

DECEMBER 2010

A Monthly Magazine issued by

# The Remnant of Christ's Ecclesia

in opposition to the Dogmas of  
Papal and Protestant Christendom

A WITNESS TO THE TRUTH

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

**"Take heed that ye be not deceived"**

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**"AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD"**

**"THEOPHILUS - LOVERS OF GOD"**

**"IN THE BEGINNING"**

**"A BIBLE CLASS"**

**"AN ANCHOR OF THE SOUL"**

**"SIGNS OF HIS COMING"**

**"NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS"**

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AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

“COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE”

The Almighty spoke these words to Israel through His prophet Isaiah during difficult times for His people. Hezekiah, king of Judah, in BC 712 was sick unto death; and Isaiah came to him and said:

“...Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house In order: for thou shalt die, and not live.” Isaiah 38:1.

Hezekiah wept sore and prayed unto the LORD, who responded to his prayer through His prophet:

“...I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years.” Isaiah 38:5.

At the same time (BC 712), Sennacherib king of Assyria threatened to capture Jerusalem:

“Now it came to pass in the fourteenth year of king Hezekiah, that Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the defenced cities of Judah, and took them.” Isaiah 36:1.

Having done so, he sought to besiege Jerusalem as well. Again Hezekiah, trusting in God, prayed for help lest Jerusalem be destroyed. The Almighty again heard Hezekiah’s prayer, and in BC 710 spoke:

“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 shields, 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.” Isaiah 37:33-35,

King Hezekiah put his trust in the LORD, obeying His commandments, and God in mercy answered his prayers, cured

his illness, and saved Jerusalem from captivity.

Hezekiah would remember how the ten tribes of Israel suffered under their king Hoshea, who did evil in the sight of the Almighty (II Kings 17:2), rather than put his trust in the Lord, and:

“... sent messengers to So king of Egypt, and brought no present to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year: therefore the king of Assyria shut him up, and bound him in prison.

Then the king of Assyria came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years.

In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria...” II Kings 17:4-6.

This was the end of the ten tribes of Israel in BC 721 - only ten years before Assyria attempted to capture Hezekiah and Jerusalem.

Because Hezekiah sought God’s mercy and grace, he was greatly comforted by the Almighty not only during his illness, but also while under the dangerous threat of Assyria! He thanked God through Isaiah for the comfort granted.

“... Good is the word of the LORD which thou hast spoken. He said moreover, For there shall be peace and truth in my days.” Isaiah 39:8.

Isaiah brought further comfort to Hezekiah, and these words of God were added:

“Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD’S hand double for all her sins.” Isaiah 40:1-2.

Within two years (BC 710), Jerusalem was not besieged and Hezekiah was cured of his illness. Truly this was comfort to Hezekiah and to Jerusalem!

Isaiah spoke further in BC 712 during the days of Hezekiah:

“Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD... For the LORD shall comfort Zion. he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me. O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people.” Isaiah 51:1,3-4.

In times of trouble, those who have striven toward righteousness will know the comfort of the LORD, rejoicing in His mercy and grace, as did Hezekiah, in danger of death and captivity.

Those who fail to keep the Almighty’s commandments will not know God’s comfort, as we read in Lamentations, when Babylon captured Judah in BC 588:

“Judah is gone into captivity because of affliction, and because of great servitude: she dwelleth among the heathen, she findeth no rest (comfort): all her persecutors overtook her between the straits (strain, distress).”

Lamentations 1:3.

Thus Israel ceased to be a nation subject to God; but those who glorified Him were promised the kingdom to be restored when the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, returns to accomplish His Father’s purpose.

Paul wrote concerning God’s promise:

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope:

Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.”

Romans 15:4-7.

We have the scriptures, the word of God, from the Beginning, 6000 years ago, in which to find comfort, help, strength, hope, mercy, and love through the provision of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is our Redeemer and Mediator at the right hand of His Father. As we receive the gift of comfort from God through His Son, let us comfort (call near) one another in times of trouble or need of strength due to weakness.

Paul wrote to his brethren in Corinth:

“Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

And our hope of you is stedfast, knowing as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation.”

II Corinthians 1:2-5,7.

Paul was often troubled as he taught the gospel. He wrote in need of such help about those in Corinth:

“Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation.

For when we were come into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without were fightings, within were fears.

Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus;

And not by his coming only, but by the consolation wherewith he was comforted in you, when he told us your earnest desire, your mourning, your fervent mind toward me; so that I rejoiced the more.

