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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"**

**"I WILL PROVE THEE WITH MIRTH"**

**"THEY ARE CONFEDERATE AGAINST THEE"**

**"A BIBLE CLASS"**

**"THE PLOWMAN SHALL OVERTAKE THE REAPER"**

**"SIGNS OF HIS COMING"**

**"NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS"**

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## AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

### "FOR HIS MERCY ENDURETH FOR EVER"

For the past two months we have been reading The Book of Psalms of David. What is a Psalm? It is to celebrate in music and song, to give praise unto God. As we read: "Praise ye the LORD," this was an expression of David's heart, which made him "... a man after mine (God's) own heart" (Acts 13:22). There are 150 Psalms, beginning with:

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in his law doth he meditate day and night." Psalm 1:1-2.

The last Psalm 150, contains six verses, but expresses David's delight in God's law, as he expressed twelve times: "Praise ye the LORD."

We have read recently David's heart-felt expression:

"O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever.

Let Israel now say, that his mercy endureth for ever.

Let the house of Aaron now say, that his mercy endureth for ever.

Let them now that fear the LORD say, that his mercy endureth for ever.

O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever." Psalm 118:1-4, 29.

These words of David reveal why he delighted in the LORD -for His merciful kindness! We might ask: What is mercy? The concordance shows it consists of kindness, favor, pity. In the tabernacle and in Solomon's temple, the mercy seat rested in the most holy place, over the ark and below the cherubim, where God dwelt with His people, granting His favor, His lovingkindness to those who delighted in His law.

We have read this morning of that law in Leviticus 16, concerning the day of atonement - a remembrance of God's mercy. It is still kept even today - 3500 years after being revealed to Israel - as the convocation of Yom Kippur. The Hebrew word "Kippur" is used to appease, to cover, to cleanse, to forgive, to be merciful, to pardon, to purge, to reconcile - all evidences of God's mercy which endures for ever for those who in fear of God, strive to keep His law. On the day of atonement, the high priest went into the most holy place with the blood of the sacrifice and sprinkled it upon the mercy seat to cleanse the sin of the congregation. God required that:

"...this shall be a statute for ever unto you: that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, ye shall afflict your souls and do no work at all, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you. For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD." Leviticus 16:29-30.

To "afflict your souls" involves abasing, chastening, gentling, humbling self, submitting self to the word of God in order to be cleansed by the high priest on the day of atonement. David speaks of his affliction, enabling him to be cleansed:

"Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.  
Thou art good and doest good teach me thy statutes.  
It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.  
I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.  
Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness (mercy) be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant.  
Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law is my delight." Psalm 119:67-68,71,75-77.

David failed - having sinned in the matter of Bath-sheba - having allowed his flesh to break three laws of God: he coveted his neighbor's wife, committed adultery, and caused Uriah's death. Under the law he would have been stoned; but he humbled himself, listened to Nathan's rebuke, and responded:

"... I have sinned against the LORD..."                      II Samuel 12:13.

David knew God's mercy; he was granted God's forgiveness, cleansed from his sins, and so escaped being stoned.

The day of atonement foretold of God's mercy, pointing to the Lord Jesus' death on the cross, accomplishing the means of atonement for His people. In shedding His blood, Jesus cleanses those who believe that He is indeed the Son of God, having died without blemish. We partake of His body and blood as we keep the feast each first day of the week, in obedience to His command:

"... This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."  
I Corinthians 11:25.

We remember Jesus' words:

"...when Jesus had cried with a loud voice ('It is finished'), he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the spirit."  
Luke 23:46.

Jesus never failed, never sinned. He always submitted to His Father's will, thus fulfilling and accepting that "... His mercy endureth for ever."

We fail, we sin, and are sentenced to death; but we are granted His mercy, if our submission is like David's: "... I have sinned against the LORD."

As we ponder God's word, our thoughts go to Jesus' parable:

"... he spake... 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 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.

The publican afflicted his soul, recognizing his need for God's mercy, which "endureth for ever." Such minds, like the publican, can acknowledge they are sinners and need God's forgiveness through the mediatorship of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us go back to the garden of Eden, where God placed Adam and Eve, requiring only that they do not eat of the tree in the midst of the garden, lest they die - thus testing them! Would they submit to God's one commandment? We know Eve was tempted by the serpent, and she succumbed to his words: "Ye shall not die" - rather than to God's commandment. God opened the eyes of Adam and Eve:

"... and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."

