

MAY 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

"Take heed that ye be not deceived"

"AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD"

"PROPHECY"

"WHEN I CONSIDER - - - THE MOON"

"A BIBLE CLASS"

"OPEN REBUKE IS BETTER THAN SECRET LOVE"

"SIGNS OF HIS COMING"

"NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS"

All Communications

D. Lancaster,
227 Moston Lane East,
New Moston,
Manchester M40 3HY,
England.

J. A. DeFries,
146 Gardner Street,
Fredonia,
New York 14063,
U.S.A.

AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

THE EDIFYING OF HIS HOUSE

We have been with Israel, in spirit, as they were in captivity in Babylon, after the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar. In our recent readings, this captivity came to an end under God's hand:

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

II Chronicles 36:22-23.

In response to God's purpose, more than 49,000 left Babylon, under the leadership of Jeshua the high priest, and Zerubbabel their governor, and returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple.

Their first deed upon arriving at Jerusalem was to build:

"... the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings thereon, as it is written in the law of Moses the man of God. And they set the altar upon his bases; for fear was upon them because of the people of those countries: and they offered burnt offerings thereon unto the LORD, even burnt offerings morning and evening."

Ezra 3:2-3.

They rejoiced in their deliverance and in their work of rebuilding God's house; but they also feared the inhabitants of the land. They built the altar and gave thanksgiving to God, as well as sought His help in the work of rebuilding the temple. As the foundation of the temple was laid, the people rejoiced:

"... And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house

of the LORD was laid.

... for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off." Ezra 3:11,13.

There were adversaries in the land who were determined to stop this building. First, they said;

"... Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye do; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Esar-haddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither." Ezra 4:2.

They did not seek Israel's God! Therefore Zerubbabel and Jeshua turned them away, saying:

"... Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Israel, as king Cyrus... hath commanded us." Ezra 4:3.

The adversaries still attempted to stop the building; and finally did so by writing a letter to Ahasuerus king of Persia, accusing the Jews. In time, the building was stopped by king Artaxerxes for fifteen years.

At the end of the fifteen years, God intervened, sending His prophets, Haggai and Zechariah, who encouraged the builders. Haggai charged the people:

"... This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD'S house should be built.

Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying,

It is time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste?

Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink, ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages, earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.

Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways."

Haggai 1:2-7.

When they considered their ways, letting their hearts reflect upon their circumstances, they asked: Was God helping, providing,

blessing; or, rather hindering their living? Was He displeased, for they had allowed their adversaries to stop the building of His house!

Zechariah also brought God's words to those who had stopped building:

"The LORD hath been sore displeased with your fathers. Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts: Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. Be ye not as your fathers, unto whom the former prophets have cried, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye now from your evil ways, and from your evil doings: but they did not hear, nor hearken unto me, saith the LORD. Your fathers, where are they ...?" Zechariah 1:2-5.

Zechariah brought visions of God's purpose for those who did hear and were blessed - thus encouraging the work of building the house of God. As a result:

"... the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia. And this house was finished on the third day of the month Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king." Ezra 6:14-15.

The house was completely rebuilt in four years! They kept the dedication of the house with joy. Also, they kept the Passover upon the fourteenth day of the first month:

"... (they) kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with joy: for the LORD had made them joyful, and turned the heart of the king of Assyria unto them, to strengthen their hands (and hearts) in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel" Ezra 6:22.

Thus the house of the LORD was built, bringing joy, thanksgiving, and glory to God.

How does this apply to us, Brethren and Sisters? Perhaps the

experiences of Paul help us as we seek to build God's house. After his conversion on the way to Damascus, God said to Ananias:

"... he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel."

Acts 9:15.

Paul did bear God's name, witnessing to His purpose:

"Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee, and Samaria, and were edified: and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, were multiplied."

Acts 9.31.

To edify is to build. Paul gave his life for over 30 years to this edifying, the building up the house of God, particularly to the Gentiles. Paul wrote to his brethren in Ephesus, edifying those whom he had brought to the light of the truth:

"... ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built (edified) 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 built together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

Ephesians 2:19-22.

All buildings should be based upon a firm foundation, edified squarely with the corner stone. Such is the edifying of the habitation of God.

Paul wrote to his brethren in Corinth:

"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.

