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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"

"AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD"

"DILIGENCE TO GOD'S WORD"

"IN THE LAST DAYS"

"A BIBLE CLASS"

"NAHUM"

"SIGNS OF HIS COMING"

"NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS"

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AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

“O GOD, STRENGTHEN MY HANDS”

Our recent reading in Nehemiah reveals the troubled times of Judah from their captivity to the time of Nehemiah, God’s prophet. Their captivity began in 606 BC and concluded with the end of the nation of Israel in 588 BC. Their captivity in Babylon continued for 70 years until 536 BC when Joshua and Zerubbabel led 50,000 of Israel back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple which had been destroyed in 588 BC. Those who returned to Jerusalem began to rebuild the temple. However, adversaries caused their work to cease for 14 years, until it resumed in 520 BC and was finished in 515 BC with rejoicing over God’s hand upon them.

God sent Ezra to Jerusalem to restore the law and ritual beginning in 457 BC. Some time later, in 445 BC, Nehemiah came to Jerusalem to rebuild the wall which had been destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 588 BC. Nehemiah accomplished the rebuilding and returned to Babylon, but again came to Jerusalem in 434 BC where the inhabitants had fallen back; trusting in their adversaries rather than in God. There were 170 years of trouble, with help granted by God, yet still they returned to their own desires

We can perceive Nehemiah’s mind as he was sent to Jerusalem. He was God’s prophet and was greatly helped, for his name means - “comforted of God.” When Nehemiah saw the ruins of the wall, he spoke to the inhabitants of Jerusalem in 445 BC:

“... 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 kings 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.

The work of rebuilding the wall began, but the adversaries of the Jews were determined to stop their building, as we read:

“... it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we builded the wall, he was wroth, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews.

And he spake before his brethren and the army of Samaria,

and said, What do these feeble Jews? will they fortify themselves? will they sacrifice? will they make an end in a day? will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned?" Nehemiah 4:1-2.

The Jews appeared to be feeble, to be languishing in the work of rebuilding the wall. But they were not feeble, for Nehemiah called upon the Almighty to help them:

"Hear, O our God; for we are despised: and turn their reproach upon their own head, and give them for a prey in the land of captivity:

And cover not their iniquity, and let not their sin be blotted out from before thee: for they have provoked thee to anger before the builders.

So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof for the people had a mind to work."

Nehemiah 4:4-6.

NO, they were not feeble, nor languishing, but put their hands to the work, until one-half of the wall was rebuilt. God was with them in answer to Nehemiah's plea.

The adversaries continued to prevent the building, but the builders continued in prayer for God's help:

"Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them."

Nehemiah 4:9.

Still, the adversaries were determined to stop the work by saying:

"... Come now therefore, and let us take counsel together."

Nehemiah 6:7.

But Nehemiah responded:

"For they all made us afraid, saying, Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done. Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands." Nehemiah 6:9.

The Almighty God did strengthen Nehemiah and his brethren's hands until:

"... 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.

God in His mercy did strengthen the hands of Nehemiah and his brethren, for all put their hands to the work on the wall. It was hard work, especially for those who were merchants, goldsmiths, priests, princes, and others who were not accustomed to hard working with their hands. While they worked, they held a weapon in one hand, as they built the wall. They were strong in the LORD - an example to us as we turn to the Almighty in times of trouble.

Paul helps us in our need for strength:

“Finally my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil (adversary).”

Ephesians 6:10-11.

What is the purpose of “the whole armour of God”?

“... that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.” Ephesians 6:13.

What is that armour? Paul makes it very clear, it is truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, and the word of God. It is not actual armour, but it is the source of strength in the inward man, so that one can stand before the adversary.

David was a man after God’s own heart as he stood before Goliath. Saul armed David with his own armour, but David said:

“... I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him.” I Samuel 17:39.

What was his strength, enabling him to stand before Goliath? He spoke to the giant:

“... 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.

