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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"

"BE OF GOOD CHEER"

"CONFOUND THE LANGUAGE"

"WHAT IS A SACRIFICE?"

"A REMEMBRANCE OF HIS MERCY"

"SIGNS OF HIS COMING"

"NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS"

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AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

JOSIAH, KING OF JUDAH

Our recent readings have been concerning kings of Judah: Hezekiah, Manasseh, Amon and Josiah. Hezekiah was a faithful king; Manasseh and Amon were evil kings, failing to keep God's word. Josiah also was a faithful king, numbered among those who were pleasing to God. David, a faithful king, and Hezekiah are well known, while Josiah perhaps is not as well known. His name is made up of two words; (1) Joshi meaning found, and (2) Jah (Yah) - God's name, revealing God's purpose with Josiah.

What were the circumstances of Judah before the time of Josiah? Manasseh reigned for 52 years after Hezekiah; Amon reigned two years after Manasseh. In those 57 years, Judah and Jerusalem turned away from God, worshipped idols and allowed God's temple to be neglected and His law disobeyed.

Then Josiah was appointed as the king of Judah:

"Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem...
And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left." II Kings 22:1-2.

The Almighty found Josiah as king when he was only eight years old. He was a child needing help to reign over Judah and Jerusalem. Josiah would have been guided and strengthened by the Spirit of God, and we see how much he had grown in ten years:

"... it came to pass in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, that the king sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, the scribe, to the house of the LORD, saying, Go up to Hilkiah the high priest, that he may sum the silver which is brought into the house of the LORD, which the keepers of the door have gathered of the people.
And let them deliver it into the hand of the doers of the work, that have the oversight of the house of the LORD; and let them give it to the doers of the work which is in the

house of the LORD to repair the breaches of the house."
II Kings 22:3-5.

The house of the LORD had deteriorated during the 57 years of Manasseh and Amon's reign. Josiah sought the silver to repair (mend) the breaches (gaps) when he was but eighteen years old. The chronology reveals that this was done in BC 624. As the temple was being repaired at Josiah's command:

"... Hilkiah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD..."
II Kings 22:8.

The book of the law obviously was not used, and so was lost. God caused Josiah to repair the temple, and Shaphan was to read the book of the law before Josiah:

"... when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes,
And the king commanded ...
Go ye, enquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us."
I Kings 22:11-13.

God's law is written (recorded, described) and is unchangeable, just as the ten commandments of God were written in stone - not to be changed by man. The last words in the book of Revelation given to John were:

"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:
And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city (Jerusalem), and from the things which are written in this book."
Revelation 22:18-19.

The high priest and the scribe also went to Huldah the prophetess, seeking God's purpose:

"Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, even all the words of the book which the king of Judah hath read: Because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be kindled against this place, and shall not be quenched."

II Kings 22:16-17.

The Almighty spoke these words through Huldah in BC 624. BC 606 was the beginning of Babylon taking Judah into captivity, and by BC 588 Babylon had destroyed the temple, Jerusalem, and carried the people of Judah captive to Babylon, thus ending the nation of Judah. Concerning Josiah the king:

"... thus shall ye say to him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, as touching the words which thou hast heard; Because thine heart was tender (soft), and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD, when thou heardest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the LORD.

Behold therefore, I will gather thee unto thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace, and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place."

II Kings 22:18-20.

Within 36 years - from BC 624 to BC 588 - God brought an end to all the nation of Israel!

But what of Josiah? He:

"... sent, and they gathered unto him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem. And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in

their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD.

And the king stood by a pillar (of the temple), and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments, and his testimonies, and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul (breath of life), to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.”

II Kings 23:1-3.

By keeping the covenant, the breaches of the temple were repaired, the idols of Baal were removed and destroyed, as was the altar of Baal. Further, Josiah commanded:

“... all the people, saying. Keep the passover unto the LORD your God, as it is written in the book of this covenant.

Surely there was not holden such a passover from the days of the judges that judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel, nor of the kings of Judah;

But in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, wherein this passover was holden to the LORD in Jerusalem.”

II Kings 23:21-23.

Josiah lived up to his name - “found of Yahweh.” From the beginning of his reign at eight years of age, until his eighteenth year, the temple was repaired, the idols and the altar of Baal were destroyed, and the people kept the passover, with the covenant found in the book of the law.

