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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

"IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU"

Our readings this week are in Deuteronomy, which means the repeating of the law - the last book of the law given to Moses. The law given to Israel at Mt. Sinai includes the books of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers. Deuteronomy was given to His people, as we read:

"These be the words which Moses spake unto all Israel on this side Jordan in the wilderness...." Deuteronomy 1:1.

Israel was about to enter the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They had finished their wilderness wandering for 40 years, caused by their refusal to enter the land, as commanded by God.

In His wisdom and mercy, the Almighty gave instructions to Israel for those who were about to enter the land, inasmuch as their circumstances would be different than during their wanderings. Miriam and Aaron had died, and Moses was soon to die, before Israel's entering the promised land. Before his death, Moses:

"... called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep them, and do them.

The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb (Sinai).

The LORD made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day"

Deuteronomy 5:1-3.

Moses reminded Israel of God's commandments, which were the basis of the law (Deuteronomy chapter 5:6-21). He also spoke;

"But as for thee, stand thou here by me, and I will speak unto thee all the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments which thou shalt teach them, that they may do them in the land which I give them to possess it.

Ye shall observe to do therefore as the Lord your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

Ye shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be

well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which he shall possess." Deuteronomy 5:31-33.

God in His mercy and care for His people promised that it would be well with them if they would keep His commandments, statutes, and judgments;

"Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it.

That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.

Hear therefore O Israel, and observe to do it, that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey." Deuteronomy 6:1-3.

Moses spoke clearly to his people concerning all that God required:

"Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God is one LORD.

And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in your heart." Deuteronomy 6:4-6.

Here was the essence of the law that was given to Israel on Mt. Sinai, and also was given to those who were about to enter the promised land. These same words were spoken by Jesus:

"... a lawyer asked him a question, tempting him, and saying,

Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Matthew 22:35-40.

Lawyers were those who were experts in the law - but in the letter of it, and not in the spirit of it, as Jesus made clear. This lawyer,

like the Pharisees, loved "self" more than God, and he responded to Jesus' words:

"... willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?" Luke 10:29.

Jesus answered with the parable concerning the Good Samaritan, and said to the lawyer:

"... Go, and do thou likewise." Luke 10:37.

The law - God's commandments, God's word - is the same from the time of Adam, when God commanded him:

"... of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Genesis 2:17.

Adam and Eve did eat of it and surely died. All men have known death ever since! Did it go well with them? Did they love the Lord their God with all their heart, soul, and might? God in His mercy has provided a means of escape from death through the seed of the woman (The Lord Jesus), but only if there is obedience to the spirit of His law.

How does one love the Lord? Moses made it clear:

"... with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." Deuteronomy 6:5.

The heart pumps the blood through the body, keeping it alive. If the heart stops, the body dies. The soul or breath, as the word means, provides oxygen to the body. Again, if it fails, the body dies. Might involves strength, diligence, vehemence, power, and determination. There has been only One who has shown perfect love for God, the Lord Jesus Christ, who never failed, and always moved with love for His Father, and for His followers. We have the example when He rebuked 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 his life for my sake shall find it."

Matthew 16:24-25.

Jesus knew temptation in His three and one-half years of ministry; but he never failed, and He died on the cross, crying out: "It is finished." He conquered His flesh; He was the Victor in His striving to glorify God, and was able to say:

"I have glorified thee (God) on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." John 17:4.

What was the result of His faithfulness? Did it go well with Him? His prayer was;

"And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." John 17:5.

God's law, His Word from the beginning, has been simple: Obey my word, love me with all thine heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy might - "... that it may be well with you." We are tested in our living; we fail, but we have the hope of deliverance, even as Moses spoke to Israel:

"For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people:

But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath (covenant) which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations."

Deuteronomy 7:6-9.

God's word, God's promise from the beginning exists today - 6000 years later - for those who strive to keep His covenant through love for Him. For those so blessed, "it may be well" for them, as it has for the faithful since Adam. As we seek this blessing, let us heed the words of the Apostle Paul:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present (yield) your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Romans 12:1-2.

J.A.DeF.

SEEK NOT AFTER YOUR OWN HEART

Paul in writing to the brethren at Corinth emphasized the closeness they were privileged to share with God as members of His household:

“What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy 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.

