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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

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AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

"... BLESSED ARE THE EYES WHICH SEE ..."

Jesus said these words privately to the seventy disciples who had just returned from preaching the gospel. As they returned, they uttered with joy:

"... Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name." Luke 10:17.

Jesus replied:

"Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.
Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." Luke 10:19-20.

As those seventy felt the power of God in their witnessing to His word, they marveled at the help granted! Jesus, however, encouraged them to rejoice in the greater privilege, that their names were written in God's book of life, promising the hope of eternal life as His witnesses. Jesus Himself rejoiced at their work, saying:

"... I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for it seemed good in thy sight" Luke 10:21.

The seventy were not among those "wise and prudent" in earthly things, but were inspired to teach the heavenly things of the Spirit of God - the gospel. They were amazed at the power given in that work!

Understanding their experiencing God's power, Jesus further spoke to them privately:

"... Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see:
For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired

to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them:
and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard
them." Luke 10:23-24.

What did they see and hear? They could see and touch the Lord Jesus; they could listen to His words, perceiving that He was the Son of God, promised from the beginning of man, born of a woman, to teach of God's mercy and grace. God's creation was "very good." However, Adam and Eve failed to obey God's single command:

"But 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.

They were tempted by the serpent, partook of the fruit of that tree, and were sentenced to die, as well as all their descendants. But God in His mercy provided a means of escape from that death, through the seed of the woman, who would bruise the serpent in the head (Genesis 3.15).

The seventy saw the coming of Jesus Christ as the seed of the woman, who would conquer his fleshly nature by complete obedience to His Father's will; thus making possible the redemption from that sentence of death for those who would believe in the Word of God. Since the sentence in Eden, there have been relatively few who have believed in that Word. John, one of Jesus' apostles, was inspired to write:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
In him was life; and the life was the light of men.
And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.
He came unto his own, and his own received him not.
But as many as received him, to them gave he power (authority) to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:
Which were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
And the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and

we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” John 1:1,4,5,11-14.

The faithful since Adam have looked for the Son of God, promised by His Father, as the means of redemption. John saw Jesus, heard Jesus, touched Jesus; and he rejoiced at His coming, according to God’s promise. How blessed were His disciples, rejoicing in seeing and hearing Him who had been promised for 4000 years!

We, brethren and sisters, live 2000 years later. We are greatly blessed as we look back to the beginning of God’s purpose with this earth, seeing and hearing evidence of Jesus’ near return to bring about the kingdom of God on this earth. We cannot physically hear and see Jesus, but have the sure evidence of God’s witnesses since the time of Adam. They looked for the fulfillment of God’s purpose, but did not see or know its fulfillment.

Paul writes in Hebrews II, of some of those who lived and died, but were given the hope of eternal life, made possible by their faith in God’s word. Who were they? Their names are familiar: Abel. Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthae, David, Samuel, and of the prophets. Paul concludes:

“... these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:
God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.”

Hebrews 11:39-40.

Those in faith, and many more, have looked for the hope of eternal life promised from the beginning of His creation. We have the examples of their lives and of their submission to God’s word. Also, we are encouraged by John’s vision of the Revelation, shown to him while in exile on the Isle of Patmos, sixty years after the death of Jesus - the unblemished Lamb of God, the Victor, having cried out on the cross, “It is finished”:-

“... I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord,

holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled."

Revelation 6:9-11.

Not all those that were slain or killed were actually killed. Rather, by faith they killed their thinking of the flesh, obeying the words of Jesus their Redeemer, striving to walk in His spirit that was so pleasing to His Father:

"... If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father, with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works." Matthew 16:24-25,27.

Further in Matthew, we read of the judgment of those responsible when Jesus returns in His glory:

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

And before him shall be gathered all nations; and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

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

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

Matthew 25:31-34.

Those on His left hand will hear His words:

"... Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire (lake of fire), prepared for the devil and his angels:

And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." Matthew 25:41,46.

From the beginning there has been enmity between the righteous and the evil, as God said concerning the serpent (sin in the flesh - Satan, the adversary):

"I will put enmity (hatred) between thee (serpent) and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed..."
Genesis 3:15.

