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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"

"THE LORD LOOKETH ON THE HEART"

"I THE LORD WILL HASTEN IT IN HIS TIME"

"A BIBLE CLASS"

"PSALM 34"

"SIGNS OF HIS COMING"

"NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS"

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AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

WISDOM

In our recent reading, Job asked the question:

“But where shalt wisdom be found, and where is the place of understanding? Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living.” Job 28:12-13.

Job is known for his patience; however, he expresses the need for understanding and wisdom more than mentioning patience. Job spoke of wisdom:

“It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof.

Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding?

Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living, and kept close from the fowls of the air.” Job 28:15,20-21.

We seek the source of wisdom, and find it, as God has revealed:

“... unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the LORD, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.”

Job 28:28.

Having the fear of God and departing from evil leads to wisdom.

In the beginning, the first requirement of God to Adam and Eve was:

“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it; for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” Genesis 22:17.

Adam and Eve understood God’s command. However, Eve was tempted by the serpent and ate of the fruit of the tree, and gave to Adam, and he did eat. They lacked a fear of God. They did understand, but were not wise and failed by their disobedience to God’s only commandment. As a result, all living people were sentenced to die. Thus began the enmity between those who fear the LORD and those who lust after the flesh. Those who understand and obey God’s commandments grow in the fear of the LORD, which leads to wisdom. Fear is not terror, but rather a reverence of God’s mercy through the provision of His commandments, which leads to the understanding necessary for wisdom. The Almighty gave these commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai, so that Israel would understand His requirements:

“... that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.” Romans 7:13.

We can perceive how David grew in wisdom, as he wrote:

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.” Psalm 111:10.

David was one who feared the LORD, and kept His commandments; he acted wisely! However, he failed to keep God’s commandments in the matter of Bath-sheba, allowing the lust of the flesh to overcome his wisdom and fear of the LORD. God in His mercy caused Nathan to show David his lack of wisdom, and that he was in danger of being stoned according to God’s law. David quickly realized his failure, and in the fear of the LORD, he cried out:

“... I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.” II Samuel 12:13.

David realized his failure and God’s mercy, and spoke in his wisdom:

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

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

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

Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit (wisdom) within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.” Psalm 51:1-3,6,9-12.

David grew in understanding of God’s mercy, leading him by obedience to grow in wisdom, until he became in God’s sight:

“... I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.” Acts 13:22.

We have the example of Solomon as he sought help from God upon becoming king of Israel, after David’s death:

“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.

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?”

I Kings 3:7,9.

The Almighty responded to Solomon’s prayer:

“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.” I Kings 3:12-13.

Solomon sought an understanding heart, that he might “know how to go out or come in.” Understanding involves the ability to hear intelligently, to discern, to regard and consider. This understanding leads to wisdom; for one cannot know wisdom if there is a lack of understanding.

Solomon further wrote in the Proverbs:

“Give instruction (understanding) to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.”

Proverbs 9:9-10.

God gave wisdom and understanding to Solomon, and he was the wisest of men. But as he grew also in riches and fame, he began to lack the fear of the LORD and wisdom:

“But king Solomon loved many strange women...

And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.

For it came to pass when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.” I Kings 11:1,3-4.

Why was his heart not perfect? He recognized it, as he wrote:

“Better is a poor and a wise child (as Solomon was in the

beginning), than an old and foolish (no longer wise) king, who will no more be admonished.”

Ecclesiastes 4:13.

To be admonished is to be enlightened, to shine, to teach, to give warning. Admonition, if accepted, enables one to grow in the fear of the LORD and in wisdom.

Brethren and Sisters, do we fear the LORD, with reverence, seeking understanding, and thus growing in wisdom? Are we wise-hearted? James helps us to grow in these spirit qualities:

“Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation (behavior) his works with meekness of wisdom.

But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

For where envying and strife is, there is confusion, and every evil work.

But the wisdom that is from above, is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.” James 3:13-18.

Wisdom is the ultimate standard made possible by the fear of God, an understanding of His word, and the application of these gifts of God, as recorded by James.

Paul helps us as he wrote to his Hebrew brethren:

“Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

For our God is a consuming fire.” Hebrews 12:28-29.