Genesis 3:7.

Having eaten of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they made a covering of fig leaves. However, God in His mercy made them a covering of skins, which involved the shedding of blood. Further, He made a promise that the seed of the woman (Jesus Christ) would bruise the head of the serpent, providing the beginning of His mercy which would endure for ever.

Further, we are shown God's mercy revealed in the coverings of the tabernacle, with the badger and ram's skins used over the holy place and the most holy place. Again, it required the shedding of blood, to be a covering for His dwelling place.

David, realizing the need for God's mercy, further wrote:

"O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever."  
Psalm 136.1.

The ending of each of the 26 verses in this Psalm is: "... for his

mercy endureth for ever." God's mercy has existed from the time of Adam and Eve, enduring for almost 6,000 years, unto those who strive to submit to His word, afflicting their souls, hoping to hear the words of Jesus at His return to gather His people:

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

Matthew 25:34.

As we see the time of Jesus' return fast approaching, let us remember.

"... when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

Luke 21:28.

**"FOR HIS MERCY ENDURETH FOR EVER"**

J.A.DeF.

## I WILL PROVE THEE WITH MIRTH

### Ecclesiastes 2:1

The word "Ecclesiastes" means, "the Preacher", for these were the words of Solomon, King of Israel, as he reflected upon the affairs of human nature, and to determine his part in God's great plan for mankind.

His wisdom was unparalleled for it was received as a special gift from the Almighty. He had unselfishly asked God for help to wisely govern Israel, after his father David:

"Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing."  
I Kings 3:9-10.

Chosen to be king after his father David, Solomon felt as a little child, needing help and guidance - a very humble and pleasing attitude in God's sight:

"And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in."  
I Kings 3:7.

Because he had not asked for riches or power for himself, God granted him these as well, in addition to great wisdom, far and beyond what any king had known before or after him, saying:

"Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.

And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.

And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days."  
I Kings 3:12-14.

Along with these gifts of riches and power came the usual

temptations common to any man - the test to see if they would corrupt his spiritual walk before God.

Solomon, with unlimited wealth and power, filled his life with beauty of all sorts - spacious homes built according to his own design, lush gardens filled with flowers and fruit of all kinds, watered by pools of water to continually sustain them. We can imagine what joy this varied landscape would bring to any with a love of gardening, or to walk in such a cool, peaceful oasis during the heat of the day. In his continued pursuit of beauty, he brought men and women singers to surround him with music - which can stir the spirit to a higher plane:

"I made me great works, I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards:

I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits:

I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees:

... I got me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts." Eccl. 2:4-6,8.

His fascination to acquire beauty of every kind went further to the gathering of silver, gold, beautiful gems and treasures particular to royalty. Naturally a small household could not care for this wealth of homes, gardens and possessions. Therefore, hundreds of servants were pressed into Solomon's service to maintain his palaces, cattle, vineyard and gardens:

"I got me servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me:"

Eccl. 2:7.

However, when he had indulged his every whim, he found the world's pleasures were at best of fleeting value, ending only in vanity:

"Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun." Eccl. 2:11.

Along with his pursuit to expand his own personal comfort, Solomon was determined to prove himself with mirth and enjoy every sort of pleasure:

"I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also is vanity.

I said of laughter, It is mad: and of mirth, What doeth it?"

Eccl.2:1-2.

"To prove" means to test and "mirth" is used as "joy, pleasure, or gladness". In this context, he intended to prove himself of all that might give him pleasure or laughter, no doubt feeling with his superior wisdom, he was strong enough to withstand any temptation that might pull him away from God.

"The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth."

Eccl. 7:4.

The basic pursuits of the natural man - to eat, drink and be merry, are soon gone and forgotten, leaving nothing of lasting value once life is over. Whatever a man has achieved during his time on earth, whether it be power, influence or wealth - all vanishes with him into the grave.

The only life of worth is one that endeavors to keep God's commandments by restraining one's natural fleshly tendencies while growing in humility and spiritual obedience to God's word. This man dies with the hope of resurrection from the grave at the Lord Jesus' return to bring the responsible living and dead to His judgment seat. To those found approved in His mercy, awaits the blessing of life eternal in the kingdom age.

To seek mirth or make pleasure the mainstay of one's life is a hollow endeavor, and in the end causes only grief for a life leading to death without the hope of resurrection:

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth is heaviness."