Those who are of the seed of the woman have striven to glorify God; while the seed of the serpent glorifies the flesh. The seed of the woman - those found faithful at Jesus' judgment - will inherit the kingdom of God. The seed of the serpent will be cast into the lake of fire - the grave, from which there is no escape.

How blessed we are, brethren and sisters, to see and hear the things that God has provided. He encourages us in our striving to please Him, and forgives our failures - lifting us up, as He has done for all those who have striven to be the seed of the woman. The time of Jesus' return appears to be very near, as we see the signs in the earth today. Let us heed the words of Jesus to His disciples, and to those who can be helped by the experiences of God's children since Adam. Jesus' words can sustain us, as He spoke to His disciples of signs in the earth:

"... 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 21:27-28.

J.A.DeF.

POWER TO CAST INTO HELL

LUKE 12:5

In our verse under consideration, the Lord Jesus was speaking to His disciples and a large multitude of people gathered to hear His teaching. Those endeavoring to walk in God's precepts He termed "my friends". He warned them of the hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees, the supposed spiritual leaders of Israel who did not follow God's laws themselves:

"But woe unto you, Pharisees! For ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Woe unto you, Pharisees! For ye love the uppermost seats in the synagogue, and greetings in the markets.

Woe unto you also, ye lawyers! For ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers."

Luke 11:42-44,46.

He encouraged His friends to not fear their adversaries, but rather fear God, who alone is the ultimate judge of men's actions and could withhold the hope of salvation because of unworthiness:

"And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear; Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him." Luke 12:4-5.

In Deuteronomy Moses speaks of the Almighty - He who has "power to cast into hell" through His mighty power:

"See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.

For I lift up my hand to heaven, and say, I live for ever.

If I whet my glittering sword, and mine hand take hold on judgment; I will render vengeance to mine enemies, and will reward them that hate me." Deuteronomy 32:39-41.

It is God alone who can kill or make alive and no one has the power to deliver out of His hand. Therefore, the Lord Jesus was exhorting His friends to fear God alone by giving reverence and obedience to His words.

In Matthew's record of this same incident it is written:

"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Matthew 10:28.

Man is able to kill the body, but only God has control over the spiritual life of man, by rejecting his way of life on the day of judgment.

Solomon spoke in Proverbs of the need to fear or reverence the Almighty when he said:

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction." Proverbs 1:7.

"Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long.

For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off.

Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way." Proverbs 23:17-19.

To live in the fear of the Lord every day puts decision making in the proper perspective, as one asks, "would God be pleased with my actions"? This is the mind that God looks for in his children, as Solomon also understood when he wrote;

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

For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14.

God's word teaches of a judgment at the return of His Son,

when all those responsible to His word will answer for their deeds-whether they be good or evil, as the Lord Jesus said:

“For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known.

Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.”

Luke 12:2-3.

David was another who valued the nearness and care of God, trusting that He would preserve his life as he was often surrounded by those who hated him:

“When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me.

In God will I praise his word: in the LORD will I praise his word.

In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.”

Psalms 56:9-11.

Belief and confidence in the Lord allows one to overcome the fear of the flesh, knowing that God is our helper. All flesh dies, yet it is God alone who can offer the hope of salvation for those that walk in His ways. Through His word is the only escape from death - through obedience to that word in the name of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Through faith can fear be cast away, knowing He sees and directs all our goings.

Paul confirms God's care for His little ones as he writes to the Hebrews:

“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”

Hebrews 13:5-6.

M.C.S.

**“ - - - The world through him might be saved.”
(John 3:17)**

The testimony of Christ's disciples was, that following His resurrection from the dead, and His having been seen in the post resurrectional state for forty days, being assembled on the Mount of Olives outside Jerusalem, together with Him, they saw that wonderful vision of His ascension into Heaven. The scriptural witness reads:—

“And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:9-11)

And why is there such a pertinent witness to a personal return of Christ? Because, as John's gospel record declares, that “the world through him might be saved” by a personal appearing. So, we look at the world at the present time. Let us consider what world news declares. The following are snippets, perhaps more meaningful than at first apparent, of what is happening:-

“Russian warplanes were dramatically intercepted as they were about to enter British airspace - - - normally heavily armed - - - can carry cruise missiles - - - The incident was the largest in a series of recent mid-air ‘gestures’ by the Russians.”

