

JUNE 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"

"BRING FORTH FRUIT WITH PATIENCE"

"THE EARTH ABIDETH FOR EVER"

"A BIBLE CLASS"

"THE BOOK OF LIFE"

"SIGNS OF HIS COMING"

"NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS"

All Communications

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

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

AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

"I AM WITH YOU"

In our readings this morning, we are nearly at the end of the annual schedule - from Genesis to Revelation, from first to last, from Alpha to Omega.

In the beginning, God said:

"... Let there be light: and there was light.
And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided
the light from the darkness." Genesis 1:3-4.

God's word, from the beginning of His creation, is the source of light, revealing His purpose with this earth. We have read His word during the past year, seeking to grow in that light which helps us to walk in the way leading to the fulfillment of God's purpose with His creation. Let us look to our readings in Job, Haggai, and Revelation, revealing God's presence with those who strive to glorify Him.

Job was a man who was pleasing to God. An adversary (Satan) questioned Job's righteousness when God asked:

"... Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?" Job 1:8.

The adversary replied:

"... Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all That he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face." Job 1:9-10.

God was with Job, and blessed him because of his Godly fear, in his turning away from evil and walking in the light - thus separating himself from the darkness of evil. God, knowing Job's righteousness, tested him, revealing to the adversary that Job would still fear God and walk in the light, even if God's blessings were

withheld. Even Job's wife tempted him to see if he would curse God, saying:

"... Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse (blaspheme) God, and die.

But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we not receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips." Job 2:9-10.

In all his testing, Job did not curse God, for God's presence was with him. Job was tested further by his three "friends" who accused him of hypocrisy, of cursing God, and turning away from his integrity in serving God and walking in the light. How did Job manage to eschew evil? His spirit was:

"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God." Job 19:25-26.

Job relied upon the promise of a living Redeemer, the presence of God to help him keep his integrity, in spite of his tribulations. God encouraged him by His presence, as He asked:

"Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?" Job 38:2.

The adversary (Satan) and Job's so-called "friends" who accused him of cursing God, spoke unwisely. God asked Job:

"Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?..." Job 38:4.

The Almighty continually asked Job: "Who hath?" - "Who can?" - "Who provideth?" God revealed His power in Job chapters 38-41, manifesting His purpose, His ability to do ALL things! Job answered God:

"I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.

Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore

have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.
I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.
Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.
So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning...." Job 42:2-6,12.

God's presence was with Job during his tribulations. Truly God was his Redeemer, enabling him to keep his integrity and determination to submit to circumstances, as he grew in the light of the Almighty's blessings and revelation of His power and grace.

In our readings in Haggai this morning, we have heard God's word to those who had ceased to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem, when adversaries sought help from the king of Persia to dictate its stoppage. Instead of building the temple, they built their own houses. God rebuked them through Haggai, his prophet:

"... This people say, the time is not come, the time that the LORD'S house should be built.
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 1:2,4-5.

The word "consider" is made up of three words: (1) heart; (2) commit; and (3) ways. They did consider their ways, and took God's words to heart:

"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... 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.

God further encouraged the builders:

"Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the LORD; and be strong, O Joshua,... and be strong, all ye people of the land,

saith the LORD, and work: for I am with you, saith the LORD of hosts:

According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not."
Haggai 2:4-5.

Being stirred up by the word of God through Haggai and Zechariah, the work of the temple was finished. The glory of the LORD was with His people, as they kept the Passover after they had dedicated the house. God's presence was with His people, enabling them to overcome the adversaries who sought to prevent their work. Zechariah, who also stirred up the people to finish the temple, encouraged them and revealed God's purpose:

"Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD.

... saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you."
Zechariah 8:22-23.

Our last reading brings our minds to "... the Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, ... and to His servant John" - in AD 96. It concerns all those who have striven to walk in His ways, having given their lives to His purpose. Much had happened since the time of Job, Haggai, and Zechariah. The Lord Jesus had been born of God, lived for 33-1/2 years, taught the gospel, and died the Victor over his fleshly nature, for God was with Him. He ascended to His Father, and is the Redeemer at His Father's right hand for all those who have struggled to deny themselves, taking up their cross. In our reading in Revelation, we perceive the minds of those who have dedicated their lives to glorify God:

"... they cried with a loud voice, saying. How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

And white robes were given unto every one of them: and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled."

Revelation 6:10-11.

From the beginning of God's creation of Adam to the present, there have been a few with whom God has dwelt. We know of some who have had God with them, as recorded in Hebrews:

"... these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise.

God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."

Hebrews 11: 39-40.