What privilege to have the hope of dwelling with God. However, the blessing this closeness brings, comes with a price - a grave responsibility on our part to live in a manner pleasing to the Almighty.

In a like manner, Paul wrote to the ecclesia at Ephesus, reminding them of their new relationship with the Almighty, now that they were brethren of Christ. They were endeavoring to become part of the temple of God, built on a firm foundation with Christ as the corner stone:

“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”

Ephesians 2:19-22.

This temple of which Paul speaks, was not an actual physical building made with brick, stone & mortar. But rather a spiritual fellowship of brethren and sisters of the Lord Jesus Christ - followers having His word embedded in their heart, endeavoring to conform their every thought, word and deed to glorifying Him and the Almighty through a life of obedience.

If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.

For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness."

I Corinthians 3:16-19.

From the law we learn of how God desires to be worshipped by His people:

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments."

Exodus 20:3-6.

Bowing down to serve the things that appeal to the flesh warrants God's disapproval, while His mercy is held out for those that obey Him.

In Numbers, He instructed Moses to speak to the children of Israel and remind them of how their thinking could be focused upon His commandments:

"Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue:

And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring:

That ye may remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God."

Numbers 15:38-40.

Their daily garments were to have on the borders a ribbon of blue along with a fringe. As they walked, the fringe would move, catching the eye and reminding of what it represented - His commandments, to be ever with them. This was a visual help to keep them walking in the straight and narrow way of life. As the fringe swayed with their movement, would it jar their conscience if they were doing something that would be displeasing to the Almighty?

By the time of the Lord Jesus' ministry, these visual reminders in the law had become merely traditions taught to Israel by the Scribes and Pharisees, and done from habit without a perception of what they represented. The Lord Jesus openly criticized the Scribes and Pharisees as Israel's teachers, for their hypocrisy. Their focus was not on developing true righteousness from within, through obedience to God's commandments, but rather on "appearing" righteous before men:

"But all their works they do for to be seen of men:
they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders
of their garments,
And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats
in the synagogues,
And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi,
Rabbi.
But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even
Christ; and all ye are brethren." Matthew 23:5-8.

Being motivated by the flesh, they enlarged their garment's borders and fringes to make them more obvious before men, giving the illusion they were righteous. This however was not how God viewed them. Seeing within their hearts, He knew they had lost sight of the Spirit's teachings and intent, while becoming engrossed in their own fleshly self-righteousness. They had forgotten the spiritual significance of the borders and fringe and what it was to teach:

"...that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes,
after which ye use to go a whoring" Numbers 15:39.

The flesh is abhorrent to God and how clearly this was taught

by the law and how diligently the Lord Jesus focused on God's word in every aspect of His living, so as not to walk in His own ways, but in the Father's.

It is a sobering warning, and one we should always keep in mind, that we too have been "bought with a price" - our ransom paid for with the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. We then "are not our own", for our bodies are to be the temple of the Holy Spirit and as such, we must endeavor to walk worthy of His calling. Through Christ's example and intervention on our behalf, we can be helped to walk before Him, giving honor and praise as God would expect.

David shared this same hope of becoming part of the dwelling place of God, protected by the Spirit's care now in this life, and for evermore as he wrote:

"How amiable are thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts!
My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O LORD of hosts, my King, and my God.
Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah."

Psalm 84:1-4.

M.C.S.

ISRAEL'S ENEMIES

"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.

For they have consulted together with one consent (Hebrew "heart"): they are confederate against thee.

The Tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes."

(Psalm 83:4-6)

In ancient times Arab nations, as referred to by the Psalmist, were enemies to the nation of Israel. Now in these later times there is a latter day fulfilment of such a situation. In other words it is a Bible prophecy which underlines that world events work out as defined by heavenly over-ruling.

Some recent media comments are significant, for example, as follows, (we avoid mentioning the name of the writer):-

"What is particularly disturbing is the way opposition to the Jewish state descends into vicious antagonism against Jews themselves. - - -"

The writer of these words then goes on to refer to an Anti-Israeli commentator; and describes the "vicious antagonism" which comes from such enmity, as evidenced by the following quotation of a very derogatory opposition which he gives:-

"Israel (is) a wonderful Nazi-like killing machine backed by the world's richest Jews. - - - Shame on all Jews, may your lives be cursed. - - -"

We will quote further from the media comment which tries to appear to look at the Arab-Israel situation fairly:

"- - - To draw an analogy between the Nazi regime and the modern government of Israel - - - such a link is not only historically absurd, since Israel is by far the most democratic and liberal country in the Middle East but it is also offensive because it demonises the Jews and devalues the horror of the Holocaust.