This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee... that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.”

I Samuel 17:45-46.

David’s hand WAS strengthened in the LORD, as he used “the whole armour of God, rather than the outward armour of Saul, which he had not proved or tried, and therefore he could not trust in it. David revealed where his real trust was, as he wrote:

“Unto thee will I cry, O LORD my rock; be not silent to me: lest, if thou be silent to me, I become like them that go down into the pit.

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 28:1,7-9.

Nehemiah and David sought God to strengthen their hands as they went about God's work, using "the whole armour of God." Brethren and Sisters, we rejoice in this help as we strive to honor God by obeying His word, conquering the fleshly difficulties, and proving our faith. Great is God's mercy and grace; great is the armour He provides!

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." Ephesians 6:18.

Let us listen to David's strength as he wrote:

"... I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand.

Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.

My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

... it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works."

Psalm 73:23-26,28.

We often sing these words as we meet to give glory to our heavenly Father. Indeed, it is good for us to draw near to God, to seek His strength for the work of our hands, by relying upon "the whole armour of God" to withstand the wiles of the adversary. Let us look toward the hope of eternal life when the Lord Jesus returns to gather those who have fought a good fight against the lust of the flesh.

J.A.DeF.

DILIGENCE TO GOD'S WORD

In recent studies from the Book of Zechariah, we are reminded of the reward promised to the diligent when the Lord Jesus returns:-

“And they that are far off shall come and build in the temple of the LORD, and ye shall know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you. And this shall come to pass, if ye will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God.”

Zechariah 6:15.

Here the prophet Zechariah refers to the rebuilding of the second temple, but as is often the case, this prophecy also speaks of the ultimate temple to be built in the Kingdom of God, when the Lord Jesus returns:

“And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD:

Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.” Zechariah 6:12-13.

This “Branch” is the Lord Jesus Christ, and how appropriate that this word for branch means “to sprout” or “to grow”. We look for His return to accomplish the new order spoken of here.

We witness a similar rebirth each spring as the icy grip of winter is melted away with the sun's growing strength. Often it can be seen in one day as a patch of snow melts and within days, the first tender sprouts of new growth push their way forward. His return will be as sudden and unexpected for those who are not aware of His coming:

“Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matthew 24:42-44.

If we knew our homes were to be burglarized at a certain hour, would we not be ready and prepared? In this same spirit of watchfulness we are to await His return. None know the exact time of His coming but in diligence, we must do all we can to be ready and prepared.

This temple of which Zechariah spoke, is more than bricks and mortar, as Paul also realized when he wrote:

"What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirits, which are God's."

I Corinthians 6:19-20.

We must recognize that the spiritual temple of God will be comprised of those who sought to be part of that dwelling during their time of probation. The Lord Jesus has paid the price for its construction and if we value the hope to be a part of this holy dwelling, we must glorify Him today in both body and spirit.

The prophet Malachi speaks of this same hope:

"Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him"

Malachi 3:16-17.

This word "jewels" means to be a "peculiar treasure" for God views those that are His as part of His wealth - all precious and useful in His work of building a new spiritual temple. Peter reminds us of what we are to be like if we hope to be part of this work:

"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

I Peter 2:5.

The first temple was prepared stone by stone off site, so that each rough block was shaped and smoothed perfectly to fit one into another without the sound of axe or hammer at its erection:

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;”

I Peter 2:9-11.

We are reminded here by Peter of the need to war against the thinking of the flesh. As we resist our fleshly tendencies, these rough edges of our nature are smoothed, in order that we may be aligned with the Corner Stone - the Lord Jesus:

“Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.” I Peter 2: 6.

That Corner Stone is already prepared - become the Branch, grown up into His place and against which all other temple stones will be aligned and made true. If we walk after His example in this life, we can be spiritually molded and shaped by God’s word to be more like His Son.

Going back to Zechariah’s prophecy of the kingdom age to come, he speaks again of the Lord Jesus - the Branch:

“Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH.

