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A WITNESS TO THE TRUTH

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

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All Communications

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

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

**AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD
"THE SPIRIT OF GRACE AND OF SUPPLICATIONS"**

We have been listening to God's word through His prophet Zechariah, whose name means "Remembered of God". Zechariah, along with Haggai, stirred up the 50,000 who came to Jerusalem to rebuild God's temple, which had lain in ruins for seventy years, since Nebuchadnezzar's destruction in BC 588. With God's help through His prophets, the temple was finally rebuilt in BC 520, fourteen years after adversaries had caused the work to be stopped. The 50,000 Israelites rejoiced and kept the Passover as the temple was consecrated. Although the temple was rebuilt, Jerusalem and the walls were still in ruins since Nebuchadnezzar's conquest of Israel.

The Almighty's eyes are always upon Jerusalem, and He moved Nehemiah to encourage His people to rebuild the walls and the city. We read of Nehemiah's question concerning:

"... the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.

And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach; the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.

And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven.

And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:

Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel, thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned."
Nehemiah 1:2-6.

Sustained by God's hand upon him, Nehemiah went to Artaxerxes, king of Persia:

"And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest

send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it." Nehemiah 2:5.

Artaxerxes allowed Nehemiah to go to Jerusalem, with letters for the king's help. Nehemiah then spoke to his brethren in Jerusalem:

"... Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: Come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach.

Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work."

Nehemiah 2:17-18

God did strengthen their hands against the adversaries, who sought to hinder their work, and they finished the rebuilding:

"So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days.

And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard thereof, and all the heathen that were about us saw these things, they were much cast down in their own eyes: for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God."

Nehemiah 6:15-16.

The Almighty in His mercy and grace responded to the supplications of His people, enabling them to finish the work of rebuilding the walls, the gates, and the city of Jerusalem. The eyes of the Lord are always fastened upon Jerusalem as a city of peace. How is this to come about? The prophet Isaiah was shown by God's word:

"The word that Isaiah the son of Amos saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the

word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, Come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD."
Isaiah 2:1-5.

The prophet Zechariah further encouraged those who had rebuilt the temple:

"In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the LORD before them. And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his first-born."

Zechariah 12:8-10.

The Almighty through Zechariah reveals His purpose to come to pass in the time of His Son Jesus Christ, who was crucified by His people Israel. He will pour out "the spirit of grace and of supplications" as He did for those builders. His grace is His favor, a gift granted to those who through supplications seek His mercy.

Paul spoke to his brethren concerning God's grace:

"... the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
Romans 6:23.

"Wages" are earned - it is what is paid for work accomplished. The wages of sin is death. But the gift (grace) of God is eternal life, granted through His mercy toward those who in love for God strive to be pleasing to Him.

John, the apostle whom Jesus especially loved, helps us in our responding to God's grace:

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us. and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

I John 4:8-10.

Because we are flesh, we fail - we sin. In His mercy and love, God has sent His Son Jesus, to be the mercy seat, the place of mercy, the means of forgiveness and atonement - His grace.

Going back to God's words through Zechariah, we can more fully perceive His promise:

"... I will pour upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications:..."

Zechariah 12:10.

David is spoken of as "... a man after mine (God's) own heart" (Acts 13:22). David failed, he sinned grievously, but was quick to confess his failures and supplicated for God's forgiveness:

"Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

Wash me throughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest." Psalm 51:1-4.

The Almighty heard David's spirit in his supplications, and cleansed him from his grievous sin. His spirit is further revealed for us:

"Blessed be the LORD, because he hath heard the voice of my supplications. The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth, and with my song will I praise him."

Psalm 28:6-7.

David's heart greatly rejoiced as God heard his supplications for needed strength. We further read of his rejoicing in the 130th Psalm - a Song of Ascent to Zion:

"Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O LORD.
Lord, hear my voice: let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.
If thou, LORD shouldest mark iniquities. O Lord, who shall stand?
But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.
I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.
My soul waiteth for the LORD more than they that watch for the morning;...
Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD there is mercy and with him is plenteous redemption.
And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities"
Psalm 130:1-8.