Paul at times wrote to his brethren to chasten them lest they

lose their hope of redemption. He wrote to Corinth:

“For we are glad, when we are weak, and ye are strong; and this also we wish, even your perfection.

Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification (building), and not to destruction.

Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you”

II Corinthians 13:9-11.

When Paul went to Macedonia, he wrote to Timothy, his “own son in the faith”:

“... that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,

Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.”

I Timothy 1:3-4.

Peter also helped his brethren in edifying the house of God:

“If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

To whom coming, as unto a living stone (Jesus), disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up (edified) a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him (the corner stone) shall not be confounded.”

I Peter 2:3-6.

What help God has given to edify His house - as he did for Israel when they returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple of the living God, encouraged by God’s prophets Haggai and Zechariah. We remember that their first work upon arriving at the ruins of the temple was to build an altar, that their sacrifices might be acceptable to God, and that they might be helped in their building. How can

we offer sacrifices, seeking help in our edifying His house? Again Paul helps us as he wrote to his Roman brethren:

“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.

In this spirit, let us strive to be among those who are edifying the house of God, having a renewed mind, determined to build it according to His will, not our own.

J.A.DeF.

PROPHECY

How often we find in the scriptures, reference made to the fulfillment of earlier prophecies and events, which have come to pass. The purpose of calling attention to these events is to give veracity to God's word - for as He has said, so will it be. Those who read these fulfillments would be increased in faith as well as anticipating those prophecies not yet complete. For example Peter wrote:

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." II Peter 1:19-21.

This sure word of prophecy was given so that believers may grow in faith and be anchored in God's word, knowing it to be Truth.

Isaiah the prophet spoke with stunning accuracy of the suffering of the Messiah to come, hundreds of years before the actual birth of the Lord Jesus - the Savior who would endure in order to overcome and become the Lamb of God:

"Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth." Isaiah 53:4-5,7.

The disciple John who was an eyewitness to Jesus' sufferings, has left a similar record of His last days, when the elders delivered him to the Romans for crucifixion:

"Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him.
And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns, and put it on
his head, and they put on him a purple robe, And said, Hail,
King of the Jews! And they smote him with their hands.
Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified.
And they took Jesus, and led him away.
And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the
place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:
Where they crucified him," John 19:1-3,16-18.

David, was in his way a type of Christ, for he suffered greatly
from the hands of others because of his righteousness - from such
as king Saul, Shimei and his own son Absalom. Writing of this cruelty
and in prophecy speaking of the Lord Jesus, he said:

"Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which
did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me."
Psalm 41:9.

With His command of the Spirit, Jesus would be aware of
David's prophecy, which would be fulfilled in Him. As He and His
disciples were gathered together, just prior to His death, to eat the
Passover, He said:

"... Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.
And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one
of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I?
And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with
me in the dish, the same shall betray me."
Matthew 26:21-23.

For thirty pieces of silver, Judas Iscariot fulfilled David's
prophecy that night with Jesus' betrayal to the chief priests.

In another psalm, David speaks of his trials and persecutions,
which would also be fulfilled by the Lord Jesus:

"I am weary of my crying: my throat is dried: mine eyes
fail while I wait for my God.
They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs
of mine head: they that would destroy me, being mine
enemies wrongfully, are mighty:" Psalm 69:3-4.

Speaking of the Jews who refused to hear His teachings and hated Him because of it, the Lord Jesus in fulfillment of David's words, said to His disciples:

"If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.

But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause."

John 15:24-25.

His own people hated Him without cause because His teachings exposed the elders' love for their own traditions and not a love for the law of God. They had reduced God's law, which taught of the need for a spirit of mercy and compassion, into volumes of tedious man-made dissertations governing daily life and practices. To be shown as not only wrong but also unrighteous in God's eyes, inspired their hatred for the One teaching righteousness, truth and love.

The faith of the disciples would grow and strengthen upon seeing the fulfillment of many of these prophecies, just as it should for us today.

"But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

I Peter 1:25.

God's word from the beginning spoke of the Lord Jesus and His work in figure - the One who was the Word personified who would fulfil all righteousness by overcoming His own flesh nature to become the Lamb of God and a Redeemer for His brethren.