(Russia said that its) “bombers have resumed patrols in response to the threat posed to Russia by other nations.”

A very sombre newspaper article recently spoke of the fear of Armageddon, and commented that “whatever the details, it was clear to ordinary citizens that the superpowers had the capability to wipe great swathes of the globe off the map, (and) there would be no elaborate subterranean shelters - - -.” Note the following media comment:-

“Most ordinary folk managed to avoid thinking about it as they went about their day-to-day lives: going to work, raising their families, running their homes - - - occasionally some crisis would erupt - - - very occasionally a real crisis

would explode into the headlines to threaten their very existence.

Frightened people would then become aware that nuclear Armageddon and the death of everything that they hold dear was only a heartbeat away. The threat of a nuclear shooting war was always out there."

Well, these comments are about some of the super-powers. But then comes news of threats from smaller nations; for example there is Iran to consider. Recent media reports criticised the leader of that country for speaking against Israel. His words of hatred are found in an important media source:-

"Calling for the destruction of Israel - - -"

The USA and other Western powers are worried that Iran is secretly trying to develop nuclear weapons. Iran however is claiming its nuclear work is solely for peaceful purposes. But one political commentator has made the following remark:-

"No one seriously believes that Iran with its huge oil and gas reserves, just wants to develop nuclear power stations. Critics say the only purpose of the Iranian nuclear programme is to build an Islamic bomb - one that many in Israel believe will be targeted at them - - - fanaticism of deranged lunatics we should really fear - - -"

But such a lament does not end with fear about such a danger from this smaller nation, there is also fear amazingly about the possible action of individuals and smaller political groups. Reference is made to the car bomb. One comment is given here:-

(There is the threat) "of a terrorist group obtaining enough radioactive material to detonate a dirty bomb in one of our cities - - - . The delivery mechanism (will be) a suitcase in a car trunk. The bomb will not scream overhead; but will probably be shipped by international courier. And the detonator will be the agent's own right hand!"

So as the world moves onwards towards a more perilous state of things, how gracious are the comforting words of the Righteous, Eternal Creator in His holy word of Truth. Though the wonderful Creation of the God of Heaven is threatened, as a result of the foolishness of man, He in Heaven who is Supreme, has provided a Saviour who He will cause to return to bring about deliverance, which man, left to himself, cannot possibly achieve!

A BIBLE CLASS

"BE NOT FORGETFUL TO ENTERTAIN STRANGERS"

Hebrews 13:2

Under the law, those of Israel were commanded to take heed to a stranger:

"... If a stranger sojourn with thee in your land, ye shall not vex him.

But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself, for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God"
Leviticus 19:33~34.

These words applied to those who were not of Israel, but dwelt among them in peace. There were others who were strangers, aliens, enemies of Israel who sought to destroy them because of their enmity, their hatred of God's people. God spoke to Adam and Eve after they disobeyed His command regarding the tree of the knowledge of good and evil:

"And I will put enmity between thee (the serpent) and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed:..."

Genesis 3:15.

How can one discern the heart and mind of strangers? It is by their deeds. For example, we read of Abraham and Sarah who:

"... confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth."

Hebrews 11:13.

We have other examples to help us discern how one can "entertain strangers" - those whom we do not know. There were three men who came to Abraham, and he said to them:

"... I will fetch a morsel of bread, and comfort ye your hearts, after that ye shall pass on: for therefore are ye come to your servant..."

Genesis 18:5.

Abraham received them and treated them kindly. These strangers were messengers sent by God with the promise that

Abraham and Sarah would have a son - a blessing to fulfil God's promise.

In contrast, we read of the Gibeonites who came to Joshua and Israel:

"They did work wilely, and went and made as if they had been ambassadors..."
Joshua 9:4.

These strangers deceived Joshua and Israel, for they feared that Israel would destroy them and take their land, as God had commanded Israel, Joshua and Israel listened to their deceit.

"... and asked not counsel at the mouth of the LORD.
And Joshua made peace with them, and made a league with them, to let them live..."
Joshua 9:14-15.