Therefore we were comforted in your comfort: yea, and exceedingly the more joyed we for the joy of Titus, because his spirit was refreshed by you all.”

II Corinthians 7:4-7,13.

Paul had written a letter to some in Corinth who were in difficulty, which caused them to repent. The news from Titus that they had repented through his efforts, was a great comfort.

Again Paul wrote to his brethren in Corinth:

“Finally brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
Amen.”  
II Corinthians 13:11,14.

How much Paul did to comfort his brethren in their living, so that they might lead a life that would please our Father. We too can be comforted, as he wrote to his Thessalonian brethren:

“Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which ye have been taught (by the scriptures), whether by word, or our epistle.

Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,  
Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.”  
II Thessalonians 2:15-17.

The Lord Jesus gave his life for His brethren, providing a means of comfort and hope in times of trouble to those who have striven to please God. What a great blessing, as Jesus spoke:

“Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.”  
Matthew 5:4.

We all mourn at times, and are sorry because we fail! As we perceive that we have failed, there is sorrow, and a need to repent, so that forgiveness through the Lord Jesus is possible. How merciful is our God, as we feel and rejoice when we realize the comfort given to us by Him, by the Lord Jesus; and by those, our brethren and sisters, who have experienced that comfort (coming near) by our merciful Father.

J.A.DeF.

## THEOPHILUS - LOVERS OF GOD

Recently our reading plan has taken us to the gospel of Luke. He begins by saying:

“Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,  
Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;  
It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou has been instructed.”  
Luke 1:1-4.

Luke wrote to “Theophilus” - a name meaning “lovers of God”. He may not have been referring to one named “Theophilus” but to a group of early Christian believers - those eager to learn more of God’s word through His Son, Jesus Christ.

There were many during those early days, instructed by the disciples, who came to embrace the word of God through the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Those who were former Jews saw the light of the word rather than the letter of the law, many for the first time at the Day of Pentecost, when Peter declared unto them:

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.”  
Acts 2:36.

The Book of acts was also written by Luke and he addressed it likewise to the same “Theophilus”:

“The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach.  
Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Spirit had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen;  
To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:”  
Acts 1:1-3.

Regardless of who "Theophilus" was - whether one man or a group of believers - Luke through his record was proclaiming to the house of Israel the name of Jesus as the Christ, as Peter had done publicly at Pentecost.

Luke was not one of the twelve chosen disciples and may not have actually seen the Lord Jesus in person - we do not know for certain. The twelve that were chosen had been eyewitnesses of his teaching and works - living with Him for the 3-1/2 years He was ministering upon the earth. They passed on the record of these events to those like Luke, men inspired by the spirit to record the good news of the kingdom of God through the name of Jesus Christ, for all posterity.

We know very little personally about Luke for there are few references made to him in the scriptures. Paul makes mention of him being present with him as he wrote to the brethren at Colosse, sending along a greeting from Luke as well:

"Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you."  
Colossians 4:14.

From this we learn that Luke was a physician - a learned man, one that had received a privileged education which would be very rare in those times. Unlike many with a scientific background today, who trust in the science of their learning, Luke was as well infused with spiritual understanding.

In another reference, Paul writes to Timothy, to come quickly to his side. These words sound as if Paul knew he was nearing the end of his life and wanted Timothy close at hand:

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.  
I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, 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.  
Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me:"

II Timothy 4:6-9.

He mentions many who have forsaken him and the Truth, yet Luke is still with him, faithfully fellowshiping his work:

“For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.”

II Timothy 4:10-11.

In Paul’s letter to Philemon he mentions Luke, who also sends him greetings as a fellow laborer in the work:

“There salute thee Epaphras, my fellowprisoner in Christ Jesus;

Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas (Luke), my fellowlabourers.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.”

Philemon verses 23-25.

Luke’s name means “light giving” reminding us that we must allow that same light to reflect in our living in order to walk after Christ’s precepts. Paul tells us how we can follow in the same manner, as he gives encouragement to Timothy:

“But thou, O man of God, flee these things, and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.”

I Timothy 6:11-12.

To “fight the good fight of faith” one must witness to the Truth not only in words but also through actions - throughout all one’s living. Not just having a knowledge of the Truth, but applying it diligently in all we do. Further, Paul in writing to the Hebrews, explains how we can better walk in that faith:

“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." Hebrews 13:15-16.

