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# The Remnant of Christ's Ecclesia

in opposition to the Dogmas of  
Papal and Protestant Christendom

A WITNESS TO THE TRUTH

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

**"Take heed that ye be not deceived"**

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**"AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD"**

**"PATIENCE"**

**"IN THE LAST DAYS PERILOUS DAYS SHALL COME"**

**"A BIBLE CLASS"**

**"THE MERCIFUL MAN"**

**"SIGNS OF HIS COMING"**

**"NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS"**

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AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

“THE LORD STIRRED UP”

Our recent readings reveal the position of Israel in captivity in Babylon, due to their disobedience against God's word. The prophet Jeremiah spoke:

"For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon, I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you."                      Jeremiah 29:10-12.

During Israel's captivity in Babylon, God sent Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel to encourage His people, if they would heed His word.

When the seventy years were accomplished, the Almighty fulfilled His promise, as we have read this morning:

"... in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, 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, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah."                      Ezra 1:1-2.

Israel, Jerusalem, and the temple that Solomon had built, had laid desolate for the seventy years, as God related through Jeremiah. It was after the seventy years (BC 536), that God stirred up Cyrus the king of Persia, to proclaim the restoration of the temple. Only God could have caused Cyrus to be moved, allowing His word to come to pass. We read of how Cyrus knew of God:

"Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem." Ezra 1:3.

Cyrus recognized that "He is the God" through the work of Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel, God's prophets, as they prepared for the end of the seventy years.

To **stir up** is to wake up, lift up, or raise up. Jeremiah prophesied for 41 years; Ezekiel for 21 years; and Daniel for 73 years, culminating in BC 533 - three years after Cyrus' being stirred up to accomplish God's purpose.

In BC 712, God spoke through His prophet Isaiah:

"That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid." Isaiah 44:28.

In accordance with God's stirring up of Cyrus:

"Then rose up (stirred up) the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all them whose spirit God had raised (stirred), to go up to build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem." Ezra 1:5.

As a result, almost 50,000 went up to Jerusalem under the guidance of Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, and Jeshua the chief priest, to rebuild the temple and Jerusalem. They began the work, but there were adversaries who were determined to stop the building, and wrote a letter to Darius, who was king of Persia after Cyrus. Thus the work of building the temple ceased until God sent His prophets Haggai and Zechariah to stir up those who had ceased to build:

"Then the prophets, Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied unto the Jews that were in Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel, even unto them.

Then rose up (stirred) Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and began to build the house of

God which is at Jerusalem and with them were the prophets of God helping them." Ezra 5:1-2.

How did God, through Haggai and Zechariah, help the 50,000 who had ceased building for fourteen years, because of the adversaries? Haggai spoke to stir up those who had ceased to build:

"... 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,

Is it 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." Haggai 1:2-5.

The Hebrew for consider is composed of three words: consider, according to, and heart. What were their ways? Were their hearts dedicated to building the temple - for the work had ceased while they worked on their own houses? The Almighty spoke through Haggai:

"And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon that which the ground bringeth forth, and upon man, and upon cattle, and upon all the labour of the hands." Haggai 1:11.

As they considered their ways, they realized that God was displeased, yet they were further encouraged:

"Then spake Haggai the LORD'S messenger in the LORD'S message unto the people, saying, I am with you, saith the LORD.

And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel ... and the spirit of Joshua (Jeshua)... and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did the work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God."

Haggai 1:13-14.

In the sixth year of Darius, the temple was finished, and the Passover feast was kept.

God's help was further given through His prophet Zechariah, to stir up those who had ceased the work of building the temple. Zechariah was shown ten visions to stir up the 50,000 in Jerusalem.

Thus the children of Israel - having their hearts stirred up to fulfill God's purpose - finished the temple and rejoiced:

"And the children of Israel, which were come again out of captivity, and all such as had separated themselves unto them from the filthiness of the heathen of the land, to see the LORD God of Israel, did eat, And 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 in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel."

Ezra 6:21-22.

Fifty-seven years later (BC 457) Ezra, a priest of the sons of Aaron:

"... went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him. For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments."

Ezra 7:6,10.

When Ezra arrived in Jerusalem, the princes came to him, saying:

"... The people of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites, have not separated themselves from the people of the lands, doing according to their abominations,... And when I heard this thing, I rent my garment and my mantle, and plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down astonished."