As the faithful of old struggled to keep His word and benefited by witnessing partial fulfillments in their lifetimes, so too can we see many more things fulfilled in the scriptures as recorded by His disciples and apostles. We are blessed to have a deeper record of events which can help us grow in faith and hope, anchoring our expectation of what God has proved once, so will He fulfill at His Sons return.

M.C.S.

“When I consider — — — the moon.”
(Psalm 8:3)

In these days of much atheism, or of great lack to give due honour to the holy, it would do well for men to consider the appealing reverence of the Psalmist:-

“When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained,
What is man that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet.”

(Psalm 8:3-6)

Looking at this earth, how full of life it is! And amongst all these living things there are some very powerful creatures. But man is absolutely above them all. Why is this? The atheist fails to realise the significance. The Psalmist’s message reveals the simple Truth! Man is predominant because the Most High has placed him in such a position. But, alas, some of the greatest scholars fail to grasp this truth!

The great and wonderful creation is full of witness. The balance of infinite things testifies to a wisdom that far transcends anything which men would boast of. For example, the heat of summer has its place, but when things begin to become dry and would ultimately become sterile, then along comes the Autumn followed by Winter, and so comes the refreshing that leads to the bright refreshing of an unending Springtime.

The Psalmist, as he looked towards the heavens above, exhorted us to consider! One of the wonders he calls us to look to is the moon. The moon is very important in the balance of this wonderful creation! It is a 2000 mile wide ball of rock that floats 240,000 miles above our heads. It turns around the earth, even as the earth turns around the sun. The earth has a wonderful tilt, so that in its set time of it’s years revolving around the sun, the earth’s hemispheres are nearer to the sun, or further away from the sun, according to their position in this revolution, so that the northern or southern hemispheres have their different summers and winters

to each other. But as the earth progresses through the heavens around the sun, the moon turns around the earth, and its position in this revolution is such that unlike the earth in relation to the sun, the moon only presents one side of its sphere towards the earth. But the moon also, even as the earth, progresses in a year's wonderful set time as ordained by the Great Creator. A full moon occurs when it is in its position on the opposite side of the earth from the sun, and that side of the earth then is fully illuminated by the moon's reflection of the sun's light, even though the earth is turned away from the sun in its particular position of revolution, looking towards the darkness of night. This then, is the full moon. But then comes the new moon, which is the opposite situation when it is on the same side of the earth as the sun's position in the heavenly place of these spheres, so the moon's position is then hiding some of the sun's light. But then when the sun and moon are in the same heavenly place, the combinations of their gravitational alignment, with a resultant extra pull upon the earth, this brings about the high tides. So the earth has its special time cycle around the sun: and the moon has also its special time cycle around the earth! Oh, how remarkable these similar time spans are that so relate to each other. The earth's distance from the sun is 400 times the earth's distance from the moon. Also the sun is 400 times the diameter of the moon. As a result the moon and the sun appear to be about the same size when looked at from the earth, though very greatly different in actual size. On occasion a total eclipse of the sun takes place. It would not occur if the moon was not the same size that it is. So as we consider this heavenly body, that follows the path of the sun through the sky, rather than orbiting around the earth's equator, though close to the earth, how relevant are the Psalmist's words:-

“O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!”
(Psalm 8:9)

A BIBLE CLASS

"THE WEAKNESS OF GOD"

I Corinthians 1:25

Paul wrote to his brethren in Corinth, mentioning "the weakness of God." He had spent eighteen months with the Corinthians, as God directed him:

"... Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace:
For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.
And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them." Acts 18:9-11.

Four years later, Paul wrote encouragingly to those to whom he had preached the gospel:

"I thank my God always on your behalf for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;
That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge;
Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you:
So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:
Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ."

I Corinthians 1:4-8.

What was God's gift? It was His grace seen in the provision of Jesus Christ, His beloved Son, as the means of forgiveness: and therefore the hope of eternal life when He returns to establish the kingdom promised from the beginning of God's creation Paul reminded them:

"God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord."

I Corinthians 1:9.

Paul was moved to write to those whom he had taught only four years previously:

"For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.

For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." I Corinthians 1:11,17-18.

Peter reminds us:

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing (wishing) that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." II Peter 3:9.

This is God's gift to those who strive to be subject to the Almighty, to glorify Him, made possible by the preaching of the cross - the death of Jesus as the unblemished Lamb of God. This is foolishness to those who deny the mercy and grace of God, but it is salvation to those who believe in the power of God.