Paul calls the doing of good works a "sacrifice", indicating it is not natural to do good and to communicate one's faith to others - it takes effort. To do so reveals whether one is a lover of men or a lover of God. Further, Paul goes on to say:

"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises."

Hebrews 6:10-12.

That same promise of life is revealed throughout God's word as it is in the portion faithfully recorded by Luke, that the lovers of God's way may be assured of its Truth.

Peter also reminds us in the same vein:

"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:"

I Peter 1:7-8.

Throughout God's word we see the walk of faith must be done not only in word but in deed as well. How grateful we should be to those like Luke, Paul and Peter who have endeavored faithfully to record these words that we may know and apply His word in our living. Let us not forget to daily witness to His word by communicating our faith through word and deed - endeavoring to reflect within us the light we have been given.

M.C.S.

**“IN THE BEGINNING.”**

The testimony of scripture is:-

“God created man in his own image - - - male and female created he them. - - - and God said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply - - - and God saw every thing that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.” Genesis 1:27-31.

In the divine record is the teaching that creation was wonderfully accomplished, by omnipotent heavenly power, all this globe of vibrant life which we see around us including ourselves. Mankind, who is part of this creation, has made a great erroneous deviation from this simple divine truth. He says there has been an evolution. Humanity over twenty nine thousand years ago was a sub species, and should be referred to as Neanderthal Man, and should be described as of low-brow appearance, sloping forehead and crudely jutting jaw; but as the ages passed an evolving worked upon his species and so we have the appearance which we have today which of itself now, is of long duration.

So we have the scriptural account challenged by the intellectuals of mankind.

As we look at the beautiful wonder around us, of this world in which we live, how can man possibly believe that all this wonder of life came about itself! It is a creation, and so there was, and is, a Creator!

And the Creator has made Himself known, and so we have the Bible, His Word! And that Word declares:-

“So God created man in his own image.” Genesis 1:27.

Science has spoken of Neanderthal Man, but divine declaration however, speaks of man “in the image of God.” Yet science is now changing its position in its teachings, and so we will quote from recent media comments:-

“Neanderthal man could simply be deeply misunderstood. Evidence unveiled suggests that behind that low-brow - - - lurked a rather sensitive and compassionate soul. Researchers said the sub-species of modern humans, who lived in Europe and Asia between 230,000 and 290,000 years ago were actually caring, sharing types who looked after the sick and vulnerable - - -. The researchers who used new techniques, such as neuro imaging, also cited a partially blind caveman with a deformed arm - - - who may have

been looked after for 20 years. (from evidence from human remains.)

Further proof that Neanderthals were committed to the welfare of others was said to lie in their long adolescence - which they could have reached if older relatives had looked after them, --- the study by --- the University's Archaeology Department said in the journal *Time and Mind*: 'Compassion is perhaps the most fundamental human emotion, it binds us together.' The archaeological record has the important story to tell about the pre-history of compassion."

What a turn around in modern teaching has occurred! The Divine record is the one to which we must seek and respect. What a blessing it is that we have the knowledge of it !!

## A BIBLE CLASS

### REGENERATION

The word "regeneration" is found only in two places in the scriptures. The Concordance reveals that it is made up of two words: (1) birth; and, (2) again. It raises the question: How can one be born again? All those born are dying creatures since the time of Adam and Eve, who were sentenced by God. All living creatures since that time have been sentenced to death, even Jesus Christ; for He was the Son of man, born of Mary.

The Lord Jesus spoke of regeneration to His disciples:

"... ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man (Jesus) shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

Matthew 19:28.

The Lord Jesus died on the cross, having never sinned against God, His Father; and rose to life after three days in the sepulchre. He lived on earth for 40 days, before ascending to be with His Father in heaven. He alone was born again, regenerated, according to God's purpose.

Paul further helps us to perceive God's purpose for those who have striven to follow after His word, yet fail, being flesh:

"But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit:

Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." Titus 3:4-7.

If one is to be an eternal heir according to hope, how can it be possible, if one is a dying creature?

Jesus spoke to Nicodemis, who asked him:

"... How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee. Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Marvel not that I said unto thee. Ye must be born again (regeneration).

And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life" John 3:4-5,7,13,15.

How can one be born of water and of the Holy Spirit? The Lord Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist:

"... Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:16-17.