For behold the stone that I have laid before Joshua; upon one stone shall be seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day. In that day, saith the

LORD of hosts, shall ye call every man his neighbour under the vine and under the fig tree." Zechariah 3:8-10.

How different will be the earth under the reign of the Branch and His faithful followers. Unlike today, the spirit will permeate the whole earth, influencing every individual to live and love as brothers as Jeremiah also prophesied:

"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that they shall no more say, The LORD liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, The LORD liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land." Jeremiah 23:5-8.

In that day, Christ as king will rule with those joined with Him - - - as part of the spiritual kingdom-age temple which will be the center of the whole world.

God has mercifully allowed this Truth to be known through His prophets and His word preserved for our help, guidance and encouragement, that we may look forward in hope and joy to His Son's return:

"In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.

And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem:"

Isaiah 4:2-3.

M.C.S.

"IN THE LAST DAYS"

The Apostle writing about the last days warned of a coming deterioration of human behaviour. In his second letter to Timothy, he warned of the coming of perilous times. He declared "Perilous times shall come" (2 Timothy 3:1). Such a situation would develop, said the Apostle. His words are, such times "SHALL COME". As he so writes he gives a list of the various wrong inclinations of human behaviour, which are likely to come. We give a list here. "Covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, DISOBEDIENT TO PARENTS, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce breakers, FALSE ACCUSERS, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God. Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." (2 Timothy 3:2-5)

Oh! what a list of failures is this, getting worse in recent decades, and times are as the Apostle Paul describes them.

We will describe a recent occurrence here, which fulfils the coming about of what the Apostle Paul warned, as detailed in the News Media:-

"Schools in chaos as five-year-olds attack teachers - - - children as young as five are attacking fellow pupils and teachers, a report (has) revealed - - - (It is) worse than five years ago and disruption has become routine. Almost nine out of ten staff say they have had to deal with an unruly pupil in the past year. Four in ten Teachers have experienced physical aggression in the classroom. Most said this had been directed at another pupil, BUT A QUARTER SAID IT WAS AIMED AT THEM. - - - Nearly half of the teachers who had dealt with bad behaviour said they had faced students using their fists while four in ten had seen pupils kicking (and some said) they had dealt with incidents of a child stabbing, or trying to stab. (A head of a department in a Surrey state school said) - 'I have been involved with incidents of smoking, drug abuse, assault - - - AND REPEATED VERBAL ABUSE TO STAFF, AND BULLYING - - - TEXT MESSAGES - - -' Almost six in ten staff believe pupil behaviour has grown worse in the past five years! - - -"

What a list of deteriorating events is here, but this is a fulfilment of prophecy concerning these last "perilous times."

A BIBLE CLASS

“A WOMAN SHALL COMPASS A MAN”

Jeremiah 31.22

Jeremiah was a prophet who prophesied:

“... 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 1:3.

The Almighty caused Judah to come to an end - no longer a nation - as they were not subject to God’s commandments. Judah was taken into captivity and scattered among the nations in 588 BC, Jerusalem was burned, the wall was destroyed, and the temple was burned by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon.

God in His mercy sent Jeremiah to warn Judah of the coming destruction, and to prophesy of his deliverance of Jerusalem and Judah:

“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD.

But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel, After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

Jeremiah 31:31-33.

God had spoken to Israel through Moses at Mount Sinai:

“... If ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine.” Exodus 19:5.

Israel, hearkening to God’s word, responded:

“... All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.”

Exodus 19:8.

Moses offered a sacrifice upon the altar:

“... and took half of the blood, and put it in basins; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar.

And he took the book of the covenant and read in the audience of the people:

and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do and be obedient.

And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold, the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words.”

Exodus 24:6-8.