Proverbs 14:12-13.

At the end, after a lifetime of folly and selfish pursuits, Solomon must have felt a heaviness of heart knowing he had strayed too far from the path of life to be able to recover himself with repentance before God:

"Better is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished." Eccl. 4:13.

Solomon squandered the wisdom and understanding given him at the beginning of his reign. He did not retain the humility or faith of his father David, and so wandered out of the way of spiritual understanding - the most precious of the gifts given him by God.

Perhaps life became too easy for Solomon - ruling as king of a peaceful realm, with great wealth and the power to achieve whatever his heart desired.

His father David did not have the luxury of a peaceful life. He was pursued and persecuted by adversaries throughout most of his life and learned to call upon the Lord for help and deliverance. From those difficult experiences, he learned how frail was his flesh and that he must depend upon God to guide his steps. He became as a little child in humility and trust and because of his obedient and contrite nature, became known as "a man after God's own heart".

After fulfilling every imagination of his heart, sadly Solomon realized his life had been spent without profit. He did not use his time of probation to grow in the understanding of God's word or increase the spirit man within, but rather fed the man of flesh, delighting in pleasing self without restraint. He lost sight of every man's, purpose in life:

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

Eccl. 12:13-14.

M.C.S.

**"THEY ARE CONFEDERATE AGAINST THEE.**

**(PSALM 83:5)**

Hostility against the Jew, and of a continuance of those who live near and around the nation of Israel of peoples against Jews, goes on in these last days. It is a sign of heavenly overruling of the gradual development of the Kingdom of God, which is leading onwards to that wonderful time of universal tranquillity. Jews would like to come to terms with the Arabic peoples, but it cannot be, and will only come about by the working of the Power which is from above!

The Israeli Prime Minister recently took an important initiative that he would support the bringing about of a Palestinian State, if it was a demilitarised state. Understandably, such a proviso, in view of what has gone on previously was necessary. He appealed for Palestinians to recognise Israel as a Jewish State. Media comments on what the Jewish leader said are as follows:-

"He told the Palestinians, 'We want to live with you in peace, as good neighbours. We want our children and your children to never again experience war. I don't want war. No one in Israel wants war. If we join hands and work together in peace there is no limit to what we can achieve.' His support for a Palestinian State came as he insisted the Palestinians recognise Israel as a Jewish State. He said he would only accept the creation of a Palestinian State if Israel received international guarantees that the new nation would have no army, control of its air space or ability to smuggle in weapons. In any peace agreement the territory under Palestinian control must be disarmed with solid security guarantees for Israel, - - - If we receive this guarantee for demilitarisation and the Security arrangements required by Israel, and if the Palestinians recognise Israel, as the nation of the Jewish people we will be prepared for a true peace agreement, (and) to reach a solution of a demilitarised Palestinian State alongside the Jewish State."

In responding to what has been taking place in the leadership in Israel, the American President has welcomed such endeavours,

saying this was "an important step forward", and is bringing the U.S.A. (and Britain along with it) more and more in line with their prophesied position of the "king of the south" who is to be "stirred up" on behalf of Israel (Daniel chapter 11), and as a Middle East conflict develops, so will come wonderful deliverance to a very troubled world, when, as Daniel's prophecy declares:-

"Michael shall stand up" and the resurrection shall come when the faithful will be "delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book (of Life)." (Daniel chapter 12)

The signs in what is taking place declares that very great heavenly events draw ever closer!

A BIBLE CLASS

'SO SHALL THY POVERTY COME  
AS ONE THAT TRAVELLETH'

Proverbs 24:34

Our subject is a proverb of Solomon:

"... To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding:  
To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment,  
and equity;" Proverbs 1:2-3.

Solomon wrote of an example of one who was void of understanding:

"I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;  
And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down.  
Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction." Proverbs 24:31-32.

What did such a situation reveal; what instruction did the viewer of the field receive? It clearly revealed the lack of care needed to bring forth fruit required for one's livelihood. The viewer could understand that the owner of the field and vineyard lacked, and he would realize:

"... a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:  
So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth and thy want as an armed man." Proverbs 24:33-34.

While one is sleeping, slumbering, not using one's hands, poverty will come, for there will be a lack of the fruit of the field or of the vineyard at the time of harvest. If one is travelling, wandering to and fro, the field and vineyard are left neglected, which will lead to poverty rather than fruitfulness.