We can see David's spirit of supplications, and God's grace in response to such supplications.

We need God's grace - His mercy, His deliverance, His forgiveness - the hope of redemption, made possible by the provision of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us make our supplications in accordance with the publican who went to the temple to pray:

"... standing afar off (he) would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful (mercy seat) to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other (Pharisee): for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased, and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."
Luke 18:13-14.

This is "the spirit of grace and of supplications" which the Almighty grants to those who seek Him, as they strive to give glory to Him now in their time of probation, with the hope of being granted eternal life in His kingdom.

J.A.DeF.

CREATION

The record of the creation, the six days work of the Almighty, to develop what we know as the habitation of man, has through the ages been refuted by learned men and the scientific community. They have endeavored with great success to reduce the creative narrative into a mere fable, thus denying the power of God and His existence. The concepts of the Big Bang theory and evolution are taken as undeniable truths, yet they are only man-made theories although taught to our children in schools today as the only possibility of creation. These theories are guesses, conjectures or speculations as the Dictionary defines this term. They result from an underlying principle of certain observed phenomena which have been verified to some degree, so man grasps at these ideas, spending billions of dollars and countless hours to refute God's word, rather than accept His word in faith.

A case in point is man's intention in building the Hadron Collider, a high-energy particle accelerator to prove how the universe was formed. All of these efforts endeavor to disprove what the Almighty simply has said, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen 1:1).

Did the earth exist before the creation as seems to be implied from the following?

"And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."
Genesis 1:2.

Why the earth was submerged in water and covered in darkness we are not told. It may have been in such a state for millions of years or as Paul says in Hebrews:

"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."
Hebrews 11:3.

Man's proposed implications of these matters are not important. What existed before man is not our concern - what matters is that God made man in His image and gave man a helpmeet and a beautiful habitation containing all he would ever need and it was all good. He gave man the knowledge of His ways and a plan to follow in order to achieve the goal of everlasting life:

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day."
Genesis 1:27-28,31.

Perhaps no other development in God's creation has caused such controversy as the apparent conflict of God's creation of light on the first day and the creation of the lights in the heavens on the fourth day:

"And 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.
And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day."
Genesis 1:3-5.

"And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night: and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.
And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also."
Genesis 1:14-16.

Is the answer simply that the sun and moon existed already before the creation and now God permitted their rays to penetrate the earth's atmosphere and the clouds surrounding the planet? This also speaks in figure of the spiritual light, which exists dimly in the world until the shroud of ignorance is removed. The enlightenment of God's word has always existed, but until it is seen with the clarity of faith, it cannot influence those upon whom it falls.

God's creation in all its goodness was a pictorial lesson to His people of the perfect habitation to come, in the kingdom age, at the end of His purpose, when all flesh is overcome. Those, like Jeremiah, who looked forward in faith to that time, believed in Him as the Creator saying:

"Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar: The LORD of hosts is his name:"

Jeremiah 31:35.

The heavens cannot be measured, though man tries and keeps changing his results when new evidence refutes his earlier conclusions. The creation was God's plan alone and He frustrates the scientific minded who do not revere Him as they should - unlike David who believed in his promise of life everlasting:

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though an hosts should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: that war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.

One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple."

Psalms 27:1-4.

In the kingdom age, the earth will be cleansed of man's influence and be once more as it was intended in the beginning - good in all aspects and preserved for the delight of His people:

"How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.

They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.

For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light."

Psalms 36:7-9.

Man through his own defiling ways, has polluted this good earth in most every aspect, and through lack of faith, is blinded to the light of life which God has extended to those who believe in Him. The faithful look toward the end promised here on earth when man's interference will be wiped clean. Meanwhile these men of

unbelief after polluting the earth, search for a new frontier under the sea or on a distant planet to begin again.

Prior to His death, the Lord Jesus prayed to His Father for His followers:

"For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine." John 17:8-9.

