

FEBRUARY 2009

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"

"WITH ONE ACCORD"

"A KING SHALL REIGN IN RIGHTEOUSNESS"

"A BIBLE CLASS"

"SURELY THE WRATH OF MAN SHALL PRAISE THEE"

"SIGNS OF HIS COMING"

"NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS"

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AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

"IT IS ENOUGH"

In our readings this week, we see the work of God's prophet Elijah. He lived during the evil reign of Ahab and his wife Jezebel. He is first mentioned as he came to Ahab with God's message:

"... As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word."
I Kings 17:1.

There was no rain for three and one-half years. However, the Almighty cared for Elijah during the three and one-half years - first, by commanding ravens to feed him; then when the brook dried up, God spoke:

"Arise, get thee to Zarephath,... and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee."
I Kings 17:9.

God provided for the widow and Elijah, when the precious oil and meal miraculously did not fail. God through Elijah healed the widow's son who had died.

At the end of the three and one-half years of drought, God spoke to Elijah:

"... Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth."
I Kings 18:1.

Elijah went to Ahab, his enemy who sought his life. Ahab said unto Elijah:

"... Art thou he that troubleth Israel?
And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and, thou hast followed Baalim."
I Kings 18:17-18.

Further, through Elijah, God confounded four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and caused fire from heaven to come down

upon Elijah's sacrifice, after he had thoroughly soaked it and the altar with water, and also the trench. When the people saw this great power:

"... they fell on their faces and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.

And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: And Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.

And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain." I Kings 18:39-41.

The rain did come, revealing God's power to Ahab and Israel.

In spite of the evidence of God's great power, Jezebel in anger threatened to take Elijah's life. He arose and went for his life:

"... and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, it is enough: now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers." I Kings 19:4.

He felt it was all he could endure - anything more would be too much. He had done what God had required. However, the Almighty had more for Elijah to do! In His mercy, He called Elijah to Mount Horeb (Sinai) where the Lord came to him and said:

"... What doest thou here, Elijah?" I Kings 19:9.

Elijah responded, expressing his despair:

"... I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away." I Kings 19:10.

We can understand how Elijah felt; he had done all that God required of him as His prophet. Nevertheless, his life was still endangered. His thinking was: What more could I do? But God had more in mind for His prophet, as He said:

"..Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake:
And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice."

I Kings 19:11-12.

Elijah saw the awesome power of God, but it wasn't against him. For himself God spoke with a "still small voice" - revealing that He had more in mind for Elijah; that it wasn't "enough" and that His great power would be with him in all that God required.

As Elijah heard the "still small voice."

"... he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave." I Kings 19:13.

Elijah knew that he could not look upon God lest he die; and therefore, he covered his face in fear:

"... Again God asked, ... What doest thou here, Elijah?"
I Kings 19:13.

Elijah felt he was left alone, that Ahab and Jezebel sought his life, in spite of his zeal to do God's will. God in his mercy provided Elisha, so that he was not alone. As Elisha was called:

"... Elijah ... cast his mantle upon him." I Kings 19:19.

The mantle was an evidence of God's Spirit with Elijah, as a covering, a protection, and a power of God's presence. He cast that mantle upon Elisha, who:

"... arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him."
I Kings 19:21.

According to the chronology, Elijah continued as God required, and with the presence of Elisha, for another ten years. Elijah must have rejoiced at God's power revealed by the mantle as he and Elisha continued in the work during those extra ten years.

At the end of the ten years:

"... it came to pass, when the LORD would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal."
II Kings 2:1.

Elisha refused to leave him in his ministering, until they came to the Jordan river:

"And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground. ... when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me."
II Kings 2:8-9.

Elisha sought a duplicate of Elijah's spirit, the gift of God, to endure. Elijah's mantle fell from him as he was taken of God, for he wanted Elisha to possess the power of God. Elijah had come to the time when it was "enough." Elisha went to the Jordan river, and:

"... took the mantle... and smote the waters, and said: Where is the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither, and Elisha went over.

And when the sons of the prophets (perhaps of the 7,000 in Israel) which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said: The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha, and they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him."
II Kings 2:14-15.

Elisha picked up the mantle and wore it, as God's presence with him to show Israel that there was still a prophet in Israel.