The end of God's purpose has not yet come; but we know that Jesus will return in His glory to gather the responsible to His judgment seat:

"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." Matthew 25:32-34.

Jesus spoke to John and speaks to us today in The Revelation's last words:

"... behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely. I come quickly.

Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."

Revelation 22:12-14,20-21.

The grace of God - His Presence - is with those who fear not their adversaries, as they strive to glorify Him during their time of probation.

J.A.DeF.

"BRING FORTH FRUIT WITH PATIENCE"
Luke 8:15

Our Verse under consideration is taken from the Lord Jesus' parable of The Sower - one that he addressed to the multitude that followed after Him, seeking spiritual wisdom:

"And when much people were gathered together, and were come to him out of every city he spoke by a parable."
Luke 8:4.

The Lord Jesus often taught by parable and afterward explained the spiritual context of His message to His disciples -those sincerely seeking truth;

"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it, not as the word of men but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."
I Thessalonians 2:13.

In carefully studying the parable of The Sower, we remember that the seed - or God's word was sown on various parcels of ground. Some fell on the borders or wayside, some on rocky ground, other seed among thorns and some on good fertile soil. There was no problem with the seed - it was good and sound and could yield fruit if nurtured and properly planted. Its care and environment was important to its growth - whether it will die or thrive and become fruitful.

Just as a newborn child is a blank slate - he develops habits and character depending upon his environment. If he is loved, schooled and nurtured with kindness, corrected when in error, then his personality has a far greater chance to become charitable and gentle in return. In contrast, a child unwanted, given little instruction or guidance and that done with disinterest or cruelty, will often lash out in uncontrolled anger when he reaches adulthood. He has had no loving influence to teach him differently.

This 15th verse of our chapter shows us the positive aspect of that seed being sown into "good ground" - fertile, well watered and nurtured:

"But that on the good ground are they who, in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience."
Luke 8:15.

This word "patience" as used here, means "to stay under or remain" giving the thought of abiding or enduring. It is the flesh that needs to be taught restraint - to stay under the control of patience when its natural tendency is to lash out or take matters into its own hands.

This same parable is recorded in Mark where he speaks of this good ground bringing forth fruit, "some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred." (Mark 4:20). It brings forth as the good seed was intended, by applying God's word in one's living therefore, the fruit brought forth are spiritual attributes such as meekness, gentleness, love and obedience - all pleasing to the Father or Husbandman.

James in like manner also speaks of the spiritual fruit, which the Father looks for in His children, as does the husbandman his crops:

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

Be ye also patient, stablish your hearts; for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."
James 5:7-8.

The husbandman must wait whenever he plants seed. The earth must be prepared then the plot weeded as the seed sprouts into young plants that they be not overtaken. The young plants must be kept watered - not too much or too little while the husbandman hopes for good weather - lots of sunshine without storms or damage to the young crop - and most of this out of his control. Many things to wait upon with patience and trust before the crop can grow, come to maturity and bear fruit.

This too is the gospel message - that there is hope at the end of one's time of probation if there has been a nurturing of His word with patience within one's living, bringing forth spiritual fruit pleasing to He who planted.

How often we are helped by David's right spirit, recorded in the word, for as a man after God's own heart, he waited patiently for God's deliverance and help when he was cast down or persecuted by others. By his actions he was seen to be using God's word for good and those witnessing his obedience would be influenced by his example in a positive manner:

"I waited patiently for the LORD, and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God; many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD."
Psalm 40:1-3.

Abraham was another who was used by Paul as an example of patience:

"For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, Saying, Surely, blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.

And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise."
Hebrews 6:13-15.

The promises given to Abraham spoke of a seed to inherit the land given by God when His purpose with this earth is accomplished. It took faith, trust and patience to leave the land of his birth and travel as God indicated, to a place he had never seen before. He did not receive the promises in entirety during his lifetime, but lived with patience, knowing they would be fulfilled in the kingdom age to come.

Paul writes to his brethren encouraging them in the way, imparting the knowledge that God will, one day give either a reward or punishment according as a man has sown:

"To them who by patient continuance in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,"

Romans 2:7-8.

Those who walk in "patient continuance in well-doing", are those who have displayed spiritual fruit during their time of probation - obedience, patience and faith. These indeed are the "good ground" upon which His seed has been planted and furthermore have the hope of being blessed with the reward of eternal life when He sends His Son to reap the harvest He has sown.

"THE EARTH ABIDETH FOR EVER."

(Ecclesiastes 1:4)

This earth and man upon it is a unique, beautiful place. "One generation passeth away and another generation cometh." Recently an alarmist media comment proclaimed:-

"Many have predicted the apocalypse for years but now for the first time experts in science and religion are united in their belief that the planet could be wiped out much sooner than we think."