Ezra 9:1,3.

Ezra assembled the people and said:

"Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my lord, and of those that tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law.

Arise; for this matter belongeth unto thee: we also will be with thee: be of good courage, and do it."

Ezra 10:3-4.

Ezra stirred up those in Jerusalem as he said "Arise" and they "arose" - both words mean to stir up. The people did rise up:

"Then arose Ezra, and made the chief priests, the Levites, and all Israel, to swear that they should do according to this word. And they swear.

Then all the congregation answered and said with a loud voice, As thou hast said, so must we do." Ezra 10:5,12.

Thus God's people were stirred up to do His will and keep His commandments.

We have listened to God's servants - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Haggai, and Zechariah - as they stirred up God's people, helping them to glorify Him. We, Brethren and Sisters, need to be stirred up in these very last days prior to the coming of the Lord Jesus to fulfill God's purpose with this earth. Signs in the world today - economic problems, corruption, perplexity, terror, fear, enmity, warfare - witness to Jesus' words:

"... Surely I come quickly. Amen." Revelation 22:20.

Jesus stirred up His disciples as He spoke of:

"Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken

And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Luke 21:26-28.

As we listen to God's word through His prophets, His faithful servants, and the Lord Jesus, His Son, can we be stirred up in the hope of having a part in the redemption we know will come?

The greater question is: Will we be among those to whom Jesus will say:

"... Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Matthew 25:34.

J.A.DeF.

## PATIENCE

We are greatly helped by James' letter to his brethren, written nearly 2000 years ago as he encouraged them in their struggle against temptation:

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." James 1:12.

James realized that the struggle to resist temptation would be the basis of the judgment to come as he reminded them and we today, of this struggle common to us all:

"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

James 1:13-15.

This has been the struggle for a man with a knowledge of God's truth from the beginning of time. It is helpful to remember the first record of temptation in the garden when Adam and Eve were given just one command to obey:

"... Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Genesis 2:16-17.

They were tempted of their own nature - their curiosity to taste of the forbidden tree grew into lust and overcame their obedience to God. As is typical of the flesh's weakness, each blamed someone else for his or her slip:

"And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat." Genesis 3:12-13.

Before their disobedience they had walked naked within the garden, but now their flesh was revealed and they tried to cover themselves:

"And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew

that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons." Genesis 3:7.

Their attempt to cover themselves was the flesh's solution and as usual, inadequate. God clothed them instead with skins, which resulted in a shedding of blood. This was to teach and point forward to the sacrifice of God's Son - the only One to perfectly resist temptation and by His sacrifice become the covering for sin to those who believe on Him.

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

The sentence for their disobedience was to be cast from the garden and death - for them and all their future descendants.

James, in writing to his brethren to help them in their same struggle with temptation wrote:

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." James 1:2-4.

On the surface it seems difficult to be joyful when facing temptation. Yet James is speaking of a spiritual joy which comes when a man endeavors to conquer temptation and thus please God. Like James, Peter also encourages in his epistle to not be dismayed when temptation comes:

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." I Peter 4:12-13.

Only as our spirits are refined as gold, in the fire of affliction, can we hope to show our obedience to His word. It takes patience to endure under temptation or suffering and reminds us that when carrying a burden we go slowly from step to step. Yet if there is persistence under a heavy load, we have been promised that help will be given when we beseech God in prayer.

The Lord Jesus was tried in all points as we. He counteracted temptation by going to the word for help and strength. He overcame by His faith in God's word and sought help of His Father through prayer, in order to endure.

Paul drew upon this same exercise of faith when he wrote to his Roman brethren to encourage them in their walk of obedience:

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

And patience, experience, and experience, hope:

And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us."  
Romans 5:1-5.

How mindful we must be of the importance to exhibit patience when we experience temptation or affliction. As we are helped to overcome each trial, we can grow in spirit and the next burden is easier to bear.

Paul goes on in Hebrews to speak to those brethren once schooled under the law of patience's importance:

"For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise."

Hebrews 10:36.

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."

Hebrews 12:1.

This is not a short sprint to the finish line, but rather a race of endurance that encompasses our entire lifetime. How can we successfully complete the course set before us? Paul gives the answer:

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."