The pretence that Israel's actions in its own defence against Islamic terrorists are somehow the equivalent of Nazi Germany's gas chambers is a lie - - - the tragedy is that this continual assault on Israel has led to a rise in anti-Semitism - - -."

Undoubtedly the anti-Jewish stance of some has actually appeared as support for the Palestinians. It is seen in British University functions, in their educational activities, and also in sections of the Press. One academic made the remark to some of his associates, "you have no right to treat Israel as if it were a normal state." At a debate on the boycotting of Israel, those so inclined to do it refused to accept action against radical Islamists among these Universities. They declared to do so would be "an infringement of free speech"! A European political directive spoke of the need to develop a "non- emotive lexicon", for use in discussions to avoid terms such as "jihad", "Islamic", or "fundamentalists", and so prevent the "exacerbating of division"!

The present Iranian stance against Israel is also very unpleasant for Israel. Iran's President has spoken against the Jews, and he has repeated in public his fervent wish that Israel be "wiped off the map", and that the "countdown to the destruction of Israel has begun":

Oh! how the prophecy of the Psalmist is coming to pass !!

"They have taken crafty counsel against thy people - - -
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 - - - they have consulted together with one
consent. - - -"
(Psalm 83:3—5)

Left to itself, without the over-ruling of heaven there is no hope for Israel. Indeed, what future does the world have? However the Psalmist speaks of the final solution from the Most High:-

"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, art the most high over all the earth."

(Psalm 83:17—18)

A BIBLE CLASS

"BE NOT RIGHTEOUS OVER MUCH"

Ecclesiastes 7:16

Ecclesiastes was written by Solomon (Chapter 1:1) to help us be more pleasing to God - as Solomon was at the beginning of his reign over Israel. He was a righteous man, humble, subject to God, seeking His help. When we think of a wise man, we think of Solomon, who wrote:

"A good name is better than precious ointment ..."

Ecclesiastes 7:1.

This brings to mind Mary, who anointed Jesus' head with precious ointment. His disciples said:

"... To what purpose is this waste?

For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor."

Matthew 26:8-9.

Jesus replied:

"... Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me.

For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial.

... Whosoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her."

Matthew 26:10,12-13.

Who was righteous? Who had the good name - Mary or the disciples? Mary exhibited love for Jesus, acknowledging that He must die shortly; while the disciples sought to help the poor, instead of "wasting the ointment" on Jesus' head.

This brings us to our subject: "Be not righteous over much..." What is righteousness? The concordance tells us it comes from a root to cleanse, to justify self, and is used as just, lawful, and righteous. We have an example of righteousness when Jesus came to John the Baptist to be baptized. John protested that he was not

worthy to do this. Jesus replied:

“... Suffer it to be so now, for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.

Then he (John) suffered him.”

Matthew 3:15.

God was pleased with Jesus' determination to give glory unto Him:

“... Lo a voice from heaven, saying. This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Matthew 3:17.

Immediately Jesus was tested in the wilderness. Would He obey His Father, using the Spirit that descended upon Him? He did so, revealing His righteousness as He obeyed His Father, saying:

“... it is written ...”

Matthew 4:4,7,10.

In showing His righteousness, He continued to do so until, in obedience, He died on the cross, crying out in victory:

“... It is finished ...”

John 19:30.

Jesus' life glorified God, in submission to His Father's word, never sinning, offering up His life as a means of redemption for His people.

In contrast, we have the example of the scribes and Pharisees, who rejected Jesus as the Messiah and sought to kill Him. He rebuked these enemies in a parable:

“He spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:”

Luke 18.9.

The parable spoke of a Pharisee and a publican who went into the temple to pray:

“The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even this publican.

I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner” Luke 18:11-13.