The people would see the blood sprinkled on the altar and sprinkled upon themselves; and they vowed to obey the book of the covenant, thus glorifying God. However, they did not reveal an obedient spirit, thereby breaking the covenant, during the 900 years from Mount Sinai to the end of Israel as a nation. God was provoked with His people!

However, in His mercy and grace, God promised through Jeremiah:

“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah”

Jeremiah 31:31.

Jeremiah asked:

“How long wilt thou go about, O thou backsliding daughter? for the LORD hath created a new thing in the earth, A woman shall compass a man.”

Jeremiah 31:22.

God did create a new thing - a new covenant - the coming of the Lord Jesus, the Son of man and the Son of God. He taught the gospel - the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. He was born of Mary as the Son of man, and of the Holy Spirit, as the Son of

God, promised from the time of Adam and Eve, who will bruise the head of the seed of the serpent (Genesis 3:15).

Jesus was baptized of John the Baptist, as He replied to John:

“Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him:
And lo a voice from heaven saying, This is my beloved Son,
in whom I am well pleased” Matthew 3:15,17.

Thus was born of water and Spirit the Messiah, promised from the beginning, to be a means of redemption. Jesus gave His life as He was crucified, uttering His cry of victory over His flesh: “It is finished” (John 19:30). A great work was accomplished - the promised new testament (covenant) was established, which He shared with His disciples as He partook of the Passover before His death:

“... This cup is the new testament (covenant) in my blood:
this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.
For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do
shew the Lord’s death till he come.”
I Corinthians 11:25-26.

Jesus died, shedding His blood, His life, in obedience to His Father - the new testament, the new covenant promised from the beginning.

The Lord Jesus is in His Father’s Presence as a means of redemption for those whose names will be found written in the book of life at His return to judge the responsible:

“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 (from) all nations: he shall separate the one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:
And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.
Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come,

ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matthew 25:31-34.

As God promised the faithful in the time of Jeremiah:

"... the LORD hath created a new thing (a new covenant established) in the earth, A woman shall compass a man."
Jeremiah 31:22.

Those who are of the seed of the woman, those found on the right hand of Jesus, will "compass (surround, come, beset every side, stand) a man" - the only man who never sinned, but shed His blood in obedience to His Father.

The Apostle John was shown in the Revelation:

"... I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.
And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps.
And they sang as it were a new song before the throne ...
These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb." Revelation 14:1-4.

A new thing - a new covenant for those who keep the covenant:

"... All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient."
Exodus 24:7.

J.A.DeF.

NAHUM

From our Daily Portions, we have recently read the record of Nahum, a prophet of God who spoke against the city of Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian empire during the time of their king Sennacherib.

In Assyria's ongoing conquest of surrounding nations, Israel and her cities had been taken captive, as well as the outlying cities of Judah in the time of Hezekiah, king of Judah:

"And it came to pass in the fourth year of king Hezekiah, which was the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, that Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria; and besieged it.

And at the end of three years they took it: even in the sixth year of Hezekiah, that is the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken.

And the king of Assyria did carry away Israel unto Assyria, and put them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes:

Because they obeyed not the voice of the LORD their God, but transgressed his covenant and all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded, and would not hear them, nor do them.

Now in the fourteenth year of king Hezekiah did Sennacherib king of Assyria come up against all the fenced cities of Judah and took them." II Kings 18:9-13.

Here is a record of God's use of the Assyrian Empire to punish His people Israel for their disobedience to His laws. They were carried as captives out of their land and into Assyria. Yet from Jerusalem, the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin remained under the leadership of king Hezekiah, from the line of David.

Having also taken some of Judah's outlying cities, the Assyrian king next set his eyes upon the capital Jerusalem, where Hezekiah reigned. Because Hezekiah cried unto the Lord for help and humbled himself, God heard his prayer and turned away Sennacherib and his armies, confounding their conquest:

"Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor cast a bank against it.

By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the LORD.

For I will defend this city, to save it, for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake." II Kings 19:32-34.

