus Christ as He has spoken:

“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.

We rejoice with our Brethren and Sisters in the United States at the successful Interview of Carol Stokes. The call to Baptism is a wonderful working of the truth of the Spirit, which is of Heaven. The condescension and mindfulness of the Great Eternal has never failed throughout the ages of this great working of the Father of the Faithful.