Paul asked:

"Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."

I Corinthians 1:20-21.

The world in their wisdom believes that the preaching of the cross (the sacrifice of Jesus) is foolishness - while it is the means of salvation for those who embrace the mercy and grace of God. Paul further taught:

"But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men."

I Corinthians 1:24-25.

The faithful know that the Almighty is indeed just that: all-powerful, all-wise, all-seeing, all-merciful toward those who strive to glorify Him. There is in Him no foolishness, no weakness. Paul made this very clear when he wrote to remind those in Corinth, where some were contentious:

"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.” I Corinthians 1:30-31.

How can we glory in the Lord? God spoke to Jeremiah, encouraging him in the hardships which he knew as he taught Israel:

“Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:

But let him that glorieth, glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.”

Jeremiah 9:23-24.

Paul further wrote to those in Corinth at a later time, helping them in their desire to glorify God:

“But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord:

For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth.” II Corinthians 10:17-18.

We have the example of the Lord Jesus when He was soon to be crucified:

“... Father, the hour is come, glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

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

I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: ...” John 17,1,4-6.

Jesus died upon the cross in perfect obedience to His Father. His last words were:

“... Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit (breath, life): and having said thus, he gave up the spirit.” Luke 23:46.

Can this be the foolishness and weakness of God being the fulfillment of His purpose for the salvation of those who have striven to walk after God’s word from the beginning?

Let us rejoice in His wisdom and power which He grants to those who strive to commend themselves to Him, rather than to the real foolishness and weakness of the world.

J.A.DeF.

**"Open rebuke is better than secret love."
Proverbs 27:5**

This 27th chapter of Proverbs records the observations of King Solomon. In verse one he writes of the need for the man of spirit to be subject to the Spirit's guidance:

"Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." Proverbs 27:1.

None of us know what tomorrow will bring, for all is in God's hands. Therefore, the wise man phrases his plans as, "I plan to do this tomorrow, if God be willing," knowing circumstances may overturn his plans.

In our reference under consideration is similar spiritual wisdom given, through the hand of God upon Solomon:

"Open rebuke is better than secret love." Proverbs 27:5.

The word "open" means to reveal and "rebuke" is used as chastisement or correction. Solomon is saying that to bring to light a serious fault is more edifying than a silent love without interaction.

The question may be posed - are we our brother's keeper? And the spirit's answer is a resounding yes. We have a spiritual duty in love, to uncover anything, which will help a brother if he is in danger of losing his place before God. This is a part of spiritual life as Paul explains:

"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?" Hebrews 12:6-9.

Paul's words to his Hebrew brethren speak to that need for spiritual chastisement when one is in danger of going astray from the path of life. For help, we may look at the relationship in a natural sense between fathers and sons. When a father sees his son doing something dangerous or unwise, he will speak in correction and out of love. This reminds us of the instruction left by the Lord Jesus in order to maintain fellowship within the body, in Matthew the 18th chapter:

"Moreover if thy brother shall trespass 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 shall 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.

It may be difficult to approach another to correct, for fear of hurt feelings or rejection. However, if it is received in a spirit of love and humility, the courage to speak can save a life in jeopardy. In Revelation to the letter to the Laodiceans, the Spirit says:

"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent?" Revelation 3:15-16,19.

Out of love and zeal for His brethren, the Lord Jesus spoke to warn and chastise those of Laodicea, who were in danger of losing their hope of life.

How essential it is to receive a rebuke in a right spirit as Solomon writes in another proverb:

"Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.

Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." Proverbs 9:8-10.

A wise man, who endeavors to walk in the fear of the Lord, is thankful for the care of his brother to come alongside to help. The man who takes this responsibility to heart will be blessed of the Spirit because of his love and care for his brother.

"He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue." Proverbs 28:23.

In contrast, a wrong spirit who will not receive correction but is angry or offended, creates further schism with his brethren and the Almighty:

"He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."

Proverbs 29:1.

When Cain was rebuked by the Lord for his inadequate offering, he did not receive the Lord's correction with humility, recognizing it was done in love, but took offence in a fleshly manner, becoming angry:

"But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? And why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him."
Genesis 4:5-7.

Those who desire to be known as the seed of the woman, will come to a brother in love when they see a situation that may grow to cost a brother his spiritual life.