Who was righteous in God's sight the Pharisee, who justified himself, despising others; or the publican who, submitting to God, acknowledged that he was a sinner, needing God's mercy and grace? The answer is clear, as Jesus spoke:

"I tell you, this man (the publican) went down to his house justified (to be righteous) rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Luke 18: 14.

How easily the flesh, self, can take hold of one's thinking and doing, resulting in deception that one is righteous, while pleasing the flesh, but offending God! How can we appear to be righteous in God's sight? James helps us:

"... be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass (mirror):

For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deeds"

James 1:22-25.

The mirror, the word of God, reveals us as God looks upon us, giving the opportunity to be like the publican - "... be merciful to me a sinner" - one desiring to glorify God through obedience to His word, striving to fulfill all righteousness, in the hope of eternal life.

Let us be "a doer of the work" (or word), submitting to God's will, rather than being "righteous over much" and pleasing self. Solomon wrote:

"Be not righteous over much: ... why shouldest thou destroy thyself?" Ecclesiastes 7:16.

He did destroy himself! He pleased himself in worshipping idols rather than God, as he went "his way" - forgetting "what manner of man he was."

J.A.DeF.

EARS TO HEAR

Many times during the Lord Jesus' ministry, He used the expression, "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear", particularly when teaching in parables.

There were often many gathered about to hear Him preach and although all heard, most did not truly perceive the spiritual understanding he was endeavoring to impart. After preaching the parable of the Sower of Seed in Mark chapter 4, He went on to illustrate in another way, how important it is to not just hear, but also to understand:

"And he said unto them, Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? And not to be set on a candlestick? For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad.

If any man have ears to hear, let him hear."

Mark 4:21-23.

A candle - a source of light to illuminate the darkness, is not useful if put under a bushel or under a bed. How would the user be able to see and not stumble? So too came God's word through His Son, that those hearing may see the way in which they should walk and not be engulfed in the darkness of spiritual ignorance.

To His disciples and friends, He later interpreted the hidden meaning of the various parables so that they would fully understand:

"And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were able to hear it.

But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples."

Mark 4:33-34.

He went on to teach of the Kingdom of heaven, likening it to a small grain of mustard:

"It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth:

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?
But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.
And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were able to hear it." Mark 4:31-33.

Such a small seed, but one which grows to become a great tree, filling the earth, giving shade and security for all who take shelter therein.

With such parables He taught those with a receiving heart, "as they were able to hear it". This reminds us of Solomon's wisdom in the Proverbs where he said:

"The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them." Proverbs :20:12.

This is true in a natural sense as God is Creator of all, but to have a "seeing eye and a hearing ear" is to perceive with spiritual discernment His word and apply that knowledge in one's living - walking after His light.

"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.

As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprove upon an obedient ear." Proverbs 25:11-12.

As a valuable golden ornament is pleasing to the eye, so to God is the hearing ear an instrument of beauty and praise, as one seeks to conform to the words of righteousness and correction that he hears.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works ." II Timothy 3:16-17.

There is only one means of attaining unto perfection or completeness - through God's word. The Lord Jesus was keenly

aware of this truth and used that word as a light to guide His way. He not only was a hearer but also a perfect doer of the word as James described:

“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

James 1:22-25.

Hearing is only part of the work set before us, for doing is the application of that understanding. The Lord Jesus had a perfect understanding of God’s word, but he also executed it in His living without fault, becoming the unblemished Lamb of God.

The Lord Jesus’ whole focus during His ministry, was to bring those who believed in God’s word, to a deeper spiritual understanding so that they may apply it in their living. He expounded to the disciples a far different application of the Law than that taught by the Scribes and Pharisees. He revealed the spirit of love contained therein, for the Father and one’s fellow man, which had been overlooked or ignored previously by these false teachers.

In this lies the mystery of the Kingdom of God to those that “hear” and are blessed by the Almighty - to share in the hope of a paradise set in store at the end of His purpose. For during the time of the Kingdom age, those who have been “hearers and doers” of His word, will have the privilege of sharing and teaching the love of God to others with “ears to hear”.

M.C.S.

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

Terror in Today's World

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."

(2 Timothy 3:13)

At the time of writing the media made the following statement of alarm:-

"Britain was stood down from the highest terror-threat level --- but (was) warned: 'Don't drop your guard.'"