Hebrews 12:2-3.

Our daily struggles pale in comparison to what the Lord Jesus endured, but He has set before us an example of how to endure in patience when we are tried. He has finished the race and received the crown of victory for His perfect obedience, faith and patience.

As the only son of Adam to perfectly resist temptation, He has earned the place as High Priest and Mediator at the Father's right hand, carrying the prayers of his brethren to God:

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"

I Timothy 2:5.

As we look for the soon return of the Lord Jesus to gather His people, both dead and living to a judgment, let us persevere in patience the race that is set before us, in hope of His mercy.

M.C.S.

**"- - - IN THE LAST DAYS PERILOUS DAYS SHALL COME."  
(2 Timothy 3:1)**

The Apostle writing to one who he treated as his own son, warned of what was to come, in the following words:-

"For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,  
Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God."  
(2 Timothy 3:1-4)

What a grim list is in these words. The statement that the last times are to be fierce times, indicate that when such will be the deterioration, such human behaviour will be at the end of the days; well then, what a powerful sign it will be of His coming and causes consideration of how human behaviour now appears.

Consider a recent media headline:-

"Knife attack in Britain every Four minutes."

Then follows the following comments, we will quote an extract:-

"- - - Our porous borders have allowed too many weapons and quantities of hard drugs to simply flow into our country fuelling violent crime - - - (And) of near 2.2 million violent offences last year some six per cent involved a knife - - -

that is the equivalent of more than 350 a day or one every four minutes – (But this) does not record crime committed by under-16s. who are increasingly responsible for many such attacks."

Following this media report, details of what has been recorded of London, the West Midlands and Greater Manchester were given, with remarks of the British Prime Minister, of Government action with

"More stop and search, more visible policing, more metal detectors trying to spot where knives exist, and stepping up action with tougher sentences and a determination to say to people: If you are caught with a knife you will be prosecuted, if you have a knife you will be punished."

The media showed that a third of all violent crimes involved a gang of three or more offenders. (And) around one in seven violent crimes involved school-age children.

There has also been another media report, as follows:-

"An entire city's schools have been issued with metal detectors in an attempt to stop pupils carrying knives. - - - (This) move is seen as a reflection on Britain's spiralling epidemic of knife crime – teachers will search – whom they suspect of carrying a weapon – a report – revealed that growing numbers of children say they are carrying knives and bottles to defend themselves against bullies. A recent – Survey found that – youngsters aged between 11 and 16 carried knives regularly."

The comment of one school official was quite thought provoking. She said "It's a sad day. But if you are naïve enough to think knife crime won't happen in your school, that is when IT WILL. I always say prevention is the best cure." (Concerning knife detectors, she said) "This is a deterrent which may make some one who wants to bring a knife to school STOP AND THINK!"

As we consider such reporting as given herewith, so we see scriptural fulfilment, of what, by the Spirit, the beloved Apostle gave warning. Consider his further warning and his exhortation:-

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of."

(2 Timothy 3:13-14)

A BIBLE CLASS

"WE ARE UNPROFITABLE SERVANTS"

Luke 17:10

The Lord Jesus often taught His disciples by parables. Our subject is taken from a parable concerning the relationship between a master and his servant. We might ask: What is a servant? There are two types of servants: One is a slave (a bondservant) who is captured or bought, and serves his master without pay for the menial tasks performed. The other type of servant is one who is hired to do all the desires of his master, and is paid for his services. As a hired servant, he agrees with his master regarding his wages, and fulfills his master's desires and needs. The law of God applied to a servant:

"... if thy brother that dwelleth by thee is waxen poor, and be sold unto thee; thou shalt not compel him to serve as a bondservant (slave):

But as an hired servant, and as a sojourner, he shall be with thee, and shall serve thee unto the year of jubile."

Leviticus 25:39-40.

God's word also gave instruction concerning a brother who is bought as a servant:

"If thou buy an Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve: and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing."

Exodus 21:2.

If the servant was a faithful servant and his master treated him well, the servant:

"... shall plainly say I love my master, my wife and my children; I will not go out free:

Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him for ever."

Exodus 21:5-6.

Such is the relationship between a faithful servant and a righteous master.

