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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

“HE SHALL KNOW THAT THERE IS A PROPHET IN ISRAEL”

In our recent readings we have indeed perceived that there were prophets in Israel. We might ask: What is prophet? The concordance reveals that a prophet is one who speaks by inspiration, one who predicts the future. They are true prophets if their predictions come to pass; or they are false prophets - their prophecy is not inspired of God, but rather a product of their own minds.

Let us look back to our recent readings of God’s prophets. Elijah was one who Ahab king of Israel met and said:

“... Art thou he that troubleth Israel?

And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father’s house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim.

Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto Mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal, four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel’s table.

Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal’s prophets are four hundred and fifty men.”
I Kings 18:17-20,22.

The four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal called upon Baal, but could not cause fire to come down upon their sacrifice. However, Elijah poured water upon God’s altar and called upon God:

“Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.”
I Kings 18:38-39.

Elijah, a prophet of the LORD, revealed God’s purpose as the fire of God accomplished that which Elijah prophesied. Surely there was a prophet in Israel:

Jezebel sought to take Elijah’s life because he overcame the

four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal. Elijah fled to Horeb (Sinai), the mount of God (I Kings 19:8). The Almighty asked:

“... What doest thou here, Elijah?

And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.”
I Kings 19:9-10.

Elijah sought God’s help in his work as a prophet, and God encouraged him:

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

And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

And it was so, when Elijah heard it that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?

... and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah shalt thou anoint, to be prophet in thy room” I Kings 19:11-13,16.

Elijah was further inspired as God’s prophet. He was not alone, for God was with him, and gave him Elisha, who ministered to him. In awe of God, he wrapped his face in his mantle, as a covering, a power, an inspiration to enable him to continue as an inspired prophet.

Elijah was taken away in a whirlwind and a chariot and horses of fire. Elisha saw Elijah being taken away, and picked up the mantle which fell from Elijah, which stopped the river Jordan, allowing them to go over. As Elisha took the mantle, he also:

“... smote the waters, and said, where is the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: And Elisha went over.” II Kings 2:14.

Elisha was encouraged to carry on as a prophet inspired by

the LORD. Those who saw him cross the Jordan on dry land said:

“... The spirit (inspiration) of Elijah doth rest on Elisha....”
II Kings 2:15.

Elisha carried on the work of Elijah. He cured the leprosy of Naaman, a mighty man of valor in Syria. The king of Israel realized he could not cure his leprosy; but Elisha said to the king, who had rent his clothes in fear:

“... Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.”
II Kings 5:8.

Naaman finally dipped himself seven times in the river Jordan, as Elisha had requested, and was cured of his leprosy, and said:

“... Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel....”
II Kings 5:15.

Surely there were prophets in Israel!

During the captivity of Israel in Babylon, there were three prophets - Jeremiah in Jerusalem, and also Ezekiel and Daniel in Babylon. In our recent readings, Ezekiel saw a vision from God to encourage him in revealing that there was a prophet with His people. God spoke to Ezekiel in this vision:

“... Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto this very day.

For they are impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD.

And they, whether they will hear or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall they know that there hath been a prophet among them.”

Ezekiel 2:3-5.

Israel did not hear, but did forbear, as God spoke to Ezekiel:

“... they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much

love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.
And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not. And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them."

Ezekiel 33:31-33.

The Almighty spoke to His prophet, Jeremiah:

"Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt unto this day I have even sent unto you all my servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them:

Yet they hearkened not unto me, nor inclined their ear, but hardened their neck: they did worse than their fathers.

Therefore thou shalt speak all these words unto them; but they will not hearken to thee; thou shalt also call unto them; but they will not answer thee?" Jeremiah 7:25-27.

From the beginning as a nation which came out of Egypt, God has sent His prophets - rising early and forecasting what is to come to pass; but few have truly heard and submitted to his word.

Going back to the time when Israel was to possess the land promised, God spoke through Moses:

"The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me: unto him ye shall hearken;

I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him."

Deuteronomy 18:15,18.

Moses was a prophet, inspired of God, concerning His promise of the Prophet to come - the Lord Jesus. Peter, after he had received the Holy Spirit, revealed this:

"And he (God) shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

Whom the heavens must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

And it shall come to pass, that every soul which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.”
Acts 3:20-23,25-26.