As Huldah had prophesied that Josiah would not see the devastation of Judah, he was killed in battle in BC 610, and the captivity of Judah and of Jerusalem, which began in BC 606, ended in BC 588. Josiah did not see Judah’s finish, which came during the reign of Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, a son of Jehoiakim, and Zedekiah, son of Josiah. All of these kings failed to keep the word of God, and were taken captive by Babylon.

We are helped to please our God by the example of Josiah, who was “found of God,” and he acted on the foundation of God’s word. Only eight years old when he began to reign, he died in battle 31 years later, and was gathered to his grave in peace. Perhaps Josiah

knew the words of God concerning David, another faithful king of whom the Almighty said:

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

David revealed his understanding of God’s word in Psalm 19, when he spoke of the law, the testimony, the statutes, the commandments, the fear of the LORD, and His judgments:

“More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.
Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.
Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion (rule) over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.” Psalm 19:10-11,13.

The Almighty looks for those who are striving to glorify Him by keeping His commandments. David reveals how we can bring praise to God:

“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.” Psalm 19:14.

These words we sing as an anthem in our meeting together to glorify our Father through the Lord Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

As we think of Josiah, whose trust in God began to grow at the age of eight, and was gathered as a man after God’s own heart, like David, let us rejoice in His mercy. We pray to be “found of Yahweh” at the right hand of the Lord Jesus, if our names are found written in the book of life eternal.

J.A.DeF.

BE OF GOOD CHEER

In a recent reading from the Acts we follow Paul and Barnabas' work of witnessing to the gospel as they left Antioch together and sailed to Cyprus:

"And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister.

And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus:

Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent mans who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God." Acts 13:5-7.

This Sergius Paulus, a deputy of the country, called for the two brethren to hear them preach of Christ. How encouraged they would be for the privilege of witnessing in hopes of adding another to the household of God and His Son. However, a certain Jew named Barjesus or Elymas who was close to the deputy, was determined to block their efforts:

"But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith." Acts 13-8.

He was obviously not thinking of the deputy's hope of salvation, but rather the loss of his own influence over Sergius Paulus. However, Paul did not lack in courage or mince words but approached him boldly, saying:

"... O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand." Acts 13:10-11.

Here was a miraculous work done through Paul in order to stop this man's wicked interference from bringing another to Christ. This was seen by all in attendance and increased the deputy's faith and belief:

“Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.”

Acts 13:12.

God’s power through the name of the Lord Jesus who had chosen Paul as His witness, was evident to all these witnesses and caused another convert to come under His saving grace.

Throughout the history of the apostles, we read of many who faced dangerous circumstances and great adversaries in a very violent era as they attempted to spread the gospel of Christ. Paul personally was beset by many of his own nation, persecuted, beaten and stoned for his belief in the Lord Jesus as the Son of God. These hard circumstances would help him grow in faith as he endured each new test and trial - for that was their purpose.

Because he preached the gospel of Christ to the Jews, Paul was brought before the council in Jerusalem to answer their charges of stirring up the people with a new doctrine. Not accepting Christ, neither would they accept His witness and many made a conspiracy to kill him. Yet in the midst of this great tumult, the Lord came to Paul at night to give him a message of comfort:

“... Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.”

Acts 23:11.

To “be of good cheer” means to be courageous and comes from a prime root indicating “boldness”. Paul was being encouraged to display spiritual strength and confidence, knowing the Lord was at his side, having purposed that Paul should also carry His message to Rome.

There Paul’s gospel work ended, for history tells us he was killed at Rome - his time of probation and the work of his ministry had come to an end.

In Matthew’s record we read of the Lord Jesus’ ministry as he went throughout the countryside healing the sick and dying. A man “sick of the palsy” who could not walk was brought to Jesus by his friends in the belief that he could be healed. Seeing the faith of not only this crippled man, but also of his friends, the Lord Jesus said:

“Son, be of good cheer, thy sins be forgiven thee.”

Matthew 9:2.

He was refreshed and healed by God's power through His Son and at Jesus' command to, "be of good cheer" - his limbs were strengthened, releasing him from his crippling infirmity. With an overflowing heart, full of faith he was then able to leave his bed and walk home with his friends:

"But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men".

Matthew 9:8.

In another familiar circumstance, the Lord Jesus witnessed to the disciples by walking on the water. They cried out in fear, thinking they had seen an apparition:

"And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid." Matthew 14:26-27.