Our mind goes to the Lord Jesus’ parable of the ten virgins:

‘... five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

They that were foolish took their lamps (source of light), and took no oil with them:

But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.”

Matthew 25:2-4.

The foolish virgins had no light, for they had brought no fuel for the light. The wise virgins did bring oil, and therefore, had light. When the bridegroom came, the wise virgins:

“... that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.” Matthew 25:10.

The foolish virgins who went to buy oil:

“... Afterward came ... saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.” Matthew 25:11-12.

Those who were wise had the oil, and were prepared to meet the bridegroom. In wisdom they looked for His coming to accomplish His Father's purpose, in establishing the kingdom of God.

The Apostle John saw, in vision, this kingdom, and said:

“... I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away: and there was no more sea.

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared (made ready) as a bride adorned for her husband.” Revelation 21:1-2.

The wise-hearted have been preparing through their time of probation, and so will be accepted among those at the right hand of the Lord Jesus at His judgment seat:

“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 25:34.

Let us listen again to Job as he asked:

“But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of under-standing?” Job 28:12.

God answered Job, and also helps us to be prepared:

“... Behold, the fear of the LORD, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding.” Job 28:28.

J.A.DeF.

THE LORD LOOKETH ON THE HEART

We spend many weeks reading from the Psalms as directed by our Daily Portion program - gaining a deeper grasp of the heart and mind of its author, David - whose name means "Beloved". God loved him because He could see what man cannot - the goodness and humility within his heart.

When the prophet Samuel came to Jesse's house to anoint one of his sons as the future king of Israel, he looked on their outward stature and bearing, thinking to choose one of the older Sons, yet the Lord said:

"...Samuel, Look not on his countenance or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."

I Samuel 16:7.

Seven of Jesse's sons passed before Samuel, yet none of these were chosen:

"Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these.

And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children?

And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither. And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he."

I Samuel 16:10-12.

From that early and humble beginning as a shepherd, David would become a warrior, musician, a faithful friend, an empire builder and king of Israel and the Psalmist - writing down the pruned words we are privileged to read as we today seek to serve God.

David's name is referenced more than a thousand times in the scriptures and there must be a reason for this. What was at the

bottom of David's desire to serve God? Perhaps we are shown by his words near the end of his life. He had collected all the materials for the building of God's temple, which would be completed by his son Solomon. To the very end, though a king, his mind was humble before the Almighty, giving him thanks and praise for all he had been given:

"Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.

But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? For all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding. O LORD our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thine holy name cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own.

I know also my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee."

I Chronicles 29:13-17.

His life had been full - taken from the life of a shepherd boy to reigning as the king over God's people. Yet through it all, he remained humble, remembering it was not his own strength but God who had blessed him with such bounty. This was not to say he was perfect, for many times he yielded to the temptations of his flesh nature and erred before God. However, what made his character so pleasing, was his ability to recognize his faults and repent quickly, eager to be forgiven and at one with God. He prayed for his son and his people Israel, in the same manner:

"O LORD GOD of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, our fathers, keep this for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of the heart of thy people, and prepare their heart unto thee:"

I Chronicles 29:18.

David's heart was prepared and his desire was that God's people would continue to be prepared to seek Him and walk in His

ways. David kept a humble heart throughout his life and this attribute no doubt is what endeared him to the Almighty:

“When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;
What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him?
For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.
Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:”

Psalm 8:3-6.

God does not forget those that bow down before Him in humility. How many times we know David was in extreme peril, yet was saved by God’s hand and from those who would have killed him. God provided for David and will provide help for all those whose hearts are sensitive to Him - those who prepare their steps before Him:

“The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.
And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.”

Psalm 9:9-10.

David’s life as king was no doubt filled with problems and worrying matters of state. Many would come asking for his counsel or seeking his patronage and help from their daily troubles. Yet while in such a responsible position, his mind was focused not only on serving God and His people, but on the end promised, when a son from his line would rule in righteousness. This is quite evident when we read Psalm 9 entitled:

“To the chief Musician (One Who Overcomes) upon Muthlabben (death of the son), A Psalm of David”.

