

FEBRUARY 2008

A Monthly Magazine issued by

The Remnant of Christ's Ecclesia

in opposition to the Dogmas of
Papal and Protestant Christendom

A WITNESS TO THE TRUTH

and a warning against the deception in the last days
foretold by Christ

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AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

"THE POTTER'S HOUSE"

We have recently read God's words to Jeremiah:

"...Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there will I cause thee to hear my words." Jeremiah 18:1.

Jeremiah went, in obedience to God's will, and watched as the potter:

"... wrought a work on the wheels.
And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it." Jeremiah 18:3-4

God used this example of the potter to show Jeremiah how He worked with His people, to form them into vessels fit for His use. The chronology indicates God's words were spoken in 601 BC - thirteen years prior to the captivity of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar, ending their existence as a nation.

As Jeremiah watched the potter form a vessel, and then reject it because it was marred, God spoke further:

"O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD?

Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel.

At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it;

If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them." Jeremiah 18:6-8.

As the work of the potter's hand with the vessel became fit for his use, so God would be pleased with His people as they submitted to His purpose. If they continued in their evil ways, worshipping idols, turning their back upon God, He warned:

"If it do evil, in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them.

Now therefore go to, speak to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I frame evil against you, and devise a device against you: return ye now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good." Jeremiah 18:10-11.

The word "frame" is also used as "potter" - revealing how He will mold them to His "devices." Judah responded:

"... There is no hope: but we will walk after our own devices, and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart." Jeremiah 18:12.

There was hope from God if they would submit to His hand as He formed them! However, they followed their own devices and became a captive people - discarded, as the potter would destroy a marred vessel.

As we think about the work of a potter, it reveals how God works to "frame" a vessel fit for His use. First of all, the potter needs clay that is formable in his hand. It has to be pliable, free from pebbles, sand, or other material that would not form properly. He needs to find such a clay. Next, he may have to add water to the clay to make it of a certain consistency for forming. After he adds the required water, he treads with his feet the mixture to make it homogeneous, lest it form unevenly under his hands. When he has made the clay suitable for his use, he takes a glob and places it upon his wheel where he skillfully forms it under his hands as he rotates the wheel with his feet. If the clay is consistent - free from foreign objects - and pliable, he "frames" his desired vessel. As the vessel comes off the wheel, it is too soft to stand up to use. The potter puts it into an oven and bakes the clay vessel. The oven temperature must be just right, lest the clay fail to harden or be too brittle. The potter then removes the vessel and allows it to slowly cool, lest it crack. When it has cooled, he inspects it to see if it conforms to his desired vessel.

As we perceive all the work that the potter does to "frame" a useful vessel, can we see why God required Jeremiah (in 601 BC) to go down to the potter's house and watch the process of making a vessel - from the ground to a finished work? As it was being made according to his pattern, the vessel was either suitable for his use,

or marred under the hand of the potter because the clay did not form to his desire. Judah refused to submit to God's word and was soon taken into captivity by Nebuchadnezzar (588 BC), cast off as a marred vessel, not fit for God's use. Israel was no longer a nation, the temple built by Solomon was destroyed, and Jerusalem was devastated. God's prophets - Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel - were chosen vessels, fit for His use, as they were sent to Israel, but to no effect.

The Almighty has chosen a few from the beginning of His creation to be vessels fit for His use - teaching, warning, and guiding according to His word. For example, David was a man after God's own heart. Paul was another vessel made fit for His use. He was an adversary, persecuting Jesus' disciples. However, on the way to Damascus, God sent a "light from heaven" which blinded Saul (as he was first known), and a voice said:

"... Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? ...
And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou
have me to do?" Acts 9:4,6.

Saul submitted to Jesus' voice, and allowed the Lord's hands to form him - until He could say to Ananias, who questioned why Saul was chosen:

"But the Lord said unto him (Ananias) Go thy way; for he
is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the
Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:
For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my
name's sake." Acts 9:15-16.

