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A WITNESS TO THE TRUTH

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

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AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

“FEAR YE NOT”

This morning we have read concerning the state of Israel in the time of the judges.

“... the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years.

And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD.”

Judges 6:1.6.

In times of trouble Israel cried out for God’s help. He replied by sending a prophet to His people, reminding them how He had delivered them from bondage in Egypt, kept them out of the hand of all who oppressed them, and gave them the promised land. God spoke to Israel through the prophet:

“... I am the LORD your God; fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but ye have not obeyed my voice.”

Judges 6:10.

Israel feared the gods of Midian rather than obeying their God. In spite of their disobedience, the Almighty sent Gideon to deliver Israel from their fear of Midian. Gideon sought help from God, who sent an angel; yet Gideon feared that he would die when he saw the angel face to face, but God encouraged Gideon:

“... Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die.”

Judges 6:23.

Encouraged by God’s assurance, Gideon gathered the people of Israel to fight the Midianites, but God said to him:

“... The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.

Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand.”

Judges 7:2-3.

There were still too many, and God caused those who remained to be only three hundred men to fight against Midian, men who trusted God’s promise to destroy the Midianites. These three

hundred men, led by Gideon, fought against the Midianites - shouting as Gideon directed them, blowing their trumpets and crying: "The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon (Judges 7:20). The three hundred men with the power of God destroyed 120,000 men of Midian (Judges 8:10) We might feel that such was impossible! Yet it happened, as the three hundred men relying upon God overcame the army of the Midianites, fearing not, and thus freeing Israel from their enemies.

There are many examples helping us to rely upon God, fearing not. We read of Israel in Isaiah's time regarding the promise of the kingdom of God:

"Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; he will come and save you." Isaiah 35:4.

God further encouraged His people through Isaiah, His prophet:

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I Will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish. For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not, I will help thee.

Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel." Isaiah 41:10-14.

God the I am, who has been, who is, and will always be - the Jehovah! He is with those who fear Him reverence Him, and who strive to be subject to Him.

Isaiah further carried God's word to His people:

"Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen:

Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun (Jerusalem), whom I have chosen.

Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? Ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.”

Isaiah 44.1-2,6,8.

David was one who did not fear the adversary, whether it was a lion, a bear, Saul, Goliath, Absalom, or Shimei. His trust in God is revealed, as he wrote:

“The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?

It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in a man.”

Psalms 118:6,8.

Let us look at God’s help to those who feared during the time of the Lord Jesus. To begin with, we know of the angel who came to Zacharias in the temple:

“... There appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

But the angel said unto him. Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.”

Luke 1:11-14.

John was born, and when he was grown, he baptised those who repented of their sins.

An angel also came to Mary, and said:

“... the Lord is with thee blessed art thou among women.

And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

And the angel said unto her. Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

And he shall reign over the house of Jacob (Israel) for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”

Luke 1:28-33.

Jesus was born, and an angel came to the shepherds in the field:

“And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:9-11.

The good tidings were of the gospel - the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ - the fulfillment of God's purpose from the beginning of His creation. Jesus taught this gospel to His disciples, fulfilling the words of the prophets, such as Zechariah, who spoke of their King coming (Zechariah 9:9). Jesus came into Jerusalem riding upon a colt, the foal of an ass. As he rode into Jerusalem, He said:

“Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt.” John 12:15.

Within a week of His entering Jerusalem, Jesus was crucified, fulfilling the purpose of God. He feared not, but conquered his fleshly temptations. As He died, He was able to say: “It is finished” - the Victor over his flesh, and glorified God (John 19:30).

Paul was one who was helped by God's hand, as he was in the ship on his way to Rome to appear before Caesar. The ship was in a great storm, and was in danger of sinking, but Paul spoke, saying:

“... there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve.

Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God that it shall be even as it was told me.” Acts 27:23-25.

Paul trusted in God's word; thus he and all those with him were saved, but the ship was lost.

John, who was that apostle whom Jesus loved, wrote:

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

We love him, because he first loved us.” I John 4:18-19.

Jesus loved His brethren, giving His life in obedience to His Father. If we love Him and His Father, we can be helped to endure, to put away fear, and simply trust in God, no matter what we may face to test us. Do we love Him? Do we strive to keep His

commandments? Do we fear and reverence God, realizing He knows all, sees all, and does all? In the world there IS fear, as we see around us. But we have a covering, a strength which enables us to respond to God's word through Isaiah:

“... neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid.
Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself, and let him be your
fear, and let him be your dread.
And he shall be for a sanctuary; ...” Isaiah 8:12-14.