The power of God came upon the Assyrian army as they slept, killing "an hundred four score and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses." (vs.35). Judah did not have to defend themselves or their city, for the Lord took their part, sending the King of Assyria back to his own land:

"So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh." II Kings 19:36.

Having a long and violent history with Assyria, Nahum's prophecy against them and their city Nineveh, would give Israel and Judah hope, that again God would take their part and be their defense.

"God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies. The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.

But with an over-running flood he will make an utter end of the place thereof, and darkness shall pursue his enemies."

Nahum :1.2,7-8.

Nahum made them aware of God's mighty power ready to fight against the enemies of those that trusted in Him. This is one of only a few verses in the entire Book of Nahum that speaks of God's kindness to His own people, while the remainder of the prophecy is directed with the fierceness of His anger, against their enemies.

In extolling God's power and might and His readiness to defend, Nahum was giving comfort to those that would remember Him in their current situation - those who would repent and seek His help.

Nahum's name translates as "Comforter" and reminds us today as we await the working of God's plan in this world, that He is near to comfort and sustain, giving us courage and hope as we wait for His Son's return.

Likewise the prophet Isaiah leaves a message of God's hope and comfort to those that are His:

"Therefore shall the strong people glorify thee, the city of the terrible nations shall fear thee.

For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall.

Thou shalt bring down the noise of strangers, as the heat in a dry place; even the heat with the shadow of a cloud: the branch of the terrible ones shall be brought low."

Isaiah 25:3-5.

When the fury of a storm comes against a wall, there is no place to hide for shelter or refuge. This will be the power of His vengeance against the strangers who come against those that trust in Him.

What is trust? This word comes from a prime root meaning, "to flee for protection, to have hope, to take refuge". There can be two types of trust. One is a spiritual trust in God, the other a trust in our own fleshly strength or a trust in this world's order, which is opposed to God's ways. Trust in the flesh manifests itself in its own strength - in powerful men, wealth, prestige and honor from the world. But the trust Nahum spoke of is a spiritual trust in God, endeavoring to walk in His ways for fear of doing anything, which might displease Him:

"In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.

The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death." Proverbs 14:26-27.

The "fear of the LORD is strong confidence" - something that can be relied upon as an anchor which doesn't change or move from its place when all else fails.

"Ye that fear the LORD, trust in the LORD: he is their help and their shield." Psalm 115:11.

We don't see shields today in battle, but years ago it was an important defensive weapon to deflect the point of spears and arrows. However, in a spiritual sense, God's presence in our living can be a shield, made strong by spiritual faith - a protection to help and protect us from the flesh's harm.

"My defence is of God, which saveth the upright in heart. God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day." Psalm 7:10-11.

Nahum's message was purposed to bring God's word to His people - perhaps only a few would hear and take heart, yet in mercy it came to give hope and encouragement to those who would trust in Him.

Assyria, once a conquering power, was destroyed as prophesied by Nahum. The evidence of their great might and wealth can only now be found in the dust and ashes of archeological remains. Again evidence of God's word fulfilled, as He has promised, so will it come to pass. What a great comfort and assurance to us today and to those in Nahum's time, who trust in Him as their shield of defense.

M.C.S.

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

“We have heard a voice - - - of fear,”
Jeremiah 30:5.

How significant, when considered is the recent international news, as follows:-

“The United States President sealed an agreement with the Russian leadership to reduce the nuclear weapons of each country. It is to cut their arsenals by a third. The U.S. President and the Russian President, at last came to this decision after months of negotiation prepared to sign the document agreement in Prague to reduce deployment of strategic warheads to 1550 from the present level of 2,200.”

But what was most significant was the media comment that:-

“There must also be smaller cuts to the number of warheads or bombs on planes, ships, and on land. The reduction would still leave both sides with huge weapon stocks. However, the move is a significant step towards (the United States) President’s vision of a nuclear free world and marks his most significant foreign policy achievement since taking office. - - - The United States leader declared, ‘We have turned words into action.’ The pact comes amid heightening tensions in the Middle East, AND FEARS OVER THE NUCLEAR AMBITIONS OF IRAN AND NORTH KOREA.”