Jesus knew that even before the beginning, God had Him in mind and in His last hours, He prayed for strength to complete the work given Him as the Savior:

"And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." John 17:5.

In this knowledge of the Spirit we can trust and glorify God, enabling us to put aside man's vain attempts to explain his own existence, for the God we serve is the only source of light:

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." I John 1:7.

We see in God's plan right from the beginning, the hope of salvation, God's sure word foretelling of the Son of Righteousness, the true light of the world, as Peter so distinctly says:

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts." II Peter 1:19.

What blessing it is to see that light as manifested in the Lord Jesus, who confirmed by His own words that:

"... I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

John 8:12.

M.C.S.

"FOR THY VIOLENCE AGAINST THY BROTHER JACOB.

(Obadiah verse 10)

Arabic hostility continues particularly against Israel. Perhaps it is not always fully realised, this is fulfilment of Biblical prophecy. The scriptural declaration against Israel's opponents is found in Ezekiel's prophecy: -

"Thus saith the Lord God; Because the Philistines (Palestinians) have dealt by revenge, and have taken vengeance with a despiteful heart, to destroy it for the old hatred (against the house of Judah) - - - I shall lay my vengeance upon them." (Ezekiel 25:15-17)

As time goes by the persistent hostility of Arab against Jew does not really diminish. But Arabic ill-feelings also overflows against other nations, especially those who are friends of Israel. Reports in the media from time to time, helps to a realisation of how deep is the Arab hostility. We will report some of the comments, as follows.-

"Some convicted of inciting terrorist murder via the Internet were jailed for a total of more than 20 years - - - they had 'used E mails and radical websites to urge others to wage 'holy war' on the United Kingdom and the United States. They had close links to (Arab Societies in Iraq) - - - They had in media presentation, 'glorified and celebrated' suicide bombings, to try to convince Muslims that it was a 'matter of religious duty to take action.'"

Another report spoke of how young were some of the people who were being influenced to becoming hostile to Israel: -

"Bright children not long out of junior school are being targeted as terror recruits by Islamic fanatics. Pupils of 13 are being 'groomed for terror' by extremists operating in suburbs which spawned – suicide bombers – they are picking up radical messages from the Internet – identified as 'vulnerable' –. They are not picking up the message of violent extremism from the Mosques, but from individuals who are seeking to radicalise them."

One media comment was quite sombre for Israel which we will quote:-

" After the Holocaust, the Jewish people recognised that they had to have their own state, a homeland where they could forever be safe from a repetition of such horrors. Since then Israel has had to fight no fewer than five major wars for her very existence. She has been on the front line in the war against terror. —

Radical Islam is never going to accept the concept of an Israeli State so the struggle is likely to continue. — "

Returning then to Biblical prophecy, Obadiah declares:-

Concerning Israel's opponents, "Thou shouldest not have looked on the day of thy brother in the day that he became a stranger; neither shouldest thou have rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction; neither shouldest thou have spoken proudly in the day of distress."

(verse 12)

So, at such a time, salvation will come to the Jew and to Israel:-

"And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; AND THE KINGDOM SHALL BE THE LORD'S."
(Obadiah verse 21)

A BIBLE CLASS
"BE IN DANGER OF THE JUDGMENT"
Matthew 5:22

These are the words of the Lord Jesus Christ as He taught of the spirit of the law:

"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother

without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire."

Matthew 5:21-22.

Under the law:

"He that smiteth a man, so that he die, shall be surely put to death.

... if a man come presumptuously upon his neighbour, to slay him with guile, thou shalt take him from mine altar, that he may die."

Exodus 21:12,14.

If one killed another accidentally, he could go to a "city of refuge" under the law, where he was judged to determine if it was done accidentally. If so, he could live in the "city of refuge." If it was done presumptuously, he would be killed according to the law. The judgment determined whether he could live or would be put to death.

Jesus revealed the spirit of the law: If one was angry with his brother without a cause, he shall be in danger of the judgment; or, if he said to his brother, "Raca" (meaning empty or worthless), he shall be in danger of the council and their judgment. But if one should say "Thou fool" he shall be in danger of hell fire."