We know how Paul gave his life to the work of God, witnessing before the Gentiles, kings, and Israel until, in the end, he could say:

"... I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my
departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight. I have
finished my course, I have kept the faith:
Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that
day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his
appearing." II Timothy 4:6-8.

Paul wrote to his brethren to encourage them to glorify God:

“... in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth (clay); and some to honour, and some to dishonour.

If a man purge himself from these (dishonour), he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.”

II Timothy 2:20-21.

Vessels - whether gold or silver, wood or earth - if they submit to the hand of the Almighty, in the spirit of Paul: “... Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?” - will be vessels “meet for the master's use.”

Paul further helps his brethren, and ourselves, as he writes:

“... O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?

Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:

And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory?”

Romans 9:20-23.

“Vessels of mercy” are those who reflect the mercy of God, as they listen to the words of Jesus to the Pharisees who were vessels of dishonor:

“... I will have mercy, and not sacrifice...” Matthew 12:7.

Zechariah was one of God's vessels who carried out his word, speaking of the restoration of Jerusalem and Judah:

“In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses. **HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD**; and the pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar.

Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness

unto the LORD of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and see the therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite (alien) in the house of the LORD of hosts." Zechariah 14:20-21.

Brethren and Sisters, now is our time of probation, our opportunity to be vessels, in the spirit of Paul as he said:

"... Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Acts 9:6.

How can we do so? Again, Paul himself gives us the answer.

"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.

As we feel God's hand upon us, shaping our lives to His pattern, let us rejoice in His mercy, as we strive to yield our lives to conform to His desire - not our own.

J.A.DeF.

AS THE DAYS OF A TREE
ISAIAH 65:22

Isaiah was a prophet sent to Judah and Jerusalem during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, all kings of Judah. His prophecy speaks to God's people, chastising them for their waywardness and warning that their failure to obey God's word will bring dire consequences from the Lord:

"Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.

Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward." Isaiah 1:2,4.

Isaiah pleads with Judah to change their minds, hearts and way of living that they may seek forgiveness and receive the blessings that the Lord has promised to those pleasing in His sight:

"Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes: cease to do evil:

Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isaiah 1:16-18.

Isaiah goes on to encourage those who desire redemption, speaking of the promised kingdom age to come. The blessings to be granted are not only for Christ and His saints, but also for the mortal subjects who will reside in a world of plenty, without disease, trouble or war. To the mortal subjects of the kingdom, natural life will be extended for the meek and obedient to God's way, with peace and prosperity not the exception but the norm:

"And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.

And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them."

Isaiah 65:19-20.

Our subject under consideration is addressed to the people of God - the seed of the woman, elaborating further on the blessings in hand:

"They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands."

Isaiah 65:22.

The figure of a "tree" is appropriate for they are naturally the longest living of God's creation, far surpassing the life span of any other plant or animal. There are Redwoods growing today in California, U.S.A. thought to be thousands of years old. Also Bristlecone Pines which grow in some of the harshest conditions have reached almost five thousand years of age. One particular Bristlecone located in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest of the White Mountains of eastern California has been determined to be 4,789 years old from core samples. It has been named "Methuselah" in honor of the oldest living man from the scriptures.

David compares the long life of the righteous to that of a flourishing tree - fruitful even though aged, when he wrote:

"The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.

They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;"

Psalm 92:12-14.

This psalm is appropriately entitled, "A Psalm or Song for the sabbath day", for it is speaking in type of the kingdom age which is the sabbath of rest after six days of work and toil.

In John's vision recorded in Revelation, he saw the kingdom established with a river running in the midst - the water of life originating from under the temple's altar. On either side is the figure of the saints as trees, planted there to provide healing and sustenance for the mortal subjects:

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

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

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

Revelation 22:1-3.

God can extend life through His power and the tree is a good example of long life, for even our native oaks and maples live for hundreds of years while withstanding strong winds and weather. To the obedient of Israel, the Lord held out the promise of long life as they entered the land, which was a type of the kingdom to come:

"Therefore shall ye keep all the commandments which I command you this day, that ye may be strong, and go in and possess the land, whither ye go to possess it;

And that ye may prolong your days in the land, which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give unto them and to their seed, a land that floweth with milk and honey."