Thus Israel failed to conquer the Gibeonites, as God had commanded them to destroy those who lived in the land promised to Israel. Within three days of making a league with them, Israel heard that they were neighbors; yet they had to keep their league, contrary to God's will, as they had failed to seek His counsel.

From these examples we can discern how one should "entertain strangers" - for we need to perceive their motives. Paul helps us in writing to his Hebrew brethren:

"Let brotherly love continue.
Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels (messengers of God) unawares."
Hebrews 13:1-2.

The word entertain involves brotherly love through hospitality, to care for, as if they might be brethren. While we are unaware if they are sent of God, or are aliens, we should entertain them as if they are His messengers. If we show brotherly love, we may be pleasing to God, as Paul further exhorts:

"Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them: and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body."
Hebrews 13:3.

If they are angels of God, there is a bonding by brotherly love. If there is no bonding, it will be revealed, Paul continues his exhortation:

“Let love be without dissimulation.
Abhor that which is evil, cleave to that which is good.
Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love -
given to hospitality...” Romans 12:9-10,13.

Peter also reveals brotherly love:

“... above all things, have fervent charity (love) among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.
Use hospitality one to another without grudging.”
I Peter 4:8-9.

Let us remember that we were Gentiles, strangers, aliens from the love of God, as Paul spoke to his brethren at Ephesus:

“Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision, in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:
But now in Christ Jesus, ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.” Ephesians 2:11-13.

In the mercy and grace of God, we have been called to the hope of Israel. Let us rejoice in that love, and respond by reflecting it in our living - even by entertaining strangers, with the possibility that they may be messengers of God.

J.A.DeF.

MY PEOPLE SHALL NEVER BE ASHAMED

Joel 2:26

The prophet Joel is considered by biblical scholars as a “minor prophet” no doubt because of the brevity of his message. However, his prophecy is not minor or unimportant but vital, foretelling of the coming of the Lord in the day of judgment and the need for repentance as this day approaches.

Historically, when Israel turned their back upon God and His precepts, He raised up the surrounding nations as a punishment against them:

“Awake, ye drunkards, and weep; and howl, all ye drinkers of wine, because of the new wine; for it is cut off from your mouth.

For a nation is come up upon my land, strong, and without number, whose teeth are the teeth of a lion, and he hath the cheek teeth of a great lion.” Joel 1:5-6.

However, when they repented and cried out to the Lord for help, His care and protection was extended as a Father to His children:

“Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the LORD will do great things

Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.” Joel 2:21,23-24,27.

The prime root of this word “ashamed” means to pale, to be confounded or dry. Joel was teaching Israel that if they would turn to God in obedience, He had promised they would not be confounded or in doubt of His care. This was in essence the covenant made between God and His people.

In the garden before the fall of Adam and Eve, there was no confusion, for all was created in goodness:

“And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.” Genesis 2:25.

Their shame was created by their sin, and when their eyes were opened and they saw their nakedness, they tried to cover themselves:

“And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.” Genesis 3:7.

Their covering was not adequate to God, but one was provided through the shedding of blood, teaching them of the sacrifice of One to come - the Lord Jesus Christ the only means of overcoming the shame of sinful flesh:

“Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.” Genesis 3:21.

To the Jews of His time, the Lord Jesus was a “stumblingstone and rock of offence” because they would not accept the spirit of love contained within the law that He taught, nor accept that salvation could only be sought through His name:

“... if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.” Romans 10:9-11.

Joel’s message to Israel was similar in nature. Repent and turn to God and He will receive you unto Himself:

“... rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.” Joel 2:13.

David is one who comes to mind of one who failed and was ashamed, but repented and recovered himself through the help

given through God's word:

"Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently.
O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!

Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all
thy commandments.

I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall
have learned thy righteous judgments.

I will keep thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly."

Psalm 119:4-8.

David realized his ways had to be directed by God's word
and not his own thinking if he were to be pleasing to the Almighty
and not suffer shame:

"Let the proud be ashamed; for they dealt perversely with
me without a cause; but I will meditate in thy precepts.

Let those that fear thee turn unto me, and those that have
known thy testimonies.

Let my heart be sound in thy statutes; that I be not
ashamed."

Psalm 119:78-80.