Let us contemplate God's purpose in revealing these experiences of Elijah - how he himself thought "It is enough" - yet God spoke to him with "a still small voice" saying, It is not enough - I have more for you to do - and Elijah did so. He then passed on the mantle to Elisha. We at times may feel "it is enough" - I've reached my capacity. We are called to be the Almighty's servants.

As such, He knows, He requires, He proves our spirit. Do we trust in His judgment, rather than in our own thinking? Elijah and Elisha both heard the "Still small voice" - not as a devastating wind, a destroying earthquake, or a fire. God spoke to them with mercy and grace, directing their ways in the strait and narrow path that leads to the kingdom of God. Jesus' return is near, to judge those responsible because of their knowledge of God's power and purpose.

The Apostle John, in exile on the isle of Pamos, saw the purpose of God as he heard a voice which spoke to the seven ecclesias:

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches;..." Revelation 2:7.

We have also read this morning of the conversion of Saul, a Pharisee, who persecuted the disciples of God. On his way to Damascus, he heard a voice and was blinded by a great light from heaven:

"And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice, saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?
And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.
And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?..." Acts 9:4-6.

Saul responded to the voice of the Lord Jesus, seeking to know what He would have him to do. In his humbleness, the voice directed him to Ananias. Jesus, knowing God's purpose with Saul, spoke to Ananias, saying:

"... 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.

Saul (whose name was changed to Paul) was baptized by Ananias, and "was filled with the Holy Spirit." Paul endured much

as he suffered for Jesus' name. At times he may have felt, like Elijah, "It is enough" - but he did God's work until his death by Nero some thirty years after his conversion, and 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.

Brethren and Sisters, let us consider our ways! In these troubled times, do we sometimes feel that we have borne enough? Or, can we respond, as Saul asked, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" God knows what we need, whether "It is enough." Let us wait upon the Lord, patiently trusting in His guidance, listening for His response, and then doing what He shows us to do.

We think of James' words:

"... be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, that man shall be blessed in his deed."

James 1:23-26.

One who forgets what manner of man he is - a dying creature - goes his own way. It is those who hear the word, and then do what is required, who will be blessed, asking: "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" We have the examples of Elijah and Elisha (and in the same spirit, Paul), who took up the mantle, the covering presence of God, granted with His "still small voice" - yet, how powerful a voice!

J.A.DeF.

WITH ONE ACCORD

In our daily portions, we have started again to read the Acts of the Apostles where we find a unity of purpose among the brethren in teaching the gospel. The Lord Jesus had worked tirelessly to prepare His disciples to continue on in His work of preaching the gospel message as is recorded:

"The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Spirit had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen

To whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me." Acts 1:1-4.

That promise was the giving of the Holy Spirit to His apostles - a gift that would enable them to preach with miraculous power and thus spread the gospel message with authority:

" But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8.

They did witness effectively and continue to do so even today as we read the record preserved of their works. Through these works, they gave proof of their faith and their privileged position as apostles and teachers of the gospel message.

After witnessing the Lord Jesus' ascent into heaven, the apostles returned to Jerusalem, where we are told:

"These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren." Acts 1:14

"With one accord", or as that phrase means a mutual and unified desire, they waited for the power from the Father to visit them:

" And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Acts 2:1-4.

The gift of the Holy Spirit empowered them with the ability to witness with great acts of healing and speaking in tongues. As we read of the various apostles' acts, there is no doubt that this power came from God.

Peter's first act after Pentecost was a moving appeal to those assembled as he taught of Jesus, the Messiah promised. As he spoke to the assembly of His death, resurrection and ascension to the Father, many hearts were touched that day, adding to the household of faith as Peter states:

"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Acts 2:38-39.

Many were called that day and believed through the authority of Peter's preaching, joining with the apostles in fellowship as members of His body:

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles." Acts 2:41-43.

Peter and John speaking often to those of Jerusalem, convinced many of the gospel message. With the help of the Spirit's power which enabled them to perform healing miracles, many were converted, so much so that the priests and Sadducees took hold of them in an attempt to stop their work:

"So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done." Acts 4:21.

Being released, they returned to their brethren and gave thanks for the help of God so evident in their midst:

"And being let go, they went to their own company, and

reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:"
Acts 4:23-24.

With one accord these brethren and sisters were joined in belief and faith, sharing in the fellowship of God and His Son. May we today be inspired to keep the bands of fellowship close, helping one another in any way possible, as we wait for His return. Of this care one for another, James writes:

"What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

James 2:14-17.