Can we imagine the fear they would feel? Yet hearing His familiar voice, so calming and assuring, they would be bolstered in faith to believe with all sincerity that this is the Son of God.

These records preserved for our help can likewise bolster our faith when we experience fearful circumstances that cause us to waiver or doubt. Will we falter and forget that the Lord Jesus is close at hand to support and hold us up and "be of good cheer"?

Shortly before His crucifixion, the Lord Jesus in a last opportunity to teach and spiritually strengthen, said to His followers:

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33.

Paul did not see the Lord Jesus, or walk with Him during His time of ministry, nor do we today. Yet we are given the same help to, "be of good courage" - in order to increase our faith and resolve, not fearing what we will face in the world, for He is with us.

M.C.S.

**“Confound the language of all the earth.”
Genesis 11:9**

The recent times has seen a “so-called” amalgamation of many peoples into various groupings. This causes us to ask, with amalgamation, what will happen to language?

The age—long pronouncement about language was, and is:-

“And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language that they may not understand one another’s speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad - - -” Genesis 11:6-8.

But Common Markets and Groupings have not had any great effect upon language. How do we know this state of things will remain? Well concerning God’s working out of His great future for what will develop amongst the peoples of this earth. The prophet Zephaniah declares:-

“For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent.” Zephaniah 3:9.

We will herewith quote a recent media comment which reads:-

“When the EU began to expand southwards and eastwards absorbing countries with much lower standards of living, the inevitable happened with the populations of these countries beginning to migrate in very large numbers to the richer EU Member States of Western Europe. Since many had English as a second language Britain became their destination of choice.- - - Yet all our so-called “mainstream” political parties are now supporting the bid of Turkey to join the EU. Such a move would give 70 million, mainly Muslim foreign nationals the right to live and work in Britain. Even if only a small fraction took up the opportunity,

immigration could still soar by millions swamping many of our towns and cities.”

We can say, following this, that this developing taking place gives the assurance in such events for them to happen, THERE WILL BE NO JOINING OF LANGUAGE. This will only happen according to heavenly declaration, as declared through the prophet of the Lord “then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord.” and this will see the coming of the Kingdom of the Lord!

A BIBLE CLASS

WHAT IS A SACRIFICE?

A sacrifice involves the giving of a valued offering in thanksgiving to one who has granted a gracious work.

The first sacrifice was made by Cain and Abel, the sons of Adam. Cain's offering was:

"... of the fruit of the ground, an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof.

And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering. But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect.

And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell."

Genesis 4:3-5.

Abel's offering (sacrifice) was pleasing to God because it was the firstling (the lamb) of the flock, which involved the shedding of blood and the burning of the fat. Cain's offering, which was the fruit of the ground, did not please God; it did not involve the shedding of blood of a living sacrifice.

"... the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door..." Genesis 4:6-7.

Cain did not do well; his offering was not showing a willingness to give his life as a sacrifice to God. He revealed his fleshly nature and slew his brother, Abel, who was pleasing in his sacrifice to the Almighty.

As time went by, Noah believed God, and built an ark, after which God caused the flood, saving only eight souls. When the flood dried up:

"... Noah builded an altar unto the LORD, and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

And the LORD smelled a sweet savour;..."

Genesis 8:20-21.

This was an acceptable sacrifice, as Noah had brought every clean beast and every clean fowl, to be placed on the fire of the altar for sacrifice. The remaining creatures from the ark were to replenish the earth.

Abraham revealed his obedience to the Almighty who tested his faith, by saying:

“...Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.”
Genesis 22:2.

Abraham took Isaac, his beloved son, and wood for the fire, and was ready to offer Isaac. Isaac asked:

“... Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.”
Genesis 22:7-8.

Abraham was ready to sacrifice his only son, but as he lifted the knife to sacrifice, an angel of God “called unto him out of heaven” and said:

“... Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God...”
Genesis 22:12.

God did provide a ram, and Abraham sacrificed it for a burnt offering instead of his son.

“And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh (God seeth) as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.”
Genesis 22:14.

Again, the offerings (sacrifices) involved the shedding of blood.

In the time of Moses, when Israel was captive in Egypt. God’s people were enabled to leave behind the death of the firstborn of Egypt, by the blood of the lamb on the doorpost; and the angel of death passed by, allowing Israel to flee from Egypt.