We are ashamed when we fail and our flesh is exposed. As
Adam and Eve before us, we too need the covering of the One whose
blood has been shed on our behalf - the Lord Jesus Christ. Through
His sacrifice, He has become our Mediator to the Father, the only
One who can plead for our forgiveness and remove our shame under
the covering of His wings.

M.C.S.

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

**"The act of violence is in their hands"
(Isaiah 59:6)**

The prophet having testified of trouble which is to arise, goes on to say:-

"Yea, truth faileth- - -" (verse 15)

It may be said that such words concern the situation in Israel of old. But in reading the testimonies of the prophecies, it is wise to consider an over-all context.

First of all, bearing in mind Isaiah's declarations, and that scripture is just as much for the present, as for the past, let us consider the present situation in the world.

A recent media comment raised the question, and with it an answer:-

"Why we are no longer safe on our streets."

Violent crime (British Crime Survey) up five per cent, now nearly two and a half million incidents.

Robbery (recorded) up three per cent with vandalism (British Crime Survey) up ten per cent, now nearly three million events.

Overall crime (British Crime Survey) up three per cent, with a figure moving towards eleven and a half million! More than a million people were attacked by drunken badly behaved individuals. A Home Office study revealed that alcohol—related crimes soared by twenty two per cent, with a twenty five per cent rise in serious assaults. It means that well over six and a half thousand people are attacked, wounded or robbed in England and Wales every day. This information conveys a sad reading. The actual figures for the last quarter of the year 2006 are:-

Robbery up eight per cent.

Drug offences up three per cent.

Annual estimate for 2006, (per centage change on 2005):-

Vandalism up eleven per cent.

Theft from person up two per cent.

Total crime up two per cent.

These media figures reveal deterioration of human behaviour. Speaking about it, a well known politician made the following comment:-

“We need to tackle repeat crime by making education and training compulsory in prisons. More prisoners should work and pay into a compensation fund for victims, and we should extend treatment for drug and mental health problems. It’s time to focus on what works instead of what sounds good.”

Another gloomy figure is that legally held fire arms rose by thousands last year. No one can say how many illegally held ones there are! One grim statistic is that someone, (and this refers to reported cases) is attacked in Britain every twelve seconds!! So is coming to pass the situation as warned of by the prophet.

But worldwide, there is the even greater horrific threat of nuclear destructive devices. Some nations having the means of obliterating those whom they would regard as their foes. The greater nations having stored away nuclear bombs, and now even smaller nations developing the means to have such, for example Iran.

This is a very dark picture; what can the world do, to bring some light upon it, and some hope? It cannot!

God, in the wonder of His grace, through the message of His holy word of Truth, shines forth with comforting assurance, to those who look in faith to Him, as the only means of saving this good earth. So we have the comforting declaration which is from Heaven through God’s prophet:—

“- - - the Redeemer shall come to Zion ---” (Isaiah 59:20)

“Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.” (Isaiah 60:1-3)

“Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor

destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise.

The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory. - - - I the LORD will hasten it in his time."

(Isaiah 60:18-19 & 22)

So, is the wonderful comfort, mercy, and condescension of the Great God of Heaven, preserved in His divine record, for those who look to Him with faith in this evil time, which would be hopeless apart from a visitation from Heaven to bring about deliverance. And so will come to pass that which was declared through the prophet:-

"- - - the REDEEMER SHALL COME to Zion- - -."

And from Zion will go forth the light, that is of the Righteousness of Heaven! This light will spread throughout this good earth, driving away the darkness!!

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR JANUARY 2008

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

Wild fires in California have devastated hundreds of square miles and thousands of homes, revealing God's power, as strong winds have caused them to spread.

Gratitude is felt as God's care and protection is granted in these last days before the coming of Jesus Christ to establish His kingdom for those who strive to submit to His hand.

J.A.DeF.

MANCHESTER

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

So begins a new year, and this fact raises the question, "what will this new year bring?"

The Truth brings comforting knowledge to us, that, as time goes on, God's purpose with this good earth will assuredly work out according to the divine plan which He has so mercifully revealed to us, in which we have been called to rejoice, in the blessing of this fellowship given to us in our "calling".

Each of us has the comforting knowledge that according to our needs we have the prayers of our Brethren and Sisters to our Heavenly Father for help to us from Above.