We have an example of one who was angry with his brother without a cause: Cain was angry with Abel because Abel's sacrifice was acceptable, but Cain's was not:

"... the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth: and why is thy countenance fallen?" Genesis 4:6.

Cain's anger grew:

"... when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him." Genesis 4:8.

Cain's anger grew until he killed Abel. Cain was judged and condemned by God!

Jesus revealed how the spirit of the law - "... Thou shalt not kill" - would be based upon anger against a brother:

"Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. Agree with thine adversary quickly whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison." Matthew 5:23-25.

To be "reconciled" is to think differently - not angry, not calling one "Raca" or a "fool" which puts one in danger of the judgment; but rather, show love for the brother. Jesus used a parable to illustrate the difference between the Pharisee who kept the letter of the law, and the publican who sought God's mercy:

"... he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

I tell you, this man went down to his house justified (judged to be righteous), rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."
Luke 18:9-14.

All those who are responsible because they know God's law, will face the judgment seat of the Lord Jesus, when He returns to establish the kingdom of God upon this earth, as we read in Matthew chapter 25:

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:
And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:
And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:
Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."
Matthew 25:31-34, 41.

To be in "danger of the judgment" is to be cast out; while the joy of the judgment will be known to those who are joined with the Lord Jesus Christ before the throne of God for eternity.

J.A.DeF.

**"IN NOTHING TERRIFIED BY YOUR ADVERSARIES"
Philippians 1:28**

In our above consideration, Paul writes to those of Philippi that they may be bolstered in faith and confidence, without fear, using himself as an example, saying:

"But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;
So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places;
And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear."
Philippians 1:12-14.

He used his everyday experiences as a means to witness to the gospel, knowing this was why he had been called on the road to Damascus to serve Christ, when once he was a persecutor. Therefore, he looked to strengthen his brethren, knowing they too may face arduous and perilous circumstances in their walk of faith.

There have always been those opposed to God's word and two choices to make - either to stand with the seed of the serpent or with the seed of the woman in God's path. Knowing there may be suffering ahead, Paul urged his brethren not to fear what men should attempt to do unto them:

"And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.
For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake.
Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me."
Philippians 1:28-30.

Paul knew he would endure much for the name of Christ - and perhaps felt it his due for the part he played in ignorantly persecuting the followers of Christ before he was converted. He was steadfast in meeting head on whatever peril may come his way in defense of the gospel or the name of Christ, even unto death:

"According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as

always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body whether it be by life, or by death." Philippians 1:20.

He did not fear adversity but feared only in failing to do God's will and thus displease Him.

During his lifetime Paul did suffer imprisonment, shipwreck, beating, stoning and much violence against him, just as the Lord Jesus told Ananias His disciple, in vision, regarding Paul:

"... 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.

Paul was determined not to fear his adversaries - for to fear them was to lose trust in God, that no matter what occurred, He was there to care and protect and would be Paul's strength and salvation until his work was completed and his probation at an end.

David was another who knew great persecution from adversaries, but looked to God for help instead of being terrified by man. We have only to think of his early experience as a young boy facing Goliath, who the entire nation of Israel feared when he challenged them in battle:

"And he (Goliath) stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? Am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? Choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us. And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together. When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid."

I Samuel 17:8-11.

A giant of a man who made the whole army of Israel fear to accept his challenge - yet David a young shepherd boy, who did not carry a sword, felt no fear in facing him because he trusted in God. He did not rely upon his own strength but remembered his earlier

experiences with the lion and the bear, each who came to steal a lamb from the flock. David was strengthened by God to slay these fearsome beasts and in like manner, he knew God would be with him and Israel against the Philistines, if they would call upon Him for help.

Before facing the giant, he was offered King Saul's armor and sword for protection, but refused this help for, "he had not proved it". What he had proven to be reliable was the presence of God with him to help and in this he trusted. He took with him only his sling, stones and his staff - his simple shepherd's tools and with those meager implements killed the Philistine's champion:

"Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S and he will give you into our hands."
I Samuel 17:45,47.