David believed in the promise of the kingdom to come at the end of God’s purpose, when His Son would rule as king, in perfect justice and peace over the world, while accompanied by those found approved at His judgment seat. It is remarkable to perceive that

David who had been promised a son to rule this kingdom, knew that this could only be possible through His death, the Messiah whose blood must be shed in order to grant salvation to His people:

“The LORD is known by the judgment which he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands, Higgaion. Selah.

The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

For the needy shall not alway be forgotten: the expectation of the poor shall not perish for ever.

Arise, O LORD; let not man prevail: let the heathen be judged in thy sight.

Put them in fear, O LORD: that the nations may know themselves to be but men. Selah.” Psalm 9:16-20.

Man judges by what he sees on the surface, while God can see within the heart. He could see within David’s heart, that even when at times of failure, his love for God and for His ways was foremost and his first love. Let us hope to keep alive the same hope within us, believing that God does know the humble and will prepare them for His Son’s return - the greater Son of David who will rule the earth in peace and righteousness.

M.C.S.

"I THE LORD WILL HASTEN IT IN HIS TIME."

Isaiah 60:22

A time will come when the Lord will act to deal with the wrongs in this suffering earth.

The ancient prophecy declares:-

"Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders: but thou shalt call thy walls salvation and thy gates praise. - - - the Lord shall be thine everlasting light - - - . Thy people also shall be all righteous - - - ." Isaiah 60:18-21.

Recently a top British judge said:-

"- - - there was a need to protect the public from drunken yobbery which has made the public feel unsafe walking the streets at night. - - - get-tough measures will be welcomed by hard-working Britons; he signalled tougher sentencing in 'one-punch manslaughter cases!' Crimes which result in death should be treated more seriously. The Lord Judge raised the sentences - - -."

The Lord Judge said changes in attitudes to deaths caused by 'unlawful acts' were graphically underlined by the steady increase in maximum sentences for motorists who cause death by dangerous driving from two years in the 1980's to fourteen years today, In cases of attempted murder where long-term harm is caused, sentences should range between fifteen and thirty years. The judge declared war on burglars. Throwing out six appeals, he said a person's home should be their castle.

This is a gloomy report concerning behaviour amongst the people at the present time. But such deterioration is a fulfilment. God's word however, declares that Heaven is watching these events, and they will only be allowed to go on for so long.

When this present time has gone on for long enough, the divine declaration is that God's overruling of men's affairs will suddenly come about with speed. "The Lord will hasten it in his time", is the scriptural promise.

As we consider the report of the deterioration of men's behaviour, this in itself is a warning, and God's word prompts us to raise the question, "how much longer will it continue?."

What a sign of the times we have in these events!

A BIBLE CLASS

“HE WILL SURELY COME OUT TO ME”

II Kings 5:11

Our subject considers the mind of Naaman who was a captain of the king of Syria. He was a great man with his master, and a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper. Leprosy was a disease that was incurable by man. However, a maid of Naaman’s wife, who was a captive of Israel, spoke to Naaman’s wife:

“Would God my lord (Naaman) were with the prophet that is in Samaria! For he would recover him of his leprosy.”

II Kings 5:3.

Elisha was the prophet in Samaria who, the maid knew, could do miracles! Elisha:

“... took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters (of Jordan), they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over.

And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said. The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him”

II Kings 2:13-15.

Elisha had the power of God and was able to cure illness and supply food in a time of need, showing indeed that there was “a prophet in Israel.”

The king of Syria wrote a letter to the king of Israel, saying:

“... when this letter is come unto thee, behold, I have therewith sent Naaman my servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy.”

I Kings 5:6.

The king of Israel, knowing that he could not recover Naaman, rent his clothes. Elisha:

“... sent to the king, saying, Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.”

Verse 8.

Naaman came to Elisha:

“And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying. Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean.

But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper.” II Kings 5:10-11.

When Elisha merely sent a messenger, Naaman was angry, having expected to be in Elisha’s presence! “So he turned, and went away in a rage.” Naaman’s servants urged him to obey Elisha; and he submitted, and “dipped himself seven times in Jordan” - according to the saying of the man of God:

“... and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, ... and he said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant.” II Kings 5:14-15.

Elisha refused the silver, the gold, and the changes of raiment offered by Naaman, for he knew it was God who had cleansed Naaman’s leprosy, and he rejoiced in Naaman’s belief that there was no God in all the earth, except the God of Israel.