David, “a man after mine (God's) own heart” (Acts 13:22), expressed the meditation of his heart:

“Ye that fear the LORD, praise him; all ye the seed of Jacob
glorify him; and fear him, all ye the seed of Israel.
For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the
afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when
he cried unto him, he heard.” Psalm 22:23-24.

Further, David helps us:

“... the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting
upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto
children's children;
To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember
his commandments to do them.” Psalm 103:17-18.

Let us, Brethren and Sisters, put our trust in God, fearing not,
knowing the provision of His mercy and grace.

J.A.DeF.

WAR A GOOD WARFARE

We have recently read Paul's letter to his young brother Timothy, whom he termed, "my own son in the faith". As Paul went abroad to Macedonia to preach, he charged Timothy to stay at Ephesus and carry on the work of ministering the doctrine of Christ to the ecclesia established there:

"... I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine."
I Timothy 1:3.

Paul knew that a man desiring to walk after God's word must constantly fight against the influences of the flesh nature by using the spirit's weapons. Some at Ephesus had failed to do so, therefore he charged Timothy:

"This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;
Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:
Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme."
I Timothy 1:18-20.

How helpful this warning is to us as well, for we too are in a war where the flesh and spirit constantly are at odds. The spiritual weapons of faith coupled with a good conscience can stop the flesh from getting the upper hand:

"Now the end of the commandment is charity (love) out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:"
I Timothy 1:5.

There is nothing hid from God, therefore our heart must be pure, fed and thus strengthened daily by God's word, while circumcised with the flesh's tendencies cut off, if we desire to walk in His paths. Paul wrote in a like manner to his Hebrew brethren saying:

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight:

but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." Hebrews 4:12-13.

Timothy was a young man endeavoring to walk after the gospel of Christ as made known to him, and by his good conduct make a difference in the lives of others. Love out of a pure heart with a good conscience and faith unfeigned are the things that God looks for in us as we attempt to fight against our flesh nature.

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;"

II Corinthians 10:3-5.

How easy it is for our minds to waiver from this thinking when in difficulty - to use the weapons of the flesh that are carnal, such as anger, malice or revenge instead of the knowledge of faith and love in times of trial. We must learn to offer up our feelings of both despair and anger, submitting our circumstances to God in prayer, asking for His guidance and direction to deliver us, instead of relying on our own strength.

Paul writes to those of Thessalonica, encouraging them to work in this same way - leaving behind the ways of the flesh and increase the spiritual gifts of love and faith within themselves, that they may stand blameless before the Lord at His coming:

"And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you:

To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints."

I Thessalonians 3:12-13.

We can only increase as men and women of spirit by walking after Christ's example - showing love one to another and giving glory to God in every aspect of our living. When trials and testing beset us, the flesh cries out and is tempted to strike out in anger because of its fear. Therefore, Peter encouraged his brethren to not fear suffering or trial, but rejoice in the opportunity to show forth

the purity of heart and gentleness that God looks for in His children:

“Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing; but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

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: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”

I Peter 3:8-9, 14-15.

Paul, before his conversion, was one who did not walk in the spirit’s ways, but reacted according to the flesh in anger and malice, while causing great harm to the Lord Jesus’ followers. He was forgiven of God because he acted in ignorance and misplaced zeal. However, he never forgot the magnitude of mercy afforded him by the Almighty, as he wrote of his own past to Timothy:

“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptations, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.”

I Timothy 1:12-16.

As one takes up the charge of the gospel message, God looks to see if His word is being used in a way that will glorify His name. As Paul charged Timothy, we too are to strengthen ourselves in this same warfare to crucify the flesh within us, while increasing our spiritual life in the Truth. The grace, mercy and peace of God is there for those that let this knowledge work and multiply within them.

M.C.S.

THE PACE OF MODERN LIFE

“- - - seal the book, even to the time of the end; MANY SHALL RUN TO AND FRO, and knowledge shall be increased.”
(Daniel 12:4)

As one proceeds along the roads of major cities, how affected all are, at the rush of the vehicles along the streets. Many of the drivers of cars and lorries seem to be in great haste. What a great change has come about, so very different from earlier years, when movement of people and goods took place with the aid of horse-drawn contraptions.

This is a great sign of the even greater divine change which is approaching. A time of tranquillity which is to come with divine peace.