Deuteronomy 11:8-9.

Returning to consider Isaiah's words that, "as the days of a tree are the days of my people", projects our minds beyond the cares of this present life, to the hope of the kingdom age to come. There, wonderful changes will occur through the power of God - the curse of disease, hunger, poverty and warfare will be replaced with peace and prosperity through the wielding of God's power by Christ and His saints.

What a blessed prospect is set before those that take His words to heart today - pruning their flesh natures while there is yet time to walk before Him in obedience, in the hope of becoming as trees of righteousness and glory when His Son returns.

M.C.S.

"BE NOT AFRAID OF THEIR TERROR- - -"

(1 Peter 3:14)

These comforting words of scripture, addressed to those of the faith, have continued from the days of Peter the Apostle.

How particularly applicable they are for these days. A recent lament in the popular press reads as follows:-

"Our country used to be one of the most well-ordered in the world but today it has become a place of fear. Civility has given way to thuggishness and intimidation. Gangland savagery blights our streets; respect for authority has evaporated, creating a climate of lawlessness across our urban landscape. - - - Acts of savage or random violence against innocent youngsters occur all too frequently."

The overall crime rate has been spoken of rising more than tenfold in the last fifty years. Murders are four times as many in the last ten years. Youth crime increases, and one lament is that there is a degree of failure in compassion for the victims of crime. But how can behaviour improve when morality deteriorates? Note the following sadness in a media article:-

"Marriage is outdated, children can grow up in any type of household, no matter how unstable. As a result we now have boys living without any father figures or male role models."

One political viewpoint is that "prison does not work". But the relevant question is, "how can criminals be kept off the streets without prisons?" This trend certainly is bringing fear. Some areas of the country are moving towards a terror, where there is the rise of a rule by gun and knife and violent action!

In such a world as this, those who have the comfort of the faith are greatly blessed, when to them comes the profound assurance:-

"For the eyes of the LORD are over the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?

But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled. But sanctify the LORD GOD in your hearts.- - -"

(1 Peter 3:12-15)

A BIBLE CLASS

BINDING AND LOOSING

Matthew 18:18

Our subject involves fellowship between God and man. What is fellowship? The word is used as communion, to communicate, partaker, partner, and to share. John helps us to perceive the importance of fellowship, as he wrote to his brethren:

“That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness (evil) at all.

If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” 1 John 1:3-7.

How do we know fellowship? Again, John helps us as he wrote concerning Jesus:

“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.” John 1:11-13.

How does one receive that authority to become a son of God? Paul makes it very clear:

“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29.

Through baptism one is buried into Jesus' death, and rises from the waters a new man, a child of God, a brother or sister of the Lord Jesus, in fellowship with God through Jesus' victory over His fleshly nature.

What does fellowship have to do with binding or loosing? Binding involves being in a bond, knit together, tied in relationship. Loosing would involve losing that fellowship. Jesus spoke to Peter:

"... I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Matthew 16:19.

Peter, called to be an apostle, was to teach the gospel, which involves the keys to heaven through fellowship with Jesus Christ and the Almighty. This is a great blessing which is given of God, and can be taken away if there is failure to obey His word. If we disobey His word, we turn away from God, losing His fellowship. Paul helps us grow in that fellowship, in love for God, as he wrote:

"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.

God in mercy provides a means of gaining those who break this fellowship, as shown by Jesus:

"... if thy brother shall trespass (sin) against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if

he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.” Matthew 18:15-17.

These were Jesus’ directions to enable one to be gained (saved) who is in danger of losing the fellowship, through disobedience - yet heeds the work of those who are in fellowship with Jesus and His Father. Jesus made this very clear, as He continued:

“Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind (save) on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose (is lost) on earth shall be loosed in heaven.
Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.
For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Matthew 18: 18-20.