Naaman had looked for a dramatic experience - that Elisha would come to him and exhibit the power of God, by the laying on of his hands, causing the leprosy to disappear. However, when he obeyed Elisha’s message, humbling himself, and rising from the waters of the Jordan, he rejoiced at his recovery from the leprosy, which no man could cure. He went back to Syria, and no doubt, told the king of Syria - revealing the power of the God of Israel. As he arose each day and saw the leprosy gone, he may have retained his knowledge that there was “a prophet in Israel” who had the power of the God of Israel alone in all the earth.

As Naaman travelled back to Syria, Gehazi, Elisha’s servant, followed after Naaman, seeking to obtain some of the blessing which Elisha had refused. He lied to Naaman, saying falsely:

"... My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there be come to me from mount Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets: give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of raiment."
I Kings 5:22.

Naaman gave Gahazi two talents of silver and two changes of raiment. When Gahazi returned, Elisha knew he had lied to Naaman, and had hid the silver and raiment. He said to Gehazi;

"... Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants?

The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow."
II Kings 5:26-27.

Indeed, there was "a prophet in Israel" - Elisha - as he exercised the power of God in curing Naaman's leprosy! Naaman listened to his servants, and washed in the river Jordan seven times, obeying Elisha's command, and perceiving the power of God. Gahazi did not fear God; he lied to Naaman, and took silver and changes of raiment. He became a leper even as Elisha condemned him!

As we perceive the power of God dealing with Elisha, Naaman, and Gahazi, we can be helped to grow in the fear of the LORD, which is "the beginning of wisdom" (Psalm 111:10). Let us listen to God's commandments, as Elisha said to Naaman upon his returning to Syria:

"Go in peace." II Kings 5:19.

J.A.DeF.

PSALM 34

In a recent portion from the Psalms, we are privileged to gain further insight into the mind and spirit of its author, David.

Through the title of this 34th Psalm, we learn of the specific incident that prompted David to write - reflecting upon the care and deliverance he received under God's hand:

"A Psalm of David, when he changed his behaviour before Abimelech; who drove him away, and he departed."

Psalm 34: Title.

In the book of Samuel we read further facts regarding this situation:

"And David arose, and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath.

And the servants of Achish said unto him, Is not this David the king of the land? Did they not sing one to another of him in dances, saying, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands?

And David laid up these words in his heart, and was sore afraid of Achish the king of Gath.

And he changed his behaviour before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands, and scrabbled on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard.

Then said Achish unto his servants, Lo, ye see the man is mad! wherefore then have ye brought him to me?"

I Samuel 21:10-14.

David fled to the land of the Philistines - the enemies of Israel, for fear of king Saul who pursued him. Can we imagine how great was his fear of death at Saul's hand that he would flee into his enemy's camp alone? The title of Psalm 34 refers to "Abimelech", which is a generic term for ruler, much like Pharaoh or Caesar. The Abimelech ruling Gath at the time of David is mentioned in I Samuel 21 as "Achish".

We remember from the scriptures that Gath in the land of the Philistines was also the home of Goliath, the giant who David slew

as a boy with a sling. There would be no love held by the residents of Gath for David.

David in fear now from Achish and the men of Gath at their hostile reception, fled to hide in a cave and when his friends and family heard he was there, they came to join him:

“David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father’s house heard it, they went down thither to him.”

I Samuel 22:1.

Not only did his family come to comfort him, but also about four hundred others who were not in agreement with Saul’s unrighteous reign of Israel. They gave their allegiance to David instead:

“And every one that was in distress and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men.”

I Samuel 22:2.

With this background in mind, we can view this 34th Psalm with a greater understanding of David’s position at that time in his life:

“This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.”

Psalm 34:6-9.

This is David’s message imparting to those who read his words encouragement to hope and trust in the Lord. He knew tangibly God’s deliverance from the harm that those of Achish’s court would do him, and from the hand of king Saul:

“The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles”
Psalm 34:15-17.

With a deep understanding of God’s promises to him of a Son to rule through the kingdom age in righteousness, and believing in the trials and persecutions He would suffer before His death, David in the role of a prophet wrote:

“Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.”