In the parable under consideration as spoken by Jesus, we are

shown how such a relationship is carried out. The master will say unto the servant who is bound with love, when the day's work is done:

"... Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink.

Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not.

So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do."

Luke 17:8-10.

How can a servant be unprofitable, even when he has done the things commanded? An unprofitable servant is one who has not finished what is necessary to please his master - not having done all that is beyond a duty.

How are we servants of God? Paul makes it very clear:

"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.

The word "bought" also means to buy or to redeem. God has given His Son, the Lord Jesus, who gave His life to redeem those called to be His servants.

In speaking to Titus, Paul further helps:

"Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world,

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

Titus 2:12-14.

The loving servant strives to be zealous of good works, fulfilling his duty; and, going beyond in striving to please his master, motivated by love. Paul further encourages us in our desire to be a servant zealous of good works:

"This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men." Titus 3:8.

Paul was a faithful servant, unstintingly giving of himself for more than thirty years. Near the end of his life, it is believed that he was killed by the Roman emperor, Nero. In his determination to do good works, he wrote to his brethren in Rome how they could be profitable servants:

"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.

We are to be servants of God - not of this world - looking forward to the hope of eternal life, to serve as perfect, profitable servants for eternity.

J.A.DeF.

**"THE MERCIFUL MAN DOETH  
GOOD TO HIS OWN SOUL"**

**Proverbs 11:17**

As we often see in the Proverbs, Solomon gives on one hand a virtue and then the contrast - looking at both sides of the matter, as is our verse under consideration:

"The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh." Proverbs 11:17.

This word "merciful", means kindness, coming from a root meaning "to bow" and gives the thought of humility with compassion. A merciful person does good to others and in so doing receives God's approval, while a cruel man troubles even himself with his disagreeable attitude which pulls him away from God.

At the beginning of the Lord Jesus' ministry He taught of the importance of mercy saying:

"Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." Matthew 5:7.

There is blessing in God's promise to those seeking His mercy, for He has promised an escape from the sentence of death which comes on all flesh. As a good man reflects God's word he then is merciful, for God is merciful.

Joel reminds God's people during his time, of their responsibility to Him:

"Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:  
And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil." Joel 2:12-13.

Joel encouraged Israel to repent before God - He who is merciful and kind and will restore them again if they are sincere in turning from their sin.

Jeremiah gave the same message of repentance during his day:

"Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the LORD; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the LORD, and I will not keep anger for ever. Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice saith the LORD. Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion."  
Jeremiah 3:12-14.

If a merciful man shows mercy and kindness to others he does good to himself in that God will bless his efforts as he endeavors to walk faithfully before Him. The proud and unrepentant who show no mercy or compassion, in turn will receive no hope of life - their end is death.

Encompassed in mercy is the need to show humility, for that word "merciful" means, "to bow the head" - not only in reverence to God as our source of all help, but in deference and kindness to others as well. God often called the proud in Israel a "stiff necked" people because of their unwillingness to bow in humility before Him.

While waiting for Moses to come down from the mount with the tables inscribed with God's word, Israel grew impatient. They fashioned a golden calf to worship, proclaiming the work of their hands, "These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt" (Exodus 32:4). God seeing their wickedness said to Moses:

"... I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people:  
Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation."  
Exodus 32:9-10.

Moses, with meekness and mercy beseeched God's pardon for Israel, recalling the promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

to make of them a great multitude and give them a promised inheritance. Moses' mercy invoked God's mercy and Israel though punished were spared because of Moses' intervention.

"My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:

For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck: write them upon the table of thine heart:

So shall thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man." Proverbs 3:1-4.

To bind mercy and truth tightly to one's heart is to make them a permanent fixture in one's living, governing all we say or do.

David was one who valued God's ever-present mercy and love in leading a people toward the hope He had promised;

"Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubimbs, shine forth." Psalm 80:1.

"With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright;

With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself froward

For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks." Psalm 18:25-27.

God gave the plans for the tabernacle to Moses, specific instructions as to how each piece was to be made. In the very center, the most holy place, shielded from sight by the veil, was the ark containing the tablets of stone and Aaron's rod that budded. Over the ark were fashioned two golden cherubim with wings outstretched. Between those wings did God present Himself in a pillar of cloud. How appropriate that this was called the "mercy seat" - for He is the source of all mercy, without which man would have no hope of an escape from death.