The U.S.A. President added:

“With this agreement the United States and Russia - the two largest nuclear powers in the world - also send a clear signal that we intend to lead.” The Russian President’s spokeswoman said: “This treaty reflects the balance of interests of both nations.”

What is so significant is the FEAR that is expressed in this comment. Yes, the U.S. and Russia are endeavouring to begin a reducing of nuclear armaments. But the United States and Russia are not the only ones with this dreadful armament. And some of

the other nations do not have moderate political leaderships. Some smaller nations have developed an ability to produce nuclear explosive, as well as larger ones such as China. And those powers who are nuclear powers, whose leaderships have the facts, have a fearfulness at the way things have gone internationally.

This is a very significant outcome in these Last Days. It is a great 'Sign of the Times'.

It is a fulfilment which the scriptures warned of. We will quote some of these. Concerning a time when Israel and Judah are returned to the land, which God gave to Israel's fathers, the prophet Jeremiah declares:-

"We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. - - - Alas for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble: but he shall be saved out of it - - -. Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid - - - though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee." Jeremiah 30:5-11.

There are some Arab orientated Eastern Countries, and in their anti-Israeli stance, pose a threat to the Jews, particularly those who have a degree of nuclear understanding. But the Heavenly promise is that God will ensure that the nation of Israel will be spared from any finality as a result of political events:

Comforting words for such a time as this comes from the prophet Isaiah, who was told to speak an assuring hope to his people:-

"Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, FEAR NOT, behold your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; he will come and save you." Isaiah 35:4.

Comfort also of Heavenly assurance came through the prophet Zechariah, as follows:-

"And it shall come to pass, that as ye were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah, and house of Israel, so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: fear not, but let your hands be strong - - -. For thus saith the Lord of hosts. So

again have I thought in these days to do well unto Jerusalem and to the house of Judah: fear ye not."

Zechariah 8:13-15.

Coming to the New Testament, Luke's record quotes warning words from Christ, about fearful events in this time of the end:-

"- - - Great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences, AND FEARFUL SIGHTS and great signs shall there be from heaven." Luke 21:11.

Those who have seen the area of a nuclear explosion, after a test of a nuclear device, speak of a "fearful sight". Nuclear weaponry is a very dreadful development of mans' inventive destroying capability.

The Holy Heavenly Father gave His Heavenly warning, that He will save His people from violent wickedness. Divine intervention will ensure this wonderful good creation, from such a dreadful threat, and events taking place in these times indicate the time is near for Jesus to return, to be the Saviour of those who will humbly look to Him, and glory in the preservation of this Good Earth.

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR JUNE 2010

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

Sunday: Breaking of Bread 11:30 am

Thursday: Bible Class 3:30pm; Forestville, Hamburg & Fredonia

Every Third Week: Revelation Study

Being ever mindful of the prophecies concerning the last days, we find in diverse places throughout the world cataclysmic events; events which make us aware of the signs which point to the promised return of the Lord Jesus.

These events are to help us to focus our hearts and minds on our need to be prepared as Jesus' words confirm in Matt 24:36-37,44 "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven but my Father only. But as the days of Noah were so shall also the coming of the Son of man be... Therefore be ye also ready for in such an hour as ye think not the son of man cometh."

M.C.S.

MANCHESTER

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

As we continue producing our Remnant Magazine, communications from the General Public come to us from time to time.

Our mailing list alters inevitably over the months and decades. Additions some times, and also deletions due to decease, and relatives of the deceased writing about it, not wanting it for themselves.

It is a continuing work, in which we are greatly helped, with care from Heaven, Oh, how good are our Ecclesias to each other in this effort.

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

www.remnantofchristsecclesia.com