Daniel the prophet, seeking for heavenly assurance, made an appeal all those years ago for signs for the times, as a help and comfort to ultimately following generations:-

“- - - O my LORD, what shall be the end of these things?”
He was told:-
“- - - Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.”
(Daniel 12:8-9)

Modern life has brought about a fulfilment of what has been prophesied through him. How revealing are these modern statistics.

“The number of cars in the world today is estimated at around 625 million.

Since 1896, more that 17 million people have died worldwide in motor vehicle accidents.

In the United States alone, one person is killed every thirteen minutes.”

Roads and Motor Ways are continually packed with innumerable vehicles going to all sorts of destinations. Transports rush many people, and goods, to various places to which there would have been no journeyings a few years ago. The services of quick delivery is a benefit, but there is also a disadvantage. This is particularly brought to the attention when there is involvement of self or close relatives in a motor vehicle accident.

With all the vehicles racing along, there is also the problem of smoke emissions from their internal combustion engines which affect the environment.

Daniel the prophet was told that this development would be a particular sign. At such a time would come that which all which exists is leading. So came to him the assurance:-

“But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.” (Daniel 12:13)

A BIBLE CLASS

“I NEVER KNEW YOU”

Matthew 7:23

Jesus spoke these words, referring to the day of judgment, when He returns to separate the faithful from those who are not judged worthy of a place in His kingdom. We know that all who are responsible will come before His judgment seat, as Paul taught:

“... we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ:”
Romans 14:10.

Jesus warned His people in regard to that day:

“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 7:21-23.

The Lord Jesus will profess, “I never knew you” to those who seek the kingdom of God, but are cast out because they are workers of iniquity. Jesus would know their deeds, for He has said.

“Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.”

Matthew 7.20.

Why then would He say: “I never knew you”? He did know

their fruits - whether they were pleasing or were displeasing; whether they were obedient to God's commands or sought their own fleshly desires.

The parable of the ten virgins helps us to perceive what is pleasing to Jesus. There were five who were wise, having oil for their lamps; and five, lacked oil. When the bridegroom came:

"...they that were ready went in with him to the marriage; and the door was shut." Matthew 25.10.

The five foolish virgins - those who were not ready - went to buy oil:

"Afterwards came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not." Matthew 25:11-12.

Those who were ready, prepared, doing that which was pleasing to the bridegroom, were allowed into the wedding as the bride of Christ. John saw this in vision in the Revelation:

"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." Revelation 21:2.

Jesus knew those who were ready, prepared as a bride adorned, just as a bride is known to a bridegroom. Those shut out, not being ready, were not pleasing to the bridegroom, for their deeds were unacceptable.

For one to be accepted at Jesus judgment seat, John tells us:

"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels." Revelation 3:5.

Further in The Revelation the question is asked:

"... What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them." Revelation 7:13-15.

Jesus spoke of His judgment seat upon His return:

'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 the left.

Then shall the King 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:

Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

And these shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal." Matthew 25:31-34,41,46.

When we think of the sheep at Jesus' right hand, we remember His words:

"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep and am known of mine." John 10:11,14.

Those at Jesus' right hand at the day of judgment are known of Him, as their names are written in the book of life. Those at His left hand are not His sheep, nor are their names written in the book of life. To them, the door is shut; they are not numbered among those whom Jesus knows, and therefore, are not a part of His bride when He returns to establish the kingdom of God.

As we strive to be found pleasing to God in the day of judgment, let us now, in our time of probation, obey Jesus' words to his disciples:

"... If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross, and follow me." Matthew 16:24.

Let us remember Jesus' words as the good shepherd:

"... when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him; for they know not the voice of strangers." John 10:4-5.

J.A.DeF.

TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

From the record in Leviticus, we read again of the law given to the children of Israel, to make a distinction between clean and unclean meats. This law was to serve as a reminder to Israel of God's desire that they be holy as He is holy:

“For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.

This is the law of the beasts, and of the fowl, and of every living creature that moveth in the waters, and of every creature that creepeth upon the earth:

To make a difference between the unclean and the clean, and between the beast that may be eaten and the beast that may not be eaten.” Leviticus 11:45-47.