How fitting that at the end of slaying Goliath, the record in I Samuel goes on to say:

"So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David. Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled."
I Samuel 17:50-51.

He did not need to carry a sword - even against a seasoned warrior like Goliath, who towered over the fierce Philistine army behind him, for David had trust that God would be his armor and his sword.

What an example of trust faith and the embodiment of "in nothing terrified by your adversaries", David was that day. What a help this can be to us as we face whatever perils may come into our lives, remembering that God is with us if we in trust will but call upon Him.

M.C.S.

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

"IN THE LAST DAYS." (2 Timothy 3:1)

Warning of what was to come at the last, as the return of Jesus Christ draws near, the Apostle Paul wrote some very foreboding words:

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, DISOBEDIENT TO PARENTS, unthankful, unholy,

Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God. - - -" (2 Timothy 3:1-4)

What a description of evil things is this! As time goes by human behaviour gets worse. The sad thing is that to a degree, there is a veneer placed over this human behaviour, which the Apostle describes as:-

"Having a form of godliness." (2 Timothy 3:5)

What a solemn warning of increasing deterioration of human behaviour is given by Paul:-

"- - - evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." (2 Timothy 3:13)

As we look at media reports, oh! how we see increasing deterioration of human behaviour, as follows:-

A leading politician has called for a "restoration of common sense" in classrooms — he wanted plans for a curbing for the wave of violence, disorder and truancy sweeping Britain's schools. A hundred and forty thousand pupils a year are now excluded from secondary schools for violence or persistent disruption. Nearly one in five teachers has been threatened with a weapon, and around a hundred thousand youngsters aged between 10 and 17 are given custodial sentences for violent offences every year.

One survey, concerning the police, gave a grim report on how Government Authority no longer has the respect which it had previously. Forty police officers are assaulted every day, and violence against them is growing. Rank-and-file officers said the increasing dangers they face is a sign of the violence sweeping Britain. More than fourteen thousand five hundred were injured in a year - - - attacks have increased by 13 per cent in half a decade. The Police Federation disclosed that "four in ten" officers had feared for their lives while on duty. Almost a third had been threatened with a knife and six per cent faced a gun. A director of the "Victims of Crime Trust" said, "Britain has become extremely dangerous not just for the public but also for police." He himself had been assaulted seventeen times in his career, including two serious attacks.

One of the problems with the younger generation is underage drinking of alcohol. A special London Police Constable said, "I often have to confiscate alcohol from kids standing around street corners drinking in London." The involvement of parents and communities in combating drunken-ness and anti-social behaviour on our streets is far more important than any Government announcements. A prominent politician, however, said, "the Scourge of under-age drinking on Britain's streets needs to be dealt with by Police having the power to make groups of young people drinking in public places a thing of the past." A leading "Police Spokesman" criticised parents for not controlling their children, calling also for the drinking limit to be raised to 21 years. Police reported a big rise in alcohol - related attacks and harassment; drink-fuelled incidents having increased by 50 per cent in the cities. Some under 16 years of age needing Hospital treatment for alcohol-related illness.

Well, the police have spoken upon the lack of parents not controlling their children. But the fact is, this is a fulfilment of the scriptural warning of the "disobedience to parents" and with the coming of "this perilous times of the last days", so will come the Kingdom of God, with Jesus the Righteous World Ruler!

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR JULY 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

Replies to our monthly mailing in Pennsylvania and interest in our website give encouragement in our work of witnessing to God's Truth.

As this is written, our Sister Lois Carter is going to Manchester to visit our brethren. We trust she will have safe travel and enjoy the fellowship of those across the sea.

J.A.DeF.

MANCHESTER

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

It is a joyful thing when arrangements can be made for a visitor to come from across the seas.

Personal contact contributes to a unity of fellowship among the Ecclesias.

For more information or to read our literature, log onto:
www.remnantofchristsecclesia.com