Under the law, sacrifice involved the shedding of blood, looking forward to the coming of the Lord Jesus, in fulfilling the law. Paul wrote to his brethren in Galatia:

“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.
For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”
Galatians 3:24,26.

The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, shedding His blood, caused Him to cry out in victory:

“... It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the spirit.”
John 19:30.

Indeed, God provided a lamb, the sacrifice of His Son’s fleshly body, as a means of redemption.

Paul wrote to his brethren in Rome:

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies (fleshly) a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.
And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
Romans 12:1-2.

Paul was one who was transformed to be a living sacrifice, ready to shed his blood, as he said:

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
For it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.
Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us”
Romans 8:35-37.

We, brethren and sisters, are striving to be a living sacrifice to the Almighty God, by conquering our fleshly heart and mind, as we crucify the old man and renew the man of spirit, acceptable, at the right hand of Jesus Christ, at the time of His judgment.

J.A.DeF.

PSALM 106

A REMEMBRANCE OF HIS MERCY

In this 106th Psalm, David recounts the history of God's people Israel. Even though delivered through many perilous circumstances, they continually rebelled from following after His precepts, even though His mercy towards them was ever constant:

"Our fathers understood not thy wonders in Egypt; they remembered not the multitude of thy mercies; but provoked him at the sea, even at the Red sea.

Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known."

Psalm 106:7-8.

David recalls the circumstance that faced Israel as they fled Egypt with Pharaoh's army close behind them and the impenetrable Red Sea before them, with no escape in sight.

In Exodus we also read an account of this frightening situation:

"But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pihahiroth, before Baalzephon.

And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD.

And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? Wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt?"

Exodus 14:9-11.

In the face of this danger, Israel's faith in God wavered, seeing death so close at hand - yet God had not forsaken them. Moses tried to strengthen them by saying:

"... Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom

ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.

The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.”
Exodus 14:13-14.

We know from the record that with God’s help, the Red Sea no more became a barrier but a highway, through which Israel passed unto the other side. Yet when Pharaoh’s army tried to follow, the waters returned to their original place, drowning the army of Egypt, while the children of Israel watched from the safety of the far bank.

God had spoken to Pharaoh through Moses earlier, warning him:

“... Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me.

For I will at this time send all my plagues upon thine heart, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people; that thou mayest know that there is none like me in all the earth.”

Exodus 9:13-14.

We draw upon this same knowledge today - for through the preservation of God’s Word, the world knows of these plagues that fell upon Pharaoh, but do they remember the reason they were brought? To show forth His power and might.

Even with His presence visible in the pillar of cloud by day and fire at night, Israel still forgot to reverence His power, as David reminds:

“They soon forgat his works; they waited not for his counsel: But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness and tempted God in the desert.

And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.”
Psalm 106:13-15.

Through forty years wandering in the wilderness, he fed them with manna, with quails and with water from the rock because of His mercy. He had promised to bring them from the bondage of Egypt into a land of milk and honey and did so for His name sake.

But still their fleshly impulses dominated them when

influenced by men like Korah, Dathan and Abiram and two hundred and fifty of the congregation, as filled with pride they spoke against Moses and Aaron - those appointed of God to lead the people, by saying:

“... Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?”
Numbers 16:3.

They had forgotten the miraculous wonders done by God through His servants Moses and Aaron - from the plagues in Egypt, the parting of the Red Sea and the feeding and watering of the multitude in the wilderness, to make such an accusation. “All the congregation” had not done these things - but God alone, as David goes on to write:

“They envied Moses also in the camp, and Aaron the saint of the LORD.
The earth opened and swallowed up Dathan, and covered the company of Abiram.
And a fire was kindled in their company; the flame burned up the wicked.”
Psalm 106:16-18.

God showed Israel who He was with that day, for the earth opened up and swallowed all the rebellious Korah, Dathan, Abiram and a fire from the Lord consumed the two hundred and fifty men that were in allegiance with them.

David recalled and recorded these times of rebellion to remind us all that we are but flesh. The flesh is always clamoring for attention or satisfaction, instead of gently following our Shepherd, who knows what is best for us.

Even after entering the land promised, Israel they did not heed God’s command to destroy the inhabitants, but married into their families, not separating themselves to the ways of Israel’s God, eventually becoming ensnared completely by worshipping their false gods and idols:

“They did not destroy the nations, concerning whom the LORD commanded them:
But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works.