There have been many prophets inspired of God concerning His covenant with His people: that there truly will be the coming of the Son of God, the perfect Prophet, to establish the kingdom of God upon this earth, prepared from the foundation of the world. Indeed, there has been a prophet in Israel ever since that foundation was laid, and will be until the establishment of God’s kingdom.

Let us heed the words of the prophets, in the hope of Jesus’ words to John:

“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely.

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy (inspiration) of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

He which testifieth of 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 22:17-21.

J.A.DeF.

A WATCHMAN

We have been reading from the Book of Ezekiel, of a man who was born into the priesthood and became a prophet unto the exiles taken to Babylon after the siege of Jerusalem. He was given a work to speak to those in captivity, reminding them of their God who would still come to their aid and succor, if they would but repent and turn to Him:

“Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.” Ezekiel 1:1.

Ezekiel saw the glory of God in vision, a sign to him of his appointed task as God’s messenger to His people:

“As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.” Ezekiel 1:28.

The vision so overwhelmed Ezekiel that he fell on his face in awe and fear. He experienced a miraculous event and must have mulled over its meaning as the voice instructed:

“... Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee.

And the spirit entered into me when he spake unto me, and set me upon my feet, that I heard him that spake unto me.

And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto this very day.

For they are impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD.

And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know

that there hath been a prophet among them.”

Ezekiel 2:1-5.

God knew Ezekiel would need strengthening for the work ahead would be difficult - speaking to a people who God Himself called “stiffhearted and rebellious”. However, this vision coming to Ezekiel, would give comfort and encouragement, knowing he was chosen as God’s prophet.

“Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.” Ezekiel 3:17.

We each have an individual responsibility to be watchmen during our time of probation - to watch for ourselves and each other’s good, for fear we might stumble into the path of complacency and error - away from God’s word.

Daniel was a watchman in his day, a conscientious witness following God’s word faithfully. Because he could not be corrupted to do evil, wicked men surrounding him, devised a plan to trap him through his righteousness, and thus cause him to be disobedient to king Darius, whom he served:

“Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.” Daniel 6:4-5.

“All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.” Daniel 6:7.

It would seem to us today to be a foolish law and we may ask why would the king agree to such a petty decree? Did it pander to

his fleshly pride, thinking no one could ask a petition of any but himself?

Daniel did not let this law deter him, for he put the laws of God first and therefore, continued to pray to the Almighty daily. As they planned, he was discovered in prayer, breaking the law of the Medes and Persians. As a punishment he was thrown into the lion's den. However, God stood by His watchman and delivered Daniel from harm:

“My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.”

Daniel 6:22-23.

Because of Daniel's faithful witness, king Darius made declaration to his entire kingdom - a tribute praising Daniel and the God of Israel:

“I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.

He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.”

Daniel 6:26-27.

Job was another faithful watchmen - who witnessed to his wife, family and so-called friends, of his trust in God even in the midst of hardship. He felt God's closeness and therefore resisted the evil encouragement from others to give in and denounce the way of righteousness:

“Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, And said,

Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." Job 1:20-22.

As we continue reading from Ezekiel in our daily portions, we will learn of the many difficult tasks given him, in order to witness with power to the children of Israel. Even in the midst of God's rebuke, hope was extended to those who would turn from their own ways, to His:

"Yet, behold, therein shall be left a remnant that shall be brought forth, both sons and daughters: behold, they shall come forth unto you, and ye shall see their way and their doings: and ye shall be comforted concerning the evil that I have brought upon Jerusalem, even concerning all that I have brought upon it.

And they shall comfort you, when ye see their ways and their doings: and ye shall know that I have not done without cause all that I have done in it, saith the Lord GOD."

Ezekiel 14:22-23.

This is how God works - allowing a handful who are willing to lay hold onto His word to be strengthened to walk therein. As one of our hymns taken from Psalm 9 confirms:

"And they that know Thy name, in Thee
Their confidence will place;
FOR THOU HAST NOT FORSAKEN THEM
THAT TRULY SEEK THY FACE."

Hymn 13

M.C.S.

SOUND DOCTRINE

“The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.”