Psalm 34:19-20.

Through his record of the Lord Jesus’ death, the apostle John confirms David’s words. Although it was customary for the Romans to break the legs of those crucified, this insult was not done to the Lord Jesus’ body in keeping with David’s prophecy:

“Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him (Jesus).

But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:

But one of the solders with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.

For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.”

John 19:32-36.

The fact that the Lord Jesus’ bones were not broken, was not only fulfillment of David’s prophecy, but also speaks of His identity as the Passover Lamb - whose life was sacrificed that His people may know salvation under the covering of His blood. The Lord God gave specific instructions through Moses and Aaron to the children of Israel, of how the Passover Lamb was to be chosen, observed, slain and then eaten. Specifically referring to the breaking of its bones, Moses wrote:

“And the LORD said unto Moses and Aaron, This is the ordinance of the passover:....

In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth aught of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof.

All the congregation of Israel shall keep it."

Exodus 12:43,46-47.

David's overall message for our help today is to trust in the Lord and He will deliver those of a humble and gentle spirit, no matter how difficult the circumstances may seem:

"The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.

The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate."

Psalms 34:18,21-22.

M.C.S.

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

“Many shall run to and fro - - -.” Daniel 12:4

Speaking of the time of the end, the prophecy declares:

“But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end. MANY SHALL RUN TO AND FRO, and knowledge shall be increased.” Daniel 12:4.

Century after century since the time of Daniel, the horse, as one of the means of transport was one of the main things of travel. But then as knowledge increased, the internal combustion engine was developed, and look at the importance this is in our time!

Communication is now swift, but alas, with this has come problems. But this development speaks to us, that it is the time when:-

“- - - shall Michael (then) stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered EVERY ONE that shall be found WRITTEN IN THE BOOK. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. - - -” Daniel 12:1-2.

Here is the simple and clear truth, the future of the people of Jesus Christ is not in “immortal soul going” to a heavenly place (the great error of “Babylon”, of these latter days) but in the blessing of eternal inheritance of this good earth, and the sign of its near fulfilment, is for example in the fulfilment of “many running to and fro.”

A recent media lament, highlights the nearness of it. Note the following news comment:-

“So called ‘psychological’ traffic calming techniques are set to be introduced - - - in favour of traditional and often controversial schemes such as road bumps - - - innovative measures to cut speeding such as vehicle-activated signs and new road markings which (will initially be significant

cost) a Cabinet member for transport at the Council said: 'Residents and pedestrians often favour traffic-calming measures in their area ---.' It is clear that there is a balance to be struck here. We want to work with community assemblies and provide local people with a toolkit that can be used easily and effectively. In basic terms this is about changing the appearance of the road to change peoples habits encouraging people to reduce their speed psychologically through changes in road surface, vehicle-activated signs or road markings rather than engineering out the problem with measures such as road bumps. The real innovation in the programme will be focused around driver psychology and be based on methods of influencing driver behaviour."

Anyone who has been a driver for any length of time, and pedestrians also, are very much aware of what has developed on the roads as compared to how things were. It is with a great impatience, and less thought for his fellows, now in these later times, that is very noticeable. Alas, and there is an inevitable payment to be made for this irritability, accidents are increasing and vehicle insurance is more expensive.

As increased knowledge brings an increase of "many (that) shall run to and fro", problems increase with such a development. But it is a fulfilment and indicates the return from Heaven of "Michael --- the great prince."

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR JULY 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

We continue to receive responses to our monthly mailings to more than three thousand households in the Western New York area. We are offering three free articles on the subjects of; "Prophecies of the Bible", "Religious Doctrines Examined and Questioned" and "Some Doctrines to be Understood if One Seeks Salvation". God willing, we trust this work of witnessing to the Truth may spark an interest in some who are perplexed at the grievous world events of these times.

M.C.S.

MANCHESTER

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

A half year has now passed and time moves on. We have been blessed to know that our Father in Heaven has a time scale in the wonder of His purpose in this wonderful Creation which we have.

That we have been brought to know of it, and have such a glorious Hope is because of God's great condescension to us. What a comfort comes through the understanding God has given to the people of His Son.

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

www.remnantofchristsecclesia.com