Where those in fellowship with Jesus and His Father are gathered together, God’s help is there in their midst, enabling them to gain the one who is in danger of losing that fellowship. If that help is refused, the one breaking the communion with God is lost, and his name is removed from God’s book of life. Those who are gathered together in His name are guided by God’s presence, lest they too lose His fellowship in failing to trust in His name and follow His commands.

Let us rely upon Jesus’ words: “... there am I in the midst of them” - trusting in His word, united in fellowship, with the hope of being among those who are joined in eternal fellowship when He returns.

J.A.DeF.

**"FOR THEN SHALL BE GREAT TRIBULATION - - -."
(Matthew 24:21)**

In considering the warnings of Jesus concerning the end, and the time of His coming, He said that the end of gentile times would be a worse time than has ever been experienced previously.

Alas, as people have relegated God's holy word, the loss as a result of the beautiful spirit of its guidance has brought a dearth of morals. Behaviour of the sexes towards each other is, in some cases abject to the extreme, and if parents are failing as examples, the children are as lost souls!

Consider what has resulted, as shown in the following statistics of behaviour in present day Britain:-

Violent crime up five per cent (nearly two and a half million)

Robbery (recorded) up three per cent (over one hundred thousand)

Vandalism up ten per cent (nearly three million)

Drug offences up nine per cent (nearly two hundred thousand)

These figures are only part of a list of other evils concerning the driving of vehicles when under the influence of alcohol, burglary and sex offences. A recent media comment about drunken violence reads:-

"More than a million people were attacked by drunken jobs last year as violence on our streets increased with the advent of twenty four hour drinking."

A few decades ago such troubles would not have even been imagined as likely to develop and increase on the streets of Britain. But what is happening in the U.K. is not just a British dilemma; it is happening across the world. But what is particularly disturbing to the British Authorities is the wanton destructive damage this up and coming younger generation is committing in Britain. The vandalism has shot up, in the year 2006, to nearly three million incidents (the reported ones) in Britain, and the chances of being a victim of crime is said to have risen to virtually twenty five per cent.

Such particulars make disturbing reading, but then, think, this is what divine prophecy depicts, and is most indicative of the approach of the divine solution, when Christ will appear with His salvation, at a time of "great tribulation", which has never been experienced before.

TAKE NOTHING FOR YOUR JOURNEY

In our recent portions from the Gospel of Luke we have read of the Lord Jesus sending out of the twelve disciples to preach the gospel:

“Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

And he said unto them, Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece.

And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart.

And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them.

And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where.”

Luke 9:1-6.

In the record of this same incident in Matthew we read an expanded version of Jesus’ instructions to the twelve, as each are named individually:

“Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;

Simon the Canaanite and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 10:2-7.

He continued in Matthew with the same instructions to take nothing for their journey, but to abide with those who received their

teaching, thus relying on God for their daily needs - evidence that God was working among them. To those who refused to hear their words, they were to "shake off the dust of your feet" as a testament against them that they were to have no part in the kingdom of God:

"Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city."
Matthew 10:15.

What a fearful warning against any who refused the preaching of the gospel (then or today). We know of the judgment against Sodom and Gomorrha, that fire from heaven consumed those cities so entirely there is no evidence of their existence left today - most scholars feeling their remains are buried beneath the Dead Sea.

Likewise there will be many who think they are following Christ yet at His return He will say to them, "I never knew you", because they have been deceived into believing a lie:

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?
Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.
Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Matthew 7:15-16,21-23.

How subtly the flesh works, making it so easy to deceive ourselves that we are endeavoring to follow after Christ's example and after God's precepts, when in fact we are pleasing ourselves, if we are not living according to His word:

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.
For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."
Galatians 6:7-8.

These words of Paul instruct us of our need to follow after the spirit of God's word and not to be persuaded by the flesh's influence or by "false prophets" who preach not the true Word but their own flesh-pleasing version.