Jesus was born of water and of the Spirit, and ascended to His Father after three and one-half years of teaching the gospel of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. He suffered greatly and was crucified, but never sinned - the only man who never failed, and therefore was able to cry out as he died: "It is finished" - the Victor over His fleshly nature.

Again, the question arises: How can one be born of water and of the Spirit? Paul reveals God's purpose for those striving to keep His commandments:

"... How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus

Christ were baptized into his death?

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

For he that is dead is freed from sin.

Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead, dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

For in that he died, he died unto sin (born of the flesh) once, but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God." Romans 6:2-10.

As we are baptized, the old man of the flesh dies, and we then strive to live in obedience to God. How can we do so? Jesus made that very clear, as he spoke to His disciples:

"... if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

For the Son of man (Jesus) shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works." Matthew 16:24-25,27.

Let us strive to deny self and to glorify God and His Son, in the hope of being among those whose works shall be rewarded, and thus to be born again - regenerated for eternity as kings and priests of the Almighty. What great joy there will be, if we are privileged to hear Jesus' words to those at His right hand:

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

Matthew 25:34.

J.A.DeF.

“AN ANCHOR OF THE SOUL”

Paul wrote to the Thessalonian brethren encouraging them to endure under the trials and pressures they were currently facing in the Truth - trials known by all the brethren:

“We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:”  
II Thessalonians 1:3-5.

Paul’s remedy against the hardship of persecution was to remember the hope set before them. One day, if found worthy through probation, they will sit as kings and priests with the Lord Jesus, taking vengeance upon those that oppose His righteous rule:

“Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power:”

II Thessalonians 1:6-9.

He focuses their minds upon the Lord Jesus —the One who made possible the hope they shared and an example of true overcoming, who knew more tribulation than any:

“Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.”

II Thessalonians 2:15-17.

These words of comfort span the ages and are just as relevant to us today as they were to the Thessalonians during Paul’s time.

God has given us the promise of everlasting consolations throughout His unchangeable word, and we can be assured He will establish them at the end of His purpose:

“Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:

That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us.

Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.”

Hebrews 6:17-20.

In a practical sense an anchor prevents a ship from drifting - giving stability and balance, especially in a storm when the wind and waves beat against the ship, pushing it off course. His word is to be our anchor, stabilizing us against the storms we endure throughout this life. If we hold fast unto that anchor, we will not be tossed to and fro by tribulation or false doctrine, but will be firmly established by His word alone.

Paul knew great tribulation during his time of probation. He accepted it gracefully, knowing he had also caused great harm to Christ’s church before he saw the light and was converted on the road to Damascus. He could encourage his brethren to withstand persecution first-hand, having suffered himself.

This same trust and crying out to God when in sore trial was seen throughout David’s writings. He spent most of his life fleeing and hiding from the sword of Saul. Yet, he trusted in the Lord to protect and sustain him:

“Be merciful unto me. O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast.

I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth all things for me.

He shall send from heaven, and save me from the reproach of him that would swallow me up. Selah, God shall send forth his mercy and his truth.

My soul is among lions, and I lie even among them that are

set on fire, even the Sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword”

Psalm 57:1-4.

David must have known constant fear at times, yet he had been anointed by Samuel to be the next king, and believed assuredly that God would perform what He had promised. He was David's anchor:

“My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise.” Psalm 57:7.

His mind was fixed upon the end that God had promised to all faithful to Him. Therefore, David would not let the terror that men could wield against him, move him away from the spiritual path he had chosen.

We can well imagine David's words being put to music and sung as a hymn of praise to God. How uplifting they are to us today, to read of a heart fixed upon God's word, as he endeavored not to be moved from the path of righteousness.

“Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious and full of compassion, and righteous.

A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion.

Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.

He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD.” Psalm 112:4-7.

Our trials are varied - each one different from the other. Yet they come individually to prove if our heart is fixed and founded upon the hope we have been offered.

We cannot do this on our own - we need the arm of the Lord to lean upon and the example of His Son to follow after, as an anchor of our soul. He has promised He will not leave us adrift if we walk in hope, as Peter reminds us:

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” II Peter 3:9.

M.C.S.

## SIGNS OF HIS COMING

“What shall be the sign of thy coming - - -?”

Matthew 24: 3

Jesus on one occasion, had disciples endeavouring to encourage him to think about the impressive Jerusalem Temple construction at their time. To help them in a balanced thinking about mans' construction, replied--

“See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”  
(verse 2)

Jesus was endeavouring to help His disciples' thinking. On reflecting, in one direction is seen the great work of God which is everlasting. In the other direction are mans' works, and however splendid they appear to be, whatever they do, there are limitations, even to great efforts whatever ambitions they have.