Solomon wrote another proverb, which warns us of such negligence and its result:

"Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:

Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,  
Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food  
in the harvest.

How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise  
out of thy sleep?

Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands  
to sleep:

So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy  
want as an armed man." Proverbs 6:6-11.

The one who continues to sleep is a sluggard, being slothful concerning the work required - to have a fruitful harvest in time of need. Solomon in his wisdom tells us:

"The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the  
soul of the diligent shall be made fat." Proverbs 13.4.

The sluggard is not diligent, but always has excuses for not doing the necessary work:

"The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore  
shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing." Proverbs 20:4.

The slothful one neglects the thorns and thistles, and further fails to repair the stone wall that has fallen down. The stone wall is required to protect the field and vineyard from damage by animals or harmful destroyers. The Almighty warned Israel through His prophet Ezekiel of the danger of a broken down wall, allowing enemies, such as false prophets, to enter:

"O Israel, thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts.  
Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the  
hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the  
day of the LORD." Ezekiel 13:4-5.

If the wall is broken down, there is the need for an armed man to stand in the gaps to protect the field and the vineyard. If one is

sleeping as a sluggard, or travelling - wandering to and fro - how can he rebuild the breaches? Therefore, the crops are destroyed. The armed man is one who carries a shield, a buckler, as a defense - as "armed" means.

How important is diligence in the work of the vineyard and field of God, in our striving to be faithful servants during our time of probation. The Almighty looks down upon us! Are we diligent, are we tilling His field? Are we cultivating His vineyard, are we standing in the gaps – looking with hope to the time of harvest? Let us listen to David's spirit as he sought God's help:

"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. The LORD is their strength, and he is the saving strength of his anointed.

Save thy people, and bless thine inheritance: feed them also, and lift them up for ever." Psalm 28:6-9.

J.A.DeF.

## "THE PLOWMAN SHALL OVERTAKE THE REAPER"

### AMOS 9:13

The prophet Amos lived at a time when Israel had turned their back on God's precepts. We can calculate the time of his prophecy from verse 1 of Amos, as we are told:

"The words of Amos, who was among the herdmen of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel, two years before the earthquake."

Amos 1:1.

He was a prophet who foretold the destruction of Israel's enemies and of their own captivity for failing to follow God's word or to repent of their unfaithfulness. Israel was reproved for their sins and those that threatened Israel would be harshly reprimanded. Yet the Lord has promised the restoration of Israel when His purpose is fulfilled - when the Kingdom of God will be established from Jerusalem and His people gathered back into the land to live without fear, in peace and prosperity:

"In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old."

Amos 9:11.

God's covenant of care with His people applied as long as they walked in His statutes, ending in the hope of an eternal possession in the land promised as their inheritance. At that time, His bounty will know no end - all will be provided for those that turn to Him in faithfulness.

Amos was sent by God, to warn them of their wickedness because they followed kings and teachers who did not keep God's word. Amos came to warn, as well as preach of the reward to come for the faithful - when poverty and want would be unknown:

"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that

soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt." Amos 9:13.

Normally, fields are plowed, seed sown and then after adequate sunshine and rain, a harvest follows. When the crop is gathered into the barns, a period of dormancy and rest follows for the land before the cycle is begun again. Yet when God's kingdom is established, there will be no unfruitful or barren times, nor any rest required for the land, for the plowman will overtake the reaper as the bounty continues from season to season.

Many of the other prophets also spoke of this promised inheritance to come - a confirmation of God's consistent message to the faithful throughout the ages:

"And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.  
And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.  
They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands." Isaiah 65:19,21-22.

"The LORD hath sworn by his right hand, and by the arm of his strength, Surely I will no more give thy corn to be meat for thine enemies; and the sons of the stranger shall not drink thy wine, for the which thou hast laboured: But they that have gathered it shall eat it, and praise the LORD; and they that have brought it together shall drink it in the courts of my holiness." Isaiah 62:8-9.

In the kingdom age, His people will no longer live in a threatened state from the surrounding enemies, who in times past, often stole their harvests and left Israel hungry and desolate. Ezekiel, another prophet, also speaks of this time of great plenty, when God's kingdom is established at the end of His purpose:

"Thus saith the Lord God; When I shall have gathered the house of Israel from the people among whom they are scattered, and shall be sanctified in them in the sight of the

heathen, then shall they dwell in their land that I have given to my servant Jacob.