2 Timothy 4:3.

What a significant development it is when:-

“- - - they shall turn away their ears from the Truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

verse 4.

In this context, the Apostle Paul speaks of a second coming of Jesus to this good earth, which is his rejoicing hope:-

“- - - I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the LORD, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day, and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

verses 7-8.

The coming of an eternal Kingdom of God, with Christ as its Head, is developing, in conformity with what God has declared in His Holy Word. At the very beginning of that word the testimony from Heaven is:-

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. 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. AND GOD SAID, Let there be light: and there was light. - - -

And God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night.

And the evening and the morning were the first day.”

Genesis 1:1-5.

So began God’s beautiful work, which developed into a wonderful purpose, into which Jesus Christ was to be the Central focus, which brought about the description, as declared by the Apostle John:-

“In the beginning was THE WORD, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God,

The same was in the beginning with God.
All things were made by him; and without him was not
anything made that was made.
In him was life; and the life was the light of men."
John 1:1-4.

From the Beginning Jesus was to be a culmination of Heavenly
testimony, and so John could write:-

"- - - the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and
we beheld his glory, the glory of the only begotten of the
father), full of grace and truth."
John 1:14.

The Word, in ALL ASPECTS, is of God, and from God! In the
Genesis account we are clearly shown that God spoke, so the WORD
commenced with the Father in Heaven. But now, in our time, what
do the wise of this world say? May we herewith quote a recent
University article.

"Human laughter can be traced back sixteen million years
to the last common ancestor of humans and great apes,
according to new research. - - - reconstruction of the origins
of human laughter (was done) by mapping the laughter
sounds of great apes and humans on an evolutionary tree.
- - - the study compared the laughter sounds of great ape
species and analysed and compared them to human
laughter. - - - Despite acoustic differences between ape and
human laughter, the results proved laughter is not a
uniquely human trait - - - it has a pre-human basis - - -
laughter evolved gradually during the last ten to sixteen
million years of primate evolutionary history - - -. But
human laughter was nevertheless clearly distinct from the
laughter of great apes because evolutionary changes had
been more rapid in the last five million years."

How incongruous are teachings so worded, in an endeavour
to give weight to the teaching of evolution, with time calculations
which have no foundation.

How impressive is scriptural truth, which centres on Jesus
Christ the Saviour, when compared with that which the Wise of
this World would have us believe is a science of understanding!

A BIBLE CLASS

“HOPE DEFERRED MAKETH THE HEART SICK” Proverbs 13.12

We might ask: What is hope? The concordance defines it as expectation, to wait for, to trust in, something desired, worth waiting for. We have an example from James:

“Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord (our hope).

Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receiveth 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 has to wait for the harvest; he cannot cause it to grow more quickly. He has to plow the soil, sow the seed, water it, and wait for it to ripen until the time of harvest. He hopes for a good harvest. If there is a lack of rain, a danger from insects, or any other circumstances the harvest may spoil. Then his hope has failed.

We hope, brethren and sisters, for a place in God’s purpose, when the Lord Jesus returns to gather those who are at His right hand, and hear His words:

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

Matthew 25:34.

David was one who had the hope of hearing these words. He spoke from his heart:

“O love the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer.

Be of good courage, and he will strengthen your heart, all ye that **hope** in the LORD.” Psalm 31:23-24.

David’s heart was strengthened to the extent that he was found of God:

“... a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.”
Acts 13:22.

David further spoke:

“Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy:
To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.
Our soul waiteth for the LORD, he is our help and our shield.
Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.”
Psalm 33:18-20,22.

We strive to strengthen our hope, looking for the coming of the Lord Jesus. We do not know when He will return, but we are sure He will come to gather those who long for that day - as the Apostle John heard:

“... 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; 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.

This time is to be deferred until God’s purpose is accomplished.

We may feel sick at heart as this hope is deferred. Let us look at our subject:

“Hope deferred maketh the heart sick; but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.”
Proverbs 13:12.

Desire means to wish for, to hope for, to covet, to long for its coming - when “it is a tree of life.” The tree of life was forbidden to Adam and Eve because they ate of the forbidden tree of the knowledge of good and evil. As a result they, and all born since, have become dying creatures. Adam and Eve were driven out of the garden of Eden. However, God, in His mercy, promised a seed of the woman (Jesus), who would bruise the head of the serpent.