As bondmen in Egypt they had suffered persecution and hard labor until God delivered them through the hand of Moses. Through the mighty signs done against Pharaoh and Egypt, they were separated and marked as His people, protected in the land of Goshen until He brought them forth on the day after the Passover. His fierce anger was directed at Egypt and not Israel while they sought shelter under His wings. They were to keep themselves separate from every aspect of Egypt - its pagan idolatry, daily living and fleshly pursuits. They were to become a separate people, clean and holy in their walk before their God who was holy. Likewise, was this dietary law of the clean and unclean made known to them, that they might keep themselves undefiled in His sight.

Long before Israel's deliverance from Egypt, the Lord separated Noah and his family from the wickedness of the world at that time, because of his faith and obedience to His word. Only eight souls were saved in the ark from the flood brought to destroy the wickedness of man at that time:

“And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.” Genesis 7:23.

Because of their faithfulness, God established His covenant with Noah and his family - they would be His if they continued to walk in His ways:

“And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying,
And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you;”
Genesis 9:8-9.

We may think of all those animals, fowls and creeping things in the ark, some clean and some unclean. Why did God pronounce some as unclean when all that He had created in the beginning was deemed “good”? As Noah released the animals from the ark into the earth to multiply, they did so and their various species are still thriving today. Beautiful creatures yet some deemed unclean to teach God’s people that His word must carefully be followed in order to make us clean.

The law was not recorded until Moses’ time, yet Noah who lived hundreds of years before, knew God’s word and endeavored to live and walk after His precepts. Further evidence of his faithfulness is seen in that he brought seven of all the “clean” animals into the ark to provide some for a sacrifice to God:

“And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

And the LORD smelled a sweet savoury and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man’s sake; for the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”
Genesis 8:20-22.

According to God’s word, those that were deemed “clean” were those that:

“parteth the hoof, and is cloven footed, and cheweth the cud, among the beasts, that shall ye eat.” Leviticus 11:3.

Is our walk sure and steady following His teachings as like the animal that has a cloven hoof, which parts and grips the path in

sureness? Do we slowly ponder His word, ruminating over it with care and diligent study as a cud-chewing animal does its daily food?

Paul taught the Romans that although the law was abolished at Christ's death, the spirit of the law was to permeate those endeavoring to walk after His example, making them a living sacrifice through obedience. They, like Israel were to separate themselves from the world - from those who would not conform to His word:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present 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.

How can we present ourselves as acceptable unto God? Paul explains that our first duty is to keep ourselves separate from the world, which knows not God and loves its own pursuits. Secondly, to transform our minds through the help of His word from fleshly thinking into a faithful obedience following His Son's example. This was the same objective of the law - to keep Israel separate and clean before God:

"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

Romans 12:3.

To think "soberly" is to be discreet or moderate, conducting one's life with humility and a quiet demeanor - not bringing attention to self as the flesh does naturally, but to be known as a humble servant of the Lord.

The law gave Israel guidelines to live by in order to walk before Him in obedience, separated from the fleshly influences of the world.

We today have been granted even greater blessings than the law provided, in being able to read the record of the birth, life and sacrifice of the Lord Jesus the fulfillment of the law. The law pointed forward to Him - the only means of approach unto God for all who

believe on His name. Only through fellowship with God and His Son, can one hope to become clean and washed of sin at His coming judgment seat.

God looks for obedience and praise of His ways in our living. By doing so, we show to Him that in spirit we differentiate between the clean and the unclean. Let us endeavor as did David, to walk in His paths, following His precepts in hope that at the time of His Son's return, we may be rewarded with a quickening unto life eternal:

“Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear.

Turn away my reproach which I fear: for thy judgments are good.

Behold, I have longed after thy precepts: quicken me in thy righteousness.”

Psalm 119:38-40.

M.C.S.

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

“- - - The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine. - - -”
(2 Timothy 4:3)

When the Apostle prophesied such deterioration in understanding, he declared:-

“- - - they shall turn away their ears from the Truth.”
(verse 4)

At this time of an increase of knowledge, spoken of as scientific, there is now a great move away from what has been, for centuries, acceptable as how this wonderful creation began.

Science says that the world and the heavenly objects that are associated with it started with a “BIG BANG”. That in a distant past an explosion took place in the heavens which started the Universe, as we know it.

Ten thousand physicists have been experimenting to bring about a man-made explosion (eighty five countries being involved) and they hope the result of such atomic activity will indicate that violent movement of various elements can bring them together and:-

“- - - enable them to join up and form stars, planets - AND PEOPLE - - -.”

This scientific experimental activity has cost, to date, three and a half billion pounds; Britain contributing to it five hundred million pounds. The researchers believe that:-

“- - - they will solve the mystery of the so-called ‘dark matter’ and ‘dark energy’ which make up most of the universe.”