Only once in a year was the High Priest to enter behind the veil to the mercy seat, but not without cleansing himself and carrying

the blood of sacrifice, for himself and for the people. This taught Israel that the way to God's presence was not possible without blood being shed, and that to be presented by His High Priest alone. At Christ's death, His blood shed after a life of perfect obedience, the veil now erected in the temple, was rent in two - indicating that there was now a means of approach to God through Christ, the High Priest and Mediator for His people.

What mercy is seen in God's provision of His Son to make atonement for many. Christ's life and sacrifice provided an abiding mercy for those joined to Him, granting them the hope of an escape from the sentence of death given to all flesh.

This mercy, first given to Israel, was extended also to the Gentiles as Paul confirms to the Ephesians, and to us as well today, if we seek to become adopted into the hope of Israel and partakers of His mercy:

"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.  
Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God."

Ephesians 2:13-14,18-19.

M.C.S.

## SIGNS OF HIS COMING

"And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth."

(Isaiah 11:12)

The world does not realise it is living in the time of the fulfilment of this prophecy. Undoubtedly this is the time. Isaiah declares that "the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off, — they — (the Jews) shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west " (the Palestinians) and "they shall spoil them of the east together — ." (verse 14)

This year saw a resumption of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. In Gaza is the militant Arab-group. The situation is summed up in the media comment:

"Ever since Israel was created it has been the Arab world's wish to have the Palestinians as a festering sore claiming the World's attention. Whenever there has been hope of peace and progress there were always extremists to shoot it down with rockets and bombs. Reaching any accommodation when Iran is fostering and supplying terrorism is a long shot. — How do you give autonomy to people who fire rockets and send suicide bombers? On the other hand how do you stop terrorism when Palestinians see hundreds of their people dead? (The Arab militants) do not recognise the existence of Israel (these fighters) live in the midst of the community making it certain that if they are attacked there will be civilian casualties. "

Israel's action in Gaza brought about attacks against Jewish organisations. For example the London office of a pro-Israel group was stormed. Demonstrations invaded BICOM (Britain Israel Communications and Research Centre) abusing staff. Jewish community spokes persons warned that the conflict should not be seen "in black and white" terms. But there is an increase in the number of attacks on various Jewish groups and businesses; many synagogues received abusive telephone calls and some hate mail. Several Jewish buildings in Manchester and London were daubed

with anti-Jewish graffiti. The President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews has condemned what has happened. One commentator aptly wrote :-

"The direct connection between the near-annihilation of European Jews seventy years ago and Israel's rebuke to its tormentors today, is painfully obvious. I have heard very little commentary about this in recent days. — We easily forget the genocide that took place in living memory and led to the birth of the Jewish nation-state. (Elderly people living) in their houses within range of (Arab) rockets, who were actually in the death camps, and remember how close their race came to extinction, (say) 'NEVER AGAIN', (which) was the birth cry of the nascent Israel."

This then is the situation of things, and those who criticise the Jewish action fail to appreciate it is a prophetic fulfilment, and has to be accepted as such.

What is important is other aspects of Isaiah's prophecy, relating to these times. Verses in its context are very significant. There will be a continuing return of Israel's people to their land:-

"And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt."  
(Isaiah 11:16)

"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. — "  
(Isaiah 12:2)

"Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this is KNOWN IN ALL THE EARTH."  
(Isaiah 12:5)

This wonderful time is approaching, and is being testified to, by the significant events now taking place in the land of Israel, and in the Middle East!

**NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR MAY 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

We rejoice at the baptism of Joseph McCarrick on February 16th after a very satisfactory interview. The right hand of fellowship was extended on February 22nd.

The monthly mailing for invitations for literature continues. The response is few but is encouraging in our witness to God's work.

J.A.DeF

**MANCHESTER**

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.  
Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

As we continue in the "Blessing of our Fellowship", this gracious provision from Heaven, what merciful help from our Holy Father is bestowed upon us all in this dark time, but we have the great hope, that the coming of our Lord draweth nigh.

We rejoice with our American Brethren and Sisters in the recent baptism of their former Sunday School scholar.