Those who strive to obey God have been promised:

“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.”

Revelation 2:7.

Further in Revelation, we are told regarding the hope of eternal life:

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

Revelation 22:14.

The tree of life was forbidden in the garden of Eden, but has been promised to those who strive to do His commandments, thus having the hope of the right to eat of the tree of life - those written in the Lamb's book of life. This hope is from the beginning to the end of God's purpose with His creation, made possible by the seed of the woman - the Lord Jesus - who gave his unblemished life on the cross. He reveals Himself to John, and to us today:

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

Revelation 22:13.

How great is God's mercy and grace, to provide the hope of hearing Jesus' words, deferred until God's time of judgment:

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

Matthew 25:34.

His coming is deferred, but IT IS SURE! Let us heed the words of James:

“Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.”

James 5:8.

J.A.DeF.

LAMENTATIONS

We have recently studied the Lamentations of Jeremiah through our daily readings. In the total five chapters, each covers a particular subject, but with an encompassing plan. We find that chapters 1, 2 and 4 each contain twenty-two verses all in alphabetical order with each verse beginning with a sequential letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Chapter 3 has sixty-six verses with each letter of the alphabet repeated three times. Chapter 5 has twenty-two verses with no regard to alphabetical order. This pattern goes unnoticed when we do not read the scriptures in Hebrew, yet was a design to alert the Hebrew reader to the importance of the message contained therein. These truths were as basic and important to one's life as learning the alphabet is to education.

We learn from the scriptures that Jeremiah lived during the final resurgence of Israel under Josiah a faithful king, to the ultimate destruction of Israel by Nebuchadnezzar, in the year 586 during the reign of Zedekiah:

"The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests that were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin. To whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month." Jeremiah 1:1-3.

It was at this time that the Concordance records these Lamentations of Jeremiah were written. They spoke of a time of mourning and misery for God's people and His city Jerusalem, because of their departure from righteousness. Jeremiah reflected upon the sorry state of Jerusalem from being once a praise to God and the center of His dwelling to a ruinous heap and a captive people sent into slavery:

"How doth the city sit solitary, that was full of people! how is she become as a widow! she that was great among the nations, and princess among the provinces, how is she become tributary! Jerusalem hath grievously sinned;

therefore she is removed:

all that honoured her despise her, because they have seen her nakedness: yea, she sigheth, and turneth backward.”

Lamentations 1:1,8.

In the second chapter of Lamentations, Jeremiah focuses upon God’s anger and the punishment He brought upon the people and city for their wickedness:

“How hath the Lord covered the daughter of Zion with a cloud in his anger, and cast down from heaven unto the earth the beauty of Israel, and remembered not his footstool in the day of his anger!

The Lord hath swallowed up all the habitations of Jacob, and hath not pitied: he hath thrown down in his wrath the strong holds of the daughter of Judah; he hath brought them down to the ground: he hath polluted the kingdom and the princes thereof.

He hath cut off in his fierce anger all the horn of Israel: he hath drawn back his right hand from before the enemy, and he burned against Jacob like a flaming fire, which devoureth round about.”

Lamentations 2:1-3.

Israel’s ten tribes were first taken into captivity and the nation divided, with Judah soon to follow under the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon - sent as an avenging fire to punish the nation for turning their backs upon their God.

In the third chapter of Lamentations, Jeremiah speaks of his own personal struggle and of the few faithful remaining who still hoped in Him. He can bring low but can also raise up in hope:

“It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.

It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.”

Lamentations 3:22-26.

We are renewed each day as we remember God's mercy and compassion. When Israel turned away they felt His anger, yet hope was always extended if they would repent and return in love to His precepts, yielding themselves to waiting upon Him. To wait in patience is difficult for the flesh, yet in times of testing, when there was a patient bearing under, there was the hope of release. This was Jeremiah's hope that his people would repent and turn again to God:

"Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD.
Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the heavens."
Lamentations 3:39-42.

We know from the scriptures of the grievous trials and tribulations many of the faithful like Jeremiah endured. Ours in comparison may seem very trivial. Yet when they cried to Him, He heard and in compassion delivered them. So too will His help and mercy be extended as we cry out for deliverance.