The press went on to say scientists and environmentalists are warning about deterioration for the earth's climate as a result of melting ice-caps. Further there is danger from manufactured nuclear weapons. A very alarmist comment read:

" – suddenly scientists seem to be taking the same line as religious extremists telling us cosmic calamity of one sort or another is inevitable."

The newspaper report spoke of Russian nuclear bombs may be in the hands of terrorists, saying they could have as many as a dozen of these deadly things. A director of the Centre for Defence Studies (London), commented "the scenario of terrorists launching a nuclear attack is all too likely – there are dozens of unaccounted – for nuclear devices from the former Soviet Union and probably a small number of others from other countries too----- . We simply have no idea what happened to them after the Cold War ended –. Many of these devices are small, the size of a suitcase, but with enough power to cause an explosion like that in Hiroshima – it is argued that some of these 'lost' bombs have fallen into terrorist hands. It could well be that the only thing that is stopping them being used is that the terrorist groups do not know the code needed to fire them." Such a comment is very alarming, combined with its warning about global warming bringing about climate disaster following the continuing of the increase in mans' proliferation of mechanical devices.

One Professor from the University of the West of England was very pessimistic, saying that he believed that by the year 2040 the

ensuing climate change will have a depleting effect upon the world's populations.

These are sombre remarks, but there was also a grim remark about the possibility of a heavenly disaster coming down to strike the earth as follows:-

" Another (lament) entails the planet being hit by a giant asteroid – the possibility of something hitting the Earth again is a certainty. The only thing we cannot predict is when."

These pessimistic comments over-look one very important thing. God has declared through His holy word:-

"The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine: as for the world and the fulness thereof, thou has founded them. The north and the south thou has created them: Tabor and Hermon shall rejoice in thy name. - - -

Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance. In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted."
(Psalm 89:11-16)

Here is the clear heavenly declaration that this good earth, with man upon it has not been made to ultimately pass away. Therefore as the world of present mankind deteriorates in its behaviour and ways, there can only be one outcome. Soon will come heavenly intervention bringing about wonderful, righteous, overruling change of betterment.

"Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? For all those things hath mine hand made. – "
(Isaiah 66:1-2)

"For as the new heaven and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed, and your name remain."
(Isaiah 66:22)

The scripture shows that the new heavens and the new earth, is figurative of the great change which is coming to government and peoples on this good earth in the wonderful purpose of the Father in Heaven.

A BIBLE CLASS

"THE TWO ANOINTED ONES"
Zechariah 4:14

Zechariah and Haggai were two prophets sent to the Hebrews who were in Jerusalem after it was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 588 BC. In 536 BC, after seventy years of captivity in Babylon, God stirred up Cyrus, king of Persia:

"Now 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.

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 1:1-3.

About 50,000 of Israel traveled to Jerusalem in 536 BC to rebuild God's temple. As the 50,000 were building the temple, adversaries of God's people stopped the work by writing to the reigning king of Persia. Thus, the temple, only partially built, remained idle for 14 years until 520 BC, when God sent His prophets to those who had ceased to build the house of God. Haggai stirred them up, 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 1:4-5.

In response, they did consider their ways:

"... then spake Haggai the LORD'S messenger in the LORD'S message unto the people, saying, I am with you. saith the LORD." Haggai 1:13.

Thus the Almighty stirred them up through Haggai.

Also, God sent Zechariah, who revealed ten visions of God's purpose with His people and Jerusalem, to encourage them to re-start the building of God's house. Zechariah spoke of the seventh vision of God:

"... I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof:

And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof;

So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord?

Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord.

Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain:..."

Zechariah 4:2-7.

Zerubbabel, the governor over the 50,000, felt the work of re-building was a mountainous undertaking - not by their own might and power. However, with God's power and might, then it would be a plain - an even place, as His power can move mountains!

The messenger of the vision continued:

"... he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it"

Zechariah 4:7.

"Headstone" is composed of two words: (1) to build, a stone, a plummet and, (2) chief, principal, head. The headstone in a building is the first stone laid, and all the other stones of the building are made straight to the headstone or cornerstone. A plummet and a measuring line are used to be sure the building is square with the headstone. God's prophet mentioned the plummet in Zechariah 4:10, and the measuring line in Zechariah 2:1-5. The vision of the

headstone "with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it" - pointed forward to the coming of Jesus Christ in the graciousness of God. He spoke:

"... The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes." Matthew 21:42.

Further, Paul wrote of the corner stone:

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone." Ephesians 2:19-20.