Britain had previously been put on a "critical" alert. Seven doctors and a woman laboratory technician were being questioned over a car bomb plot. A Government spokeswoman made an official statement:-

"--- the reduction of the threat level to severe does not mean the over all threat has gone away. There remains a serious and real threat against the United Kingdom and I would again ask that the public remain vigilant."

A car bomb at Glasgow Airport had failed to explode but one of those involved in the incident had been badly burned as he had tried to carry out his failed attempt. He was a technology expert who had studied at Cambridge University where he had met two doctors; and the report is that it is thought he introduced those medical men to his physician brother and another doctor, who at present is detained in Australia. One of the named doctors had qualified in Iraq, but came to work in Britain at Cambridge, where he had been a regular worshipper at the mosque as a Sunni Muslim. He was born in Britain after his father came to study medicine, but father and son had returned to Iraq, with son moving freely between Iraq and Britain, getting a job as a doctor at the Hospital in Paisley. It is significant that of those eight who were questioned, four were qualified doctors, and two were trainees. Note how the car-bombs were prepared. Packed with gas cylinders, and petroleum containers with bags of nails, and the cars to be exploded at a chosen time and place, when a number of people were discerned to be in their vicinity. The detonators in both of the vehicles were found to have been modified from hospital equipment, but it was because the modified

detonater had been faulty that the cars had failed to explode! If the plot had succeeded there would have been considerable loss of life and also much injury affliction as well. The British Government announced it had an urgent review of British National Health Service recruitment after this, but the striking thing is that new doctors are caused to make pledges which follow an International Code of Medical Ethics, and we quote some of these pledges as follows:-

"I solemnly pledge to consecrate my life to the service of humanity."

"I will practice my profession with conscience and dignity."

"I will maintain the utmost respect for human life."

"I will maintain by all the means in my power, the honour and the noble traditions of my profession."

What then has influenced the thinking of some in the medical profession, that has caused these to so act that British Security Force have moved against them? The man who crashed the Jeep into Glasgow airport and suffered horrendous burns, and had previously told his family "I am involved in a large-scale confidential project - - and it involves a lot of travelling - - -" had been influenced by eminent religious personalities, these have certain strong political leanings also. Such personalities have such a power of religious persuasion, that some who follow them are prepared to be suicide bombers, exploding themselves when able to take others into death or injury with themselves.

A senior British Police Officer has made a very forthright statement about this situation, as follows:-

"Whether we like it or not, the terrorist threat at the moment comes from the Asian community. Of course, it is not all of the community but we must not be afraid of speaking the truth."

Terrorism injury and death as a threat to a nation's tranquillity, over its stance, religiously and politically, has been looming up, over the recent few years. Note a media reminder over its reminder of what happened a little over two years ago: the media comment is:-

"Today is the second anniversary of the London Bombings when 52 innocent people died and hundreds were injured.

In the aftermath of that atrocity we learned that the young bombers were British-born and appeared to have fallen under the evil spell of imams who preached hatred of the West. - - - Figures show that less than one in 13 imams in Britain were born here and only six per cent have English as a first language. Many will not understand our culture - - many will not even want to try. At best they will be out of touch, at worst they will be inclined to radicalise the young and spread the word that leads to death and terror - -."

Demonstrations have occurred in London. One such had people carrying placards calling for non-Muslims to be "annihilated" and "beheaded". Protesters warned that, "Europe, you will pay - - -"! This followed comments first published in Denmark, and then in France, Spain and Germany; which some in the Muslim community felt angry about, as being insulting to the Muslim religion.

This, then is a summary of the present situation of things, and we refer our readers to the prophetic warning of the words of Paul's letter to Timothy, in which he refers to this last time.

"- - - Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." (2 Timothy 3:13),

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR OCTOBER 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

As terrorism and warfare continue in the earth there appears to be no solution, no peace. The solution is in God's hands when Jesus His Son returns to the earth to bring about God's purpose - a kingdom and a king ruling from Jerusalem. God's word spoken through His prophet reveals how it will come to pass (Isaiah 3:1-5).

As we perceive this hope, we lift up our eyes - looking for his return to accomplish God's purpose, "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.

Fellowship in these last days is a very great blessing. To be united in the work of 'the calling' comforts and strengthens us all.

How gladly we are allowed to make such comments.