And they shall dwell safely therein, and shall build houses, and plant vineyards; yea, they shall dwell with confidence, when I have executed judgments upon all those that despise them round about them; and they shall know that I am the LORD their God." Ezekiel 28:25-26.

Israel has had a history of assault from neighboring nations and even today many of these argue even their right to exist. Today their hold on the land of Israel is tenuous, as every day brings threats of violence or invasion from neighboring Arab nations. Yet God's eyes are still upon Israel for good, for though they have transgressed, God will cause them to recognize His Son when He returns as their Messiah - the One they refused, and bring them back into His care and protection, as prophesied by Zechariah:

"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 12:10.

Israel will be forced to acknowledge the Lord Jesus as their Messiah when He comes with His army of saints to deliver them from their enemies. At that time, He will establish those that accept Him, in a kingdom of peace and plenty - a land flowing with milk and honey where the plowman will overtake the reaper.

"So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim." Joel 3:17-18.

M.C.S.

## SIGNS OF HIS COMING

"- - - There shall be no more UTTER DESTRUCTION; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited."

(Zechariah 14:11)

The above words concern a time when wonderful heavenly intervention will come to this good earth, when:-

"Then shall the Lord go forth and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley. - - -"

(Zechariah 14:3-4)

Great power of The Supreme is to be revealed. The scripture speaks of the threat of utter destruction, and we have now come to such a time, "the last days (of) perilous times". (2 Timothy 3:1) Recently the media has revealed the United States President's concern about what is coming to the world, he:-

"- - spoke of his dream of a nuclear-free world. - - -"

He told the crowd, 'Today I state clearly with conviction, America's intention to seek peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons.'

He condemned the 'provocative' action by North Korea and called for a strong international response."

"North Korea broke the rules, once again, by testing a rocket that could be used for long-range missiles, he said, 'Rules must be binding, violations must be punished, words must mean something.'"

The media commented that:-

"The launch was widely seen as a cover for a BALLISTIC MISSILE TEST, but officials in Pyongyang said the aim was to send a satellite into space. – The British Prime Minister said, the launch was 'completely unacceptable.' Speaking later, (the United States President) pledged to press ahead with controversial United States plans to build a missile defence shield in Europe."

The U.S.A. is seeking to build rocket sites in Europe that would be capable of shooting down ballistic missiles. America is concerned about the position of Iran which it believes is causing a threat, as well as North Korea, for what they are developing, or what is already developed, by what are really lesser powers.

Oh, how this world situation begins to fulfil what was warned of, those many years ago. The prophecy of Joel gave a significant warning:-

"Beat your plowshares into swords - - - LET THE WEAK SAY, I AM STRONG."  
(Joel 3:10)

So in this nuclear age, with the development of very dreadful weapons, weaker nations can cause concern in the more powerful ones, whose leaders have their concerns reported by the media, which we quote herewith:-

"The United States President has pledged to press ahead with controversial U.S. plans to build a missile defence shield in Europe. Washington wants to station a battery of rockets in Poland meant to shoot down ballistic missiles, 'As long as the threat from Iran persists, we intend to go forward with a missile defence system.' - - -"

At this special time, the United Nations Security Council held emergency talks over, North Korea's rocket launch but failed to reach an agreement. The blessing, in this dark time to those who would respond in faith, is God-given hope that the time will come when:-

"There shall be no more utter destruction."

## NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR SEPTEMBER 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 prospect of our sister from Manchester visiting in fellowship from September 28th to October 9th, God willing.

As the turmoil and violence in the world increases and the economy continues to decline, man is not able to bring about peace and prosperity. God's word speaks of distress of nations causing perplexity with men's hearts failing them for fear.

These are signs of the coming of the Son of Man, Jesus Christ, with power and great glory. Let us obey His words, "look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Luke 21:28.

J.A.DeF.

### MANCHESTER

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

The visit of our sister from here to our Brethren and Sisters in the United States is a cause of rejoicing. And then her subsequent return with a report of the welfare of those we love in America.

It is an event in these days "of small things" that causes us to look forward to that coming wonderful time, when all that comprise the faithful, will be gathered eternally, to the Lord from Heaven.

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For more information or to read our literature, log onto:

[www.remnantofchristsecclesia.com](http://www.remnantofchristsecclesia.com)