God revealed His purpose to Israel through the vision of the candlestick. It provided light in the holy place of the temple, which was built upon the headstone - both signs pointing forward to Jesus, the Son of God. The candlestick needs oil for the lamps to give forth light. God's grace provided the oil, as we read Zechariah's words:

"... What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? and I answered, No, my lord. Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the LORD of the whole earth." Zechariah 4:12-14.

The candlestick, the headstone, the olive trees, the pipes conveying the oil - all speak of God's gift of His Son Jesus Christ, the anointed Saviour of His people.

The two prophets, Haggai and Zechariah, conveyed God's word, and worked to stir up His people to build, to edify His house. They stood before the Lord as His witnesses.

As we read of God's grace provided so long ago, we can be stirred up, as His witnesses! The Lord Jesus may soon return to fulfill His Father's purpose with this earth. It is our hope to be among those who will stand before the Lord at His judgment seat.

J.A.DeF.

THE BOOK OF LIFE

Throughout the scriptures there are many references to the book of life, as we have recently read from our portions in Revelation. In chapter 13 verse 8 it is referred to as containing the names of those who have refused to worship the beast during their life upon earth. Further speaking of the actions of the beast during the end time, it says:

"And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them; and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Revelation 13:7-8.

Written in this book are the names of the righteous from the beginning of time. Many names recorded we would recognize, such as Abel, Noah, Moses and Abraham to name but a few. While still there will be countless others who we would not know by name - ordinary people who knew God's word, whose deeds were not specifically recorded in the scriptures. Yet we do know they had this one thing in common - the hope and desire to be counted among those who would attain unto the Kingdom of God. In this endeavor, they sought during their time of probation, deliverance from the captivity of their flesh nature and valued the means of so doing through God's provision of a Savior. Only by following after His example and teachings would they be helped to overcome the "beast" within their own flesh.

The word "beast" gives the thought of a wild, carnivorous, untamed or venomous animal - much like the serpent nature of the flesh, which Peter describes as a "devil" or adversary:

"Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, like a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour; Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world." I Peter 5:8-9.

Peter also made known the antidote available in order not to be swept away by the beast's influence:

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time, Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."
Peter 5:6-7.

God does care for those who seek Him, but sees within the heart of man and will not be mocked. He knows if we walk after His word in sincerity or if our faith is but a flimsy outward shell, while the flesh reigns within:

"Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Galatians 6:7-8.

It is based upon these labors in life that one's name will be considered for entrance into the Book of Life. Do our works display the fruits of the spirit or of the flesh? Paul writes to explain the difference:

"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, revelings, and the like; of which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Galatians 5:19-21.

But those who have endeavored to cultivate the fruits of the spirit in their living - as exemplified by the Lord Jesus Christ, have the hope of receiving the gift of life eternal at His judgment seat:

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Meekness, temperance; against such there is no law.

And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

Galatians 5:22-25.

Moses was one who displayed these fruits of the spirit, being known as one of the meekest men in the earth. He had much to bear in leading Israel through the wilderness and his struggles were not easy. On many occasions he endured their discontent, lack of faith and even anger directed against him when the journey was hard. When the people sinned by making a golden calf while he was on the mount receiving the stone tablets, he humbly returned, approaching unto God in hope of making atonement for them:

"And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold.

Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin; and if not, blot me. I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book." Exodus 32:31-33.

Moses had not sinned, yet he sought to bear the people's sin on his shoulders by having his name removed from God's book of life, along with sinful Israel. His was truly a meek and gentle spirit. David was another who we feel will be written in the Lord's book of life, for although at times he failed grievously, he was quick to recognize his faults and seek repentance for his sins, and so found favor with God. He wrote in the psalms of the hope of being found in this same book:

"Thou tellest my wanderings; put thou my tears into thy bottle. Are they not in thy book?

When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me." Psalm 56:8-9.

It was the custom hundreds of years ago in the east, for mourners to catch their tears in bottles and lay them in the tombs of their loved ones. David had suffered many injustices during his lifetime and cried out to the Lord for deliverance. He believed that God would see his tears and save him out of the hand of his enemies, and if he walked faithfully through trial and testing, that his name would be written in the Lord's book of life.

Prophecy of the end of God's purpose when Christ shall return to gather the responsible from all the ages to His judgment seat, Daniel wrote, also referring to this book, wherein the names of the righteous are sealed:

"And at that time shall Michael (Jesus Christ) stand up, the great prince who standeth for the children of thy people, and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time; and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book." Daniel 12:1.