Faith coupled with works was part of the daily life of the apostles. A need was seen in their midst and the response was immediate to help.

Our faith is tested and how we respond to the circumstances, which beset us, proves our hearts - whether our first love is for God and His children or for self and the lure of the world's pursuits.

John's message, preaching of the need of love for the brethren, is similar to that of James':

"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."
I John 3:16-18.

To act in "deed and in truth", is to see a need and fill it with good works that edify in a practical manner - reflecting to others the love of God, which has been shown so mercifully to us.

Let us strive to love one another in the pattern of selflessness the Lord Jesus has shown us, and with one accord, joined in the bonds of fellowship, seek to serve Him in word and deed.

M.C.S.

**"A KING SHALL REIGN IN RIGHTEOUSNESS."
(Isaiah 32:1)**

The above prophecy speaks of a wonderful time when the blessing of perfect, righteous judgment will come to this troubled world.

Isaiah speaks of distortion in world outlook over human behaviour. It will however come to an end when:-

"The eyes of them that see shall not be dim, and the ears of them that hear shall hearken.

The heart also of the rash (hasty) shall understand knowledge, and the tongue of the stammerers shall be ready to speak plainly.

The vile person shall be no more called liberal, nor the churl said to be bountiful.

For the vile person will speak villany and his heart will work iniquity, to practice hypocrisy – "

(Isaiah 32:3-6)

The media, recently published a complaint against what is termed the "Human Rights Act." It reads as follows:-

The politician called for this Act to be scrapped; and a Government spokesman admitted the law had become a 'villain's charter' USED BY THE COURTS TO PUT THE RIGHTS OF CRIMINALS FIRST.

(The politician) said the admission showed the Strasbourg-inspired Act needed to be replaced by a new British Bill of Rights more attuned to the countries needs and traditions. - -

(The politician) was speaking on the 60th anniversary of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

(He said) 'we have seen a lack of proportion and common sense. I believe we now need a home-grown British Bill of Rights.'

He said the Human Right Act introduced in 1998 had been used to ban police from naming and shaming yobs on posters.

A Prison Officers' Association spokesman lamented that "for

too long prisoners have used the Human Rights Act to undermine prison staff and prevent them fulfilling their full role." Civil Rights campaigners hit back however, complaining at what they declared was "tinkering with rights of British citizens."!

A commentator writing of this political outcome, wrote some sober words about it, as follows:-

"—Judgments under the Act have led the public to regard it as a charter for criminals.—"

The trend then, though there are some misgivings about it, has been for a liberal outlook. Those who are scripturally described as vile, are being contended for as deserving of what is called their " Human Rights", and there is admission that an aspect of the present state of human rule is that an internationally agreed act has brought about occasions when "the courts put the rights of criminals first."

A BIBLE CLASS

"TO HUMBLE THEE"

Moses spoke these words to those who were about to enter the land promised by God. Israel had wandered in the wilderness for 40 years because they refused to enter the land at Kadeshbarnea. Those who were 20 years old and over were condemned to die in the wilderness due to their disobedience to His word.

Moses spoke to those who were left, who were about to enter the land:

"All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers."
Deuteronomy 8:1.

Because of their youth, God in His mercy reminded them of the law received on Mt. Sinai forty years previously. Indeed, Deuteronomy means a repetition of the law. Israel had vowed at Mt. Sinai, after receiving God's commandments.

"... All that the LORD hath spoken we will do."

Exodus 19:8.

They humbled themselves, submitting to God's word. Yet within the next forty days, while Moses was still upon the mount. Israel - including Aaron - made a golden calf and said:

"... These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt."

Exodus 32:4.

They broke their vow! The first commandment God gave to Moses upon the mount was:

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Exodus 20:3.

Israel, failing to wait for Moses, took it upon themselves to make a golden calf, and then worshipped it. They certainly were not humble before God, nor subject to His word, as they had vowed.

Moses, as he repeated the law, reminded his brethren of God's provision for them during the forty years of wandering.

"... Thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no."

Deuteronomy 8:2.

Israel hungered in the wilderness, and God provided manna. They thirsted and He provided water. Some disobeyed His command, that they should not collect the manna on the Sabbath, having collected on the 6th day enough for two days; but they did not obey.