Paul understood how critical this care one for another was to maintain fellowship within the body. To his young brother Timothy, sent forth as an ambassador of the Truth, he writes in this regard:

"Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear. I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality. Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after."

I Timothy 5:20-21,24.

It's too late at the judgment seat of Christ for correction and repentance. Correction must be received and appropriate changes made during one's time of probation in the hope of His approval at the judgment seat of Christ. To one who in care of his brother takes the time and effort in love to speak gently in rebuke, it is written:

"Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him;

Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."
James 5:19-20.

A revealing of those errors in need of correction is an act of love when done in a spirit of gentleness and humility as Solomon taught when he wrote that, "Open rebuke is better than secret love".

M.C.S.

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

“- - - upon the earth distress of nations - - -.”
(Luke 21:25)

The American President has had criticism from some quarters in getting the U.S.A. involved in Middle Eastern affairs. It has been no easy task for him, in the position he has held, as a leader, of such an important, influential country. The Middle East has volatile rulers, and when such get control of dangerous mechanisms, then there is threat to this good earth. But the trouble is, that when the President knows how great is the threat, he has to be careful about what he says about it, lest he be accused of being a “scare monger” and the causer of alarm. Nevertheless he takes action with his forces to try to influence the situation, and then he is criticized for doing so.

Christ prophesied that at such a time there would be:-

“- - - distress of nations, with perplexity - - -.”
(Luke 21:25)

And then He went on to say that at such a time of fear and “looking after such things coming on the earth”:-

“When these things begin to come to pass, then look up,
and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”
(Luke 21:28)

Consider what has been developing since the last World War. Towards the end of that war, the Nazi leader, finding things were not going well for him in that conflict, suddenly found a German scientist had invented a very powerful destructive mechanism. It was through the V1 and V2 rockets, known as “flying bombs” he believed that his Nazis would achieve the final victory. These rockets were pilotless bombs, and they were launched against Britain in the main, but also one or two other nations. The V2 as it was called was supersonic. It was a thirteen ton mechanism, and its speed was 3,600 mph. By Autumn of 1944 it was coming off the production line, and the Nazi leader believed he could bomb London into submission before Britain, and its Allies troops, who had landed in Normandy, could reach Germany to destroy the Third Reich.

The first of these V2 rockets landed on London in the afternoon of September 8th 1944. It had only taken five minutes to position it,

and to fire it, against Britain. The one-ton war head exploded in Chiswick, West London, and the authorities, to prevent panic, tried to encourage the population to believe that the loud explosion, that had been heard right across London, was a "gasworks explosion". But by November of that year the government had to release more information about this threat.

Over the five months of Germany's V2 campaign, more than thirteen hundred rockets were fired against England, and more than nine thousand were killed or injured. One example of these rockets destroying power, was that in Croydon, Surrey, four rockets destroyed 2,000 houses. The smaller V1 missiles, were at first, causing much distress. They were being launched from the European coastline. Over two thousand V1s had destroyed twenty five thousand homes, and killed nearly five and a half thousand Britons. But the Allied forces had captured the launch sites of the V1s, so the firing of the V1s were caused to cease. However, the V2s, which were large, being 46ft. high, and could reach 100,000 ft. into the sky did not need launch pad installation, these continued to be fired.

The people of Southern England, for five months, lived in nightly terror. However, the Nazis were too late in bringing this rocket into the conflict. The allied forces surged onwards into Germany, and so the manufacture and firing of rockets was caused to cease from this conflict, and the Allies were victorious.

But consider, with such rocket devices that have now been developed, the implications in these days of nuclear explosives! Governments that feel they have great responsibilities for this good earth, in a general contemplation of the world's affairs, obviously are concerned. It is a development which Jesus spoke about, as recorded in Luke's gospel record.

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR MAY 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

We are grateful for continued response to the mailing of invitations for literature in Pennsylvania.

Over the years many thousands have been sent, in our endeavor to, "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days." (Ecclesiastes 11:1)

J.A.DeF.

MANCHESTER

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

As Spring emerges after a period of cessation of creative growth, the beauty of the unfailing, continuing of God's wonderful work is again witnessed.

How we are blessed, in the fellowship, into which we have been called, to know the simplicity and power, of the final working out of that which God's holy word defines, which is the reason for all that we see around us.