And they served their idols: which were snare unto them. Yea, they sacrificed their sons and daughters unto devils, And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood. Thus were they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own inventions.

Therefore was the wrath of the LORD kindled against his people, insomuch that he abhorred his own inheritance. And he gave them into the hand of the heathen; and they that hated them ruled over them." Psalm 106:34-41.

David is relating Israel's history of rebellion that we too may remember how frail is our flesh and how merciful is the Lord who in compassion has done so much for His people. The flesh quickly forgets the bounty bestowed or the deliverance granted in trying circumstances. Let us be warned and guard against its complacency, remembering always that it is the Lord who has alone done great things for us and who alone deserves our praise, as David in like mind ends this Psalm:

"Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting; and let all the people say, Amen. Praise ye the LORD." Psalm 106:48.

M.C.S.

SIGNS OF HIS COMING.

“At the time of the end.”

Daniel 11:40

The prophecy of Daniel is speaking about two great and powerful entities that will be in the earth as the Kingdom of God approaches. They are the King of the North and the King of the South. At such a time, in Daniel’s message, there are some pertinent comments which we will now quote here; it will be the time when:-

“Some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end; because it is yet for a time appointed.” Daniel 11:35.

And to the powers in the earth, is the pertinent comment concerning the Northern grouping of powers:-

“--- he shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.” Daniel 11:36.

And concerning the hostile efforts of the nations we have the following:-

“And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: --- and the land of Egypt shall not escape. --- And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain, yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him. ---” Daniel 11:40-45.

Let us herewith note, the great significance of this prophecy relates to two groupings of the nations at the end of the days when mankind has all these various named nations in the earth. They are the kings of the south, and of the north; and note that the king of the south is to push against the king of the north. (v40)

In the earth in our time there are several great groupings of the nations. In the east there is China and India. In the south and in the west are the United Kingdom, South Africa, Australia, etc. These are particularly linked to the United States and these are the southern

powers. To the north is the great Russian territory, then in the middle of it all, there is the European Union. And in reference to all this, the Heavenly prophecy speaks of friction between the north and the south.

The United Kingdom is part of the king of the south, and so is not in a scriptural sense in a complete link-up with the EEC. So what do we see?, Why, we see Britain, and its particular associates, still closely linked with the U.S.A. And in relation with the EEC and Common Market, there is something of a mood that keeps Britain still in a towardness towards "the south".

Looking at the Media, we will wish now to quote in what direction the United Kingdom is still inclined.

"Critics were furious last night to discover that Eurocrats were plotting to order Britain to take more migrants at a time when the Government is attempting to drastically cut the annual influx - - - the quota system is being discussed as part of negotiations for a new free trade agreement between India and the EU to be signed - - -. Britain's proposed quota of migrants is set at 40 per cent of the total even though that country's population is only equivalent to 12 per cent of the EU."

There is also, in the media, the following call:-

"- - - for a referendum 'for changes to the Lisbon Treaty in order to prevent future government debt crises' (threatening the euro currency zone).'- - - the European Commission - - - announced proposals for a direct tax on EU citizens for the first time to help fund the 108 billion annual cost of running the European Union.- - -"

In such media comments in Britain, is the indication of how the UK is inclining in its thinking. The United Kingdom is looking to be "with the South", and this will be the position when "the king of the south" (shall) push at him, the "king of the north"; and affected in all this shall be Israel, "the glorious land."

And these things shall see the coming of Michael, and the deliverance of Israel and salvation to everyone "found written in the book", (the book of life and the time of the resurrection, Daniel 12:2). This is the great event that is approaching, which is being shown to us in the present events amongst the nations.

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR MARCH 2011

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

With spring just around the corner, we can anticipate nature's rebirth, reminding us of God's unchanging and ultimate plan of renewal for this earth. As we look forward to the Kingdom of God, we are sustained by His word to strengthen our faith and guide us into the way everlasting. With this hope, we can take comfort in the knowledge that God's will be done. Let us rejoice in the mercy and grace of our Father.

M.C.S.

MANCHESTER

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

What a blessing is the fellowship of the Ecclesias. This fellowship works to keep the closeness, far and near, of all who have the wonderful faith of Jesus. What grace is bestowed upon us who live in a disturbed and troubled world.

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

www.remnantofchristsecclesia.com