After 38 years of living on the manna, they rebelled, saying:

"... Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread."

Numbers 21:5.

To loathe is to abhor, to vex, or to be weary. Did they humble themselves before God? Did they accept God's provision:

"... that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years.

Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee."

Deuteronomy 8:3-5.

God cared for His people in the wilderness; yet they murmured and complained, and turned away from His commandments. Moses said, "Consider in thine heart" that the Almighty Father does chasten His people, to correct their ways:

"... thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, to walk in His ways, and to fear him. For the LORD thy God brought thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths, that spring out of valleys and hills;"

Deuteronomy 8:6-7.

Knowing the weakness of the flesh, Moses warned Israel:

"Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day. Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein;

And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied;

Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt. from the house of bondage;

And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish.

As the nations which the LORD destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish, because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the LORD your God."

Deuteronomy 8:11-14,19-20.

A humble heart is necessary in order to be obedient. The Almighty looks upon our heart - to prove us, to test us, to try us. Will we be obedient to His commandments? Let us look into our heart. Is it a humble heart, striving to obey God's word? Do we have a broken heart and a contrite spirit when we fail - for we all

fail? David was "... a man after mine (God's) own heart." Let us listen to his words:

"The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all." Psalm 34:18-19.

If our heart is circumcised, as the fleshly things are cut away, there is the hope of deliverance now in this time of affliction and proving; and at the time of judgment when the Lord Jesus returns to gather His people.

In this hope, let us heed Jesus' words to Peter and His disciples:

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

To deny self requires humility and obedience to the commandments of God, with a heart determined to bow down, in the spirit of "Abba, Father."

J.A.DeF.

PSALM 76
"SURELY THE WRATH OF MAN SHALL PRAISE THEE"
(VERSE 10)

This particular Psalm of David was dedicated to "Asaph" or as that word means, "the gatherer", confirming David's belief in a time when there would be a gathering of all God's people. Those to be gathered will be those who have endeavored to praise him with obedience during their time of probation, from the time of Adam. To those found approved at Christ's judgment seat will He grant the blessing of eternal life that they may dwell in Zion in peace:

"In Judah is God known: his name is great in Israel.
In Salem also is his tabernacle, and his dwelling place in Zion."
Psalm 76:1-2.

God knows His people as they do Him. Continuing, David writes of the end of God's purpose when all the enemies of the Lord will be destroyed by His power, by using the term "Selah" - value it considering the end:

"There brake he the arrows of the bow, the shield, and the sword, and the battle. Selah.

Thou art more glorious and excellent than the mountains of prey.

The stouthearted are spoiled, they have slept their sleep: and none of the men of might have found their hands. At thy rebuke, O God of Jacob, both the chariot and horse are cast into a dead sleep.

Thou, even thou, art to be feared; and who may stand in thy sight when once thou art angry?"
Psalm 76:3-7.

There has always been warfare in the kingdoms of men, but when Christ returns with His Saints, He will establish a kingdom of peace for the meek, where warfare will be abolished, along with the violent who relish this lifestyle:

"When God arose to judgment, to save all the meek of the earth. Selah.

Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain."
Psalm 76:9-10.

We know that God looks for the cultivation of spiritual qualities in His people, as Paul teaches the Galatians, clearly outlining the fruits of the spirit from those of fleshly behavior:

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife,

seditions, heresies,
Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like:
of the which I tell you before as I have also told you in time
past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the
kingdom of God." Galatians 5:19-21.

Since God abhors all those characteristics of the flesh, that we must endeavor to subdue, how could "the wrath of man" praise Him? We know from His word that it is God that overrules in the kingdoms of men - He has a plan and purpose for this earth and His people, which will culminate in a kingdom of peace for those that have subdued the characteristics of the flesh in their living. In the end, His wrath will consume those of the world who refuse to accept the reign of his Son and His teachings. Those filled with wrath will not stand before Him, for His power will overwhelm the insignificance of those who attempt to rebel. Their destruction will confirm His supreme omnipotence.

Pharaoh was a man ruled by the flesh - his pride and self-confidence would not allow him to kneel in meekness before Moses' God. Therefore, plagues of punishment were brought upon his land to reveal God's power and his own weakness. Had he not been a man of wrath, but one of humility yielding to God's demands, the calamities against his people, animals and land would never have occurred:

"And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me.