“We can confidently say (said one Professor) that 95 per cent of the universe is made up of stuff we don’t understand.”

So, just outside Geneva (Switzerland) 300 feet below ground, what has been described as a “Large Hadron Collider” (L.H.C.) has been prepared. It is a 17 mile passageway. Around this device two beams of particles were made to pulsate in opposite directions, bent by superconducting magnets to cause them to collide. These L.H.C. protons, (it was declared) travelled at a speed almost of the speed of light. These beams, it was said, had the energy of a 400-ton train

at ninety three miles per hour. At the same time the magnets were supercooled to almost absolute zero (minus 273 centigrade, making the L.H.C. the coldest place in the known universe). But in some way it caused the protons of the beams to be held together with a tremendous force. These atomic particles sped along the "Hadron Collider" at (it was said) 11,200 times every second, before smashing headlong into one another. So came the explosion of the "Big Bang" experiment. Concerning which it was declared:-

"September 10,2008, the start of the biggest and most expensive experiment in the world's biggest purpose - built lab, using the biggest most complex machine man has ever built."

This it was said was the mini version of the Big Bang, when the universe came into being. These precise conditions have never existed since. But from reproducing them and studying them, the scientists at the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (or CERN), believe they will finally solve the mystery of the so-called "dark matter" and "dark energy" which make up most of the universe. "We can, says science, confidently say that ninety five per cent of the universe is made up of stuff we do not understand. - - why particles have mass, which enables them to join up and form stars, planets - AND PEOPLE!" So say the wise of this world, in the above words, how we should look at finding an explanation of the creative wonder that has come about; and so sound doctrine is now greatly rejected. Albert Einstien who died in 1955 brought along his "theory of relativity" which is greatly respected. But what a despiser of Truth was he! He branded religious beliefs as "childish superstitions". And now following on in the same ignorance of God's testimony and God's Truth, comes the declaration of the wise of this world that with their over three billion pound "Large Hadron Collider", at the European Nuclear Research Organisation in Geneva, they look to unlock an understanding of the conditions which existed a fraction of a second after the birth of the universe. But what does God's Word, the witness of the Most High Creator of the Heaven and the Earth say?

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness
was upon the face of the deep.
And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."
(Genesis 1:1-2)

The word of God shows how a wonderful creation developed over a period of six days:-

“And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, AND ALL THE HOST OF THEM.

And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he resteth on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it; because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD GOD made the earth and the heavens.” (Genesis 1:31) & (Genesis 2:1-4)

Here is the Truth, endorsed and upheld by Jesus Christ, who said about the wonder of the man and the woman:-

“--- he which made them AT THE BEGINNING made them male and female.” (Matthew 19:4)

But now comes a fulfilment in our time, of the prophesy which indicates that the end of the present world's affairs draws near; for the time HAS come when:-

“They will not endure sound doctrine.”

(2 Timothy 4:3)

As we look at the wonder of life, the vastness of what we see in its myriad forms of life, designed and produced carefully over the course of six days, how untenable is the teaching which suggests that it began with a tremendous explosion, which science describes as “THE BIG BANG”. Atheistic ignorance, sadly respected by this present world, and by which the world is lead along a God-dishonouring path, with a consequent deterioration in human behaviour.

One of us here, having a health need, has had helpful treatment. What a comfort we have, that we can pray for help, knowing that we are in the care of a kind and merciful Heavenly Father.

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR DECEMBER 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

As this news is written, the U.S. and other global world nations are faced with financial problems resulting in fear of recession. The U.S. government is providing one trillion dollars to prevent bankruptcy by large banks that have unwisely loaned mortgage dollars to many who have not the financial ability to pay back the loans. Whether this gigantic financial act will prevent further panic is yet to be perceived.

We are approaching the end of 2008. We do not know what 2009 will bring, but we do know that God's purpose will be accomplished as it is His will.

Let us look up and lift up our heads for our redemption draws near. Will it be 2009?

J.A.DeF.

MANCHESTER

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

As we approach the end of this present year, we wonder what the New Year will bring.

Great are the signs taking place in the nations, in fulfilment of the prophecies given, that we, particularly in this last time, may have an uplift in the joy of hope for the Eternal Visitation.

One us here, having a health need, has had helpful treatment. What a comfort we have, that we can pray for help, knowing that we are in the care of a kind and merciful Father