At the Lord Jesus' return, at the time appointed by God, the entire world will be in a state of chaos and trouble. Christ will come to call the responsible who have died, from the time of Adam and who "sleep in the dust", to a resurrection. Those responsible who are alive at His coming, will be gathered together with the resurrected, to His judgment seat. There they will account for their time on earth. Have they followed the desires of their flesh, without restraint upon the inner man, or have they endeavored to follow after the example of the Lord Jesus and cultivate fruits of the spirit, love, peace, faith and humility?

"And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt,
And they that be wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars forever and ever."
Daniel 12:2-3.

Those written in the Lord's book are like the stars in the heavens because they have reflected His light in their living.

The prophet Malachi spoke likewise of those who are in His book as precious gems - again jewels of great value, reflecting the light of God:

"Then they that feared the LORD spoke often one to another; and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him."
Malachi 3:16-17.

When the kingdom of God is established at Christ's return, God's temple shall be rebuilt in Jerusalem, to which all the nations of the world will come to worship. Those alive in the earth at this time, who will allow themselves to become subject to His righteous reign, will finally know a time of peace and prosperity, like never experienced before. The earth will bloom with unstinting bounty as it did in the days of Eden - and the curses placed upon man, beast and herb because of man's disobedience, will be wiped away. A time when:

"The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock, and the dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD."
Isaiah 65:25.

It is hard to imagine such a place of peace, bounty and beauty - free of the poverty, corruption and cruelty so evident when the flesh reigns, as it does today. Yet God's warning is throughout His word - only those written in the book of life, who have endeavored to walk after the example of His Son, will have the hope of being written into the Lamb's book of life and be called by His name.

"And there shall in no wise enter into it (new Jerusalem) anything that defileth, neither he that worketh abomination, or maketh a lie, but they who are written in the Lamb's book of life."
Revelation 21:27.

M.C.S.

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

**"The Father sent the Son to be the
Saviour of the world."
(1 John 4:14)**

This scripture, along with other similar verses, testifies how the world needs saving. To this end, there is to be a Kingdom of God. The present situation of things in this world is far removed from being godly. God's word pertinently declares that the Holy Father looks down and at an appropriate time divine intervention will come.

The last book of the Bible bears witness to a heavenly overruling necessity. There is to be the very great change when:-

"The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever."
(Revelation 11:15)

The coming very great need for the return of Jesus Christ from heaven is very evident in continuing media reports about the state of things. Mans' ingenuity brought about the atomic bomb. Scientists having designed these devices tested them; but such testing brought about health problems, so we have the following news report:-

"About 22,000 British military personnel, including National Servicemen, attended H-bomb tests in Australia and the South Pacific between 1952 and 1958. Many of them died early, suffered cancer or fertility problems or lost children. Even more seriously, for the very first time in this litigation the Government says not only has this case for compensation not been made out, but that it is now far too late to make any such claim at all. Time and again, governments have said the veterans must wait for compensation since science does not establish a link. Yet when that science does finally become available, the MOD say that all these claims are far too late."

The subtle threat from atomic bomb yield is voiced in media comments such as:-

"He cited one explosion where the atomic bomb's yield was 'probably 70 times higher' than the minimum anticipated. In another, scientists were most apologetic after apparently being 'nonplussed with the amount of radio activity that was registered.'"

One who served with the Royal Navy on Christmas Island in 1957 - 58 said:-

"I lost my daughter - - - with the rarest form of cancer in 1977 when she was 13, and I attribute it to the fact that I was contaminated by radio activity. We ate radiation, we drank radiation, we bathed in it. We were practically at ground zero.

Thousands of children have been affected - - - In a statement the MOD said, 'The Government understands its obligation to veterans - - - where there is a proven legal liability, compensation is paid'."

As this state of things is considered, we ask the question, that if such difficulties arise, as a result of just the testing of atomic devices, what would be the difficulties arising from atomic warfare?

Oh! how the world needs saving !! But the Eternal Father in Heaven, in creating this wonderful, beautiful creation, has not made it in vain, to be ruined by men and their devices.

So we have the holy declaration of Heaven, "The Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the World."

As things become more threatening in the world of men, this situation means that the time of great events gets near. God in His great condescending goodness, in the wonder of His Purpose, has promised to send His Saviour again.

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR JUNE 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

There is continued encouragement in responses to our monthly invitation for literature.

After a cold and snowy winter we rejoice in June's warm and sunny days.

J.A.DeF.

MANCHESTER

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

As we continue to Ecclesially produce our Magazine, we desire to acknowledge the merciful help we have from our Father in Heaven in this work.

We have been given understanding through His holy word, and this gives to us unique fellowship in His beloved Son.