We have been shown the way, through Christ's example and the disciples preaching of the word. Therefore, let us diligently take heed to the things we have been taught from His word, particularly from our recent portion in Luke. For as the twelve learned to have faith that God would provide for their every need, so too can we know His care and protection if our hearts are attuned to the instruction of the Spirit, being careful to walk in His ways alone.

M.C.S.

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

“Persia - - - with them - - -,”
(Ezekiel 38:5)

This prophecy in Ezekiel concerns a period “at the end.” It particularly is about an outcome for Israel, as follows:-

“After many days thou shalt be visited; in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.

Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee.”
(Ezekiel 38:8-9)

The Jews are prospering once more, as a nation in a land of their own, in this last time. But the prophet Ezekiel warns for these days, that though they dwell in the stability of a “land that is brought back from the sword”, and that Jews are drawn together, “gathered out of many people”, an adversary is to come upon them.

The nation of Persia will be one of their assailents. Another enemy is described as “Gog, (of) the land of Magog”. And concerning this power, Ezekiel foretells:

“I - - - will cause thee to come up from THE NORTH PARTS - - -.”
(Ezekiel 39:2)

As the Middle-east political situation is considered, with a particular bearing upon Israel’s national stance, Oh! how truly is the ancient prophecy coming to pass!!

Consider some of the following media comments:-

“Tehran’s (Persian) nuclear ambition must be stopped.- - - Russia has long had close trading links with Iran, so its natural that she should want to protect them. But we can do without lectures on military force from a country (Russia) re-arming faster than Thirties’ Germany while sending bombers on aggressive sorties in British air space. Of course,

Russia knows that if the West signalled to Iran that under no circumstances would force be used to stop its genocidal regime from building a nuclear bomb, Tehran (Persia) would take it as *carte blanche* to continue. And we may indeed eventually find ourselves at war with Iran. A country whose president has sworn to wipe Israel off the face of the map cannot be permitted to develop nuclear weapons, in the end, we may have to use force. Meanwhile, Russia should drop its phoney posturing and lean hard on its friends in Tehran before it is too late."

The president of Persia, in the bias he has against the Jews, has spoken of Israel as being " a racist occupation - - - constantly attacking its neighbours." These comments came from him at a time recently of a visit by him to Columbia University (U.S.A.). An American, New York State assembly man was condemnatory, he said:-

"I call on New Yorkers to make the life of (the Iranian leader) miserable. There is no excuse to invite this madman, this little Hitler."

The French, as part of the West (Southern) stance revealed its position, as it warned that the world should prepare to go to war with Iran to stop it getting nuclear weapons. The French foreign minister declared that if Iran obtained the atomic bomb it would plunge the planet into "real and immediate danger". He went on to say, "the current stand-off with that regime is the greatest crisis of our time. Negotiations should carry on until the last possible moment but we have to prepare for the worst - and the worst is war." The French politician prepared to travel to Moscow to talk with the Russians about the Iranian nuclear programme, which the Persians claim are preparations for peaceful purposes! The Iranian reaction to the French stance is to say of the French that they are "slavishly aping American foreign policy"!! Israel thanked the French for the political position they have taken. Israel however, have no confidence in the Iranian position, making the remark that:-

"Iran will not abandon its programme of nuclear armament until it has understood that the international community is united and determined in its opposition."

So the international political scene moves onwards towards

the position, as foretold, in the Word of the Lord, by the prophet Ezekiel, which will bring a very necessary heavenly intervention foretold: -

“- - - in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel.- - - I will plead against him. - - - I (will) magnify myself and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD.”

(Ezekiel 38:19-23)

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR FEBRUARY 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

In answer to prayer, help has been granted in matters of health and the provision of work. We are grateful for the evidence of God's hand.

The Winter Party is scheduled for February 23rd, God willing.

J.A.DeF.

MANCHESTER

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

As the Winter continues to move on, and several have usual ailments of the cold weather, we do have great reason to be thankful for the various helps that come along. So we are enabled to continue in various ways to help each other in mindfulness of what is provided from above, from our Heavenly Father.