Recently there has been quite a lot of media comment about “climate change.” We will quote some of these comments:-

“Billions of pounds of taxpayers' money is being ‘wasted’ in fighting climate change, as other nations are hell-bent on development. - - - The Great Delusion that cutting carbon dioxide emissions in the West will not reduce them globally because of the expansion of China, India and Africa. - - - The money being spent by our governments to reduce our emissions is being wasted.”

Another media comment reads:-

“Scientist Professor - - - claims computer models used by the UN to forecast climate change are wrong and flipping a coin would be just as accurate- - -.

The European Commission unveiled a feasibility study - - - and said that a unilateral move ‘would damage the European economy at a time when we can ill-afford it.’

- However, Energy and Climate Change Secretary - - - said ‘Britain has to fight climate change’.”

A summing up by the media went on to say:-

“--- the warming in the last half of the twentieth century is very likely due to man’s activities. We are able to test the predictions by our computer models by comparing them with past events. We are also constantly checking our computer models by using a wide range of data including that from Satellites.”

Now as we look at the World’s outlook concerning the weather, we see in this there is no taking into their aspect, - The Creator! But let us consider His involvement in the weather in incidents of the past. Let us look at some of the Bible passages concerning weather events of the past. In the Psalms, great is the recognition of God having a close involvement.

“Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God --- thine enemies make a tumult. ---. They have taken crafty counsel against thy people --- persecute them with thy tempest, and make them afraid with thy storm. ---”  
Psalms 83:1-15.

“O Lord - - - thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth - - - thou hast made of a city an heap - - - the city of the terrible nations shall fear thee. For thou hast been a strength to the poor. Thou shalt bring down the noise of strangers, as the heat in a dry place; even the heat with the shadow of a cloud: - - -”

Isaiah 25:1-5.

“Praise the Lord - - - . Fire and hail, snow, and vapour; stormy wind fulfilling His word.”  
Psalms 148:7-8.

Yes, perhaps it is not always realised, but the storm speaks to us, and testifies to us, of the power of God’s Omnipotence.

“--- . Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because He was wroth. ---”  
Psalms 18:6-7.

The Scripture shows that God acts through the elements of the weather, and movements of the earth, to follow out His divine

over-ruling course. We will quote the recent media comment on a natural event which recently occurred:-

“British families were “sick with worry” after a backpacking couple disappeared following the earthquake in Chile that has killed more than seven-hundred people. The largest recorded in fifty years, that destroyed hundreds of buildings.”

The media is lamenting changes in weather patterns following mens activities; voicing criticism of some of the methods of manufacturing production. The voicing of fears of their changing of the weather, and wondering where such a trend may end. This overlooks the Great Creator over-looking upon it all. But from time to time people are disturbed by weather events that cause unease and we get a media report declaring there has been, for example, an earthquake, causing the destruction of hundreds of buildings.

Looking at the divine record, we see when Jesus was asked the pertinent question about His future work in this good earth, for a sign, said, (as one of the signs) there shall be famines and pestilences, and earthquakes in divers places - - - the beginning of sorrows, events that occur from time to time we must regard as indicative happenings. Men from time to time receive a jolt when a powerful weather occurrence happens, and then comments are made such as:-

“It was absolutely terrifying” and “my bed turned into a jumping bean.”

But such happenings witness to ‘One Above’, who has a complete over-ruling of world events, and His Son Jesus Christ will most certainly bring about under His Heavenly Father’s direction the saving Kingdom of God.

**NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR DECEMBER 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

As another year draws to an end, we are brought one year closer to the return of the Lord Jesus. Although we are not given the exact time of His coming, we are given signs throughout God's word, which should invoke in us a spirit of determination to "be ready". It is God's word, which instructs us of the great hope to be realized by those who have oil in their lamps, and are then invited into the marriage of the Lamb.

M.C.S.

**MANCHESTER**

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

What a comfort it is that we can give mutually, through our magazine, our own individual Ecclesial News, each month.

Here we have the continuing interest from our readers of the magazine, which we have the honour of contributing to, in various ways.

The endeavour to witness to God's wonderful purpose is with our Heavenly Father's looking down to give His continuing, guiding help.

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

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