For I will at this time send all my plagues upon thine heart, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people; that thou mayest know that there is none like me in all the earth. For now I will stretch out my hand, that I may smite thee and thy people with pestilence; and thou shalt be cut off from the earth.

And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth." Exodus 9.13-16.

When he finally submitted after the last plague - the death of the first-born, he let God's people go. However, he quickly regretted his momentary act of submission and reacted again in wrath, as a man of the flesh, pursuing after Israel with his army to bring them back to Egypt. We know their end - they were destroyed under the

waters of the Red Sea by the mighty hand of God and the record of Pharaoh's wrath is left as a praise to God's power as Paul also reminds the Roman brethren:

"For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.

Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth." Romans 9:17-18.

At the end of God's purpose the armies of the world's unbelievers will come up to fight against the Lord Jesus and His Saints in a vain attempt to stop the foundation of the kingdom of Israel, centered at Jerusalem. At that time, those who will not recognize Christ's supreme authority will be destroyed through the power of the Spirit - evidence to those that remain, whose hearts may still be touched, that the wrath of man is futile against the supreme might of the Almighty, His Son and His Saints. Writing of this time to come, David says:

"Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,

Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

I will declare the decree; the LORD hath said unto me,

Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession." Psalm 2:1-8.

God abhors those steeped in fleshly ways such as wrath and pride. At the end of His purpose, God will mete out justice and judgment against all flesh when His Son is established as King over Israel to rule the whole earth in righteousness.

M.C.S.

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

**"Neither fear ye their fear."
(Isaiah 8:12)**

Isaiah's prophecy that has been preserved over the centuries, even to our own time, has a comforting and assuring message.

The world is a very troubled place, as mans' knowledge increases, so also mankind is increasingly threatened by inventions that grow more and more destructive in their capability. Leaders are undoubtedly concerned, and wonder what they should do. As their political efforts continue to be promulgated, so the failure of their efforts are continually being made evident.

How applicable are the words of the prophet for this time:-

" Associate yourselves, O ye people, and ye shall be broken in pieces, and give ear, all ye of far countries:
gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces: gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces.
Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand: for God is with us. — Say ye not, A confederacy, to all them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither FEAR YE THEIR FEAR, NOR BE AFRAID."
(Isaiah 8:9–12)

This troubled world gets more troubled because it fails to look in a right way, towards the One Above who is able to give them the help and guidance that would be really effective.

Consider the following concern that has recently been expressed in the Media: -

"Terrorists are likely to use a nuclear bomb or biological weapon of mass destruction in the next five years, the world was warned.-----
It will bring huge levels of death and devastation 'almost beyond comprehension' — there could be a mass anthrax attack or nuclear assault — the threat is growing. Targets round the world could be hit if countries — don't do more to eliminate the terrorist threat, (and) secure germ lab and prevent nuclear smuggling."

A leading politician warned that a biological attack would be a greatly enhanced affliction to what happened in a previously destructive strike by terrorists (that known as the September 11 event). At that time 3,000 were killed. This new event would be a multiplication of up to a hundred times of that previous devastating figure.

Attention has been drawn to the 1918 influenza virus when millions died. The political leader warned:-

"That virus is still in the lab. If it should get into the hands of scientists who know how to use it for a violent purpose, we could have multiple times the 40 million people who were killed 100 years ago."

A Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission has voiced alarm about what could be a very potential threat if diplomacy fails.

There is, however, only one solution, and this is from Heaven, from which comes the call to those who would seek in faith to that which is holy and true.

"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 8:13-14)

This troubled world needs a heavenly solution.

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR FEBRUARY 2009

Hamburg, NEW YORK, Corner Southwestern Blvd. & Pleasant Avenue.

Sunday: Breaking of Bread 11:30 am

Sunday Afternoon Class: 1:45 pm

Midweek Bible Class: Forestville, Hamburg & Fredonia

Every Third Week: Revelation Study

By the time this is in print, the new President of the United States will be inaugurated and the country waiting to see whether he will make the changes he has promised. We know that the future is in God's hands.

The annual winter party is scheduled for February 14th.

J.A.DeF.

MANCHESTER

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

Provision continues in our Heavenly Father's mercy to enable us to consider appropriately for this publication. The abundance of scriptural help is a sublime blessing for those responsive to the call of the Truth of God.