M.C.S.

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

"Behold the day of the Lord cometh - - -

Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them - - -"

Isaiah 13:9, 11 & 17.

"- - - And they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed - - -

Behold - - - I will raise unto David a righteous Branch."

Jeremiah 23:25.

"I will call for a sword upon all the inhabitants of the earth,
saith the Lord of hosts. - - -"

Jeremiah 25:29.

"- - - And all the kings of the Medes. - - -"

Jeremiah 25:25.

Such sentences as these, taken from the ancient prophecies, came to pass, to a degree, in history. But one of the wonders of God's word is that it has a message also to later generations, though undoubtedly these words did also speak to those who lived at the time of Isaiah and Jeremiah.

The day of the Lord will certainly come! And the greater Son of David will return to this failing needy world, to bring righteous deliverance!

As we keep these scriptural comments in their pertinencies, to the forefront, let us quote some of the recent media remarks taken from the world's press. As the Lord's day approaches, there is to be trouble from Medo-Persia. The scriptural warning expression is "I will stir up the Medes against them." We will now quote from the media from various sources:-

"Iran's foreign minister - - - said Britain would receive a 'punch on the mouth' if it did not stop criticising his government. - - -"

From other media we have the following, under the news heading "We cannot allow Iran to become a nuclear power":-

"It is our final nightmare - nuclear Armageddon in the Middle East. The Holy City of Jerusalem destroyed, the Saudi Arabian oilfields ablaze, Tehran in ruins, oil at five hundred dollars a barrel, and the whole world on the brink of the apocalypse - - -. Iran by test firing its long-range missile - - - this week has threatened to turn that ominous nightmare into hellish reality - - - the Iranians - - - are going for the nuclear bomb. - - -"

The media comment on this subject, brought Israel into this consideration, saying this long range missile with a range of 1250 miles would be quite capable of reaching every major city in Israel, even from the stony deserts of Iran.

Another media report quoted words from an important Iranian military leader as follows, he said:-

“We are going to respond to any military action in a crushing manner and it doesn’t make any difference which country or regime has launched the aggression.”

A political media commentator, has written about present Iranian endeavors in the following terms and details:-

“The Iranians announced that they are planning to build ten uranium enrichment plants. Enriched uranium can be used as a fuel for nuclear power stations - as well as a constituent of nuclear bombs - but there is zero chance that Iran’s intentions are peaceful. If Iran wished to switch its industry to nuclear power it could buy established off-the-shelf atomic energy technology from developed countries, just as its car industry is built on the production of discontinued models from the West. The only justification for running its own hugely expensive nuclear research programme is that it wants the enriched uranium for weapons.”

As for the hostility of some of those Middle-eastern people towards some Western nations, the following news-headline to a degree sums it up:-

“Three hundred militants READY TO ATTACK US from Yemen.” (They are) “plotting to launch a fresh wave of terror attacks. - - - Britain was warned - - - hundreds of bombers could be set on suicide missions in the U.K. and the United States - - -.”

We conclude this article with the thought; will a suicide bomber always keep himself from the use of nuclear devices!?

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR MARCH 2010

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

Sunday: Breaking of Bread 11:30 am

Midweek Bible Class: Forestville, Hamburg & Fredonia

Every Third Week: Revelation Study

With the recent implementation of our web site, we are pleased by the considerable number of inquiries we have received, allowing us to witness through this new medium. We have placed most of our literature on the site, including our monthly magazine, making access possible throughout the world.

With Spring just around the corner, we are reminded of God's power and unchangeable plan of rebirth each year, with the hope of the ultimate renewal of this earth in His kingdom to come.

M.C. S.

MANCHESTER

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

Winter is now passing, and as the earth progresses on its course through the Heavens, we think this is bringing us nearer to the time of the Kingdom of God, so badly needed by this troubled world. Oh, how great is the compassion of the Most High to comfort us with the promise that Jesus His Anointed One is surely going to return to this suffering World, to the Salvation of His people. Great is the comfort which this knowledge given to us by our Father in Heaven is enabling our Ecclesias to write about such a Blessed Hope!

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

www.remnantofchristsecclesia.com