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A WITNESS TO THE TRUTH

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

"Take heed that ye be not deceived"

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AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

“THERE IS A PROPHET IN ISRAEL”

We might ask: What is a prophet? The dictionary tells us it is one who speaks for God, a person who predicts. The concordance defines a prophet as an inspired man, inspired of God to reveal what is to come to pass.

In our readings, we have listened to some of the prophets in Israel; namely, Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Jeremiah, Ezekiel - all sent by God to Israel to reveal His purpose. God spoke to Moses:

“I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.”

Deuteronomy 18:18-19.

Let us perceive the work of these prophets who were in Israel, as the Almighty sent them to reveal His purpose, concerning His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to fulfill His word.

Moses was the leader of Israel at Mt. Sinai where God’s law was given, and he led them during their forty years of wandering in the wilderness. He was also a prophet; yet on one occasion Aaron and Miriam spoke against Moses, saying,

“... Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it.”

Numbers 12:2.

They were jealous of Moses, as he was leading Israel, but he was subject to God:

“(New the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)” Numbers 12:3.

The Almighty spoke to Aaron and Miriam:

“... Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you. I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream. My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house. With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches: and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?” Numbers 12:6-8.

Miriam was made leprous, white as snow; and Aaron said to Moses:

“... Alas, my lord (Moses), I beseech thee, lay not the sin upon us, wherein we have done foolishly, and wherein we have sinned.” Numbers 12:11.

Miriam was shut out from the camp seven days, and then healed of her leprosy, so that Israel, under Moses' leadership, could continue their wilderness journey.

Next, let us consider **Elijah**, who also was a prophet, suffering the wrath of Ahab, king of Israel, who despised him:

“... it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth (to stir up like water is roiled) Israel?” I Kings 18:17.

Elijah answered Ahab and his wife, Jezebel:

“... I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim. Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.” I Kings 18:18-19.

Ahab and Jezebel obtained 450 false prophets, and Elijah said to the people:

“... I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's

prophets are four hundred and fifty men.
Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, it is well spoken.”
I Kings 18:22-24.

The 450 false prophets called:

“... O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.”
I Kings 18:26.

These false prophets could not cause the fire to come and burn the sacrifice upon the altar, although they endeavored to, until the time of the evening sacrifice!

Then Elijah took twelve stones and built an altar in the name of the LORD. The prophet put four barrels of water upon the altar and the bullock; and he filled the trench:

“And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said. Lord GOD of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord GOD, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.

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

And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.”
I Kings 18:36-39.

The 450 prophets of Baal could not cause the burning of the bullock. Elijah, a true prophet of God, confounded Ahab, and slew

the impossible prophets of Baal. Surely the people of Israel would know that "THERE IS A PROPHET IN ISRAEL"!

Another faithful prophet of God was **Elisha**. He spoke to the king of Israel, when the king of Syria had written a letter to him, to heal the leprosy of Naaman. The king of Israel could not do such a thing, and rent his clothes. Elisha, when he had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes:

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

II Kings 5:8.

Elisha told Naaman to "wash in the Jordan seven times... and thou shalt be clean." Naaman rebelled, but was convinced to do so, and was cleansed of his leprosy. He went and told Elisha:

"... Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel."

II Kings 5:15.

The hand of God accomplished the cure of Naaman's leprosy through Elisha, revealing indeed that "there is a prophet (of God) in Israel."

Jeremiah was the prophet in Israel at the time of Nebuchadnezzar's destruction of Jerusalem, including Solomon's temple, in BC 588 The Almighty spoke through Jeremiah that Israel would be in captivity for seventy years:

"... this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations."

Jeremiah 25:11-12.

Jeremiah also wrote the Lamentations, expressing the sorrow of the prophecies to come.

Ezekiel was a prophet to Israel in captivity in Babylon. The Almighty spoke to Ezekiel:

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

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

Ezekiel 2:3,5.

Through Ezekiel His prophet, God revealed His great mercy, as to when the temple will be built, and Israel becomes again a nation under God and His Son Jesus Christ. The Almighty showed Israel through Ezekiel:

“Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flock? Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock.” Ezekiel 34:2-3.

God spoke further to Ezekiel, concerning those who will hear the One who truly is the Good Shepherd:

“... I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd.

And I will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the LORD hath spoken it.

Thus shall they know that I the LORD their God am with them, and that they, even the house of Israel, are my people, saith the Lord GOD.

And ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord GOD.”

Ezekiel 34:23-24,30-31.

The work of these prophets, and many others, pointed forward to the Good Shepherd, who will fulfill the purpose of God, revealed

through His mercy. Jesus Christ spoke to His disciples, as He manifested God's will:

“... Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.
... by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go
in and out, and find pasture.
I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life
for the sheep.”
John 10:7,9,11.

The Lord Jesus gave His life for those who are His sheep - those who have listened to the prophets, and who look forward in hope, remembering Jesus' words:

“Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure
to give you the kingdom.”
Luke 12:32.

There have been prophets in Israel from the beginning of the world, revealing God's purpose, with its warnings:

“Because strait is the gate and narrow is the way, which
leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”
Matthew 7:14.

J.A.DeF.

THE RICH YOUNG RULER

The Lord Jesus often used the daily circumstances, which presented themselves, in order to teach His disciples the spiritual lessons.

As He walked through the countryside, great multitudes followed, bringing their sick and listening to His teaching. Others like the Pharisees and elders came also not in reverence, but in order to try and obtain information they could use against Him, for they feared the influence He had on the people. He knew their hearts and did not fear their questions, but taught the truth in a straightforward manner, regardless of their evil intents.

Often although He addressed the surrounding multitude, His words were meant directly for the disciples, for He knew they needed to learn many spiritual truths before He could leave them alone to carry on His Father's work. In one instance a rich young man, a ruler of his people, approached to ask how he could achieve eternal life:

“... Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”
Luke 18.

Who else would one call “Good Master” than the Lord Jesus? Yet with perfect humility He answered this young man saying:

“... Why callest thou me good? None is good, save one, that is, God.”
Luke 18:19.

He refused to label Himself as “good”, because He had inherited the nature of Adam - He was flesh like all other men. However, unlike the other sons of Adam, He lived a life of perfect obedience to God, without sin.

The Lord Jesus' answer was simple and easily understood by the young ruler, who as a Jew had been raised and schooled in the Law:

“Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, do not kill, do not bear false witness, honour thy Father and thy mother.”
Luke 18:20.

The young man answered that all of these laws he had kept from his youth. However, through the power of the Spirit, the Lord Jesus could look within his heart and see what mattered most to him:

“... Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.
And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.”
Luke 18:22-23.

The Lord Jesus was offering him a place with a select few, to follow after Him and learn of the hope of life in the kingdom of God. The young ruler was very wealthy and could not give up his wealth, prestige and honor as a ruler in order to follow after Christ. He could not give up the comforts of this life in order to lay hold on the spiritual gifts the Lord Jesus offered to him now, and in the age to come. He went away sorrowing because he could not have the things of this world and the Kingdom of God as well.

The Lord Jesus used this young ruler’s example to teach His disciples saying:

“How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!
For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle’s eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.”
Luke 18:24-25.

Those hearing His words were shocked and dismayed, for although many were not as wealthy as this young ruler, they no doubt had homes and other possessions they had worked hard to attain:

“And they that heard it said, Who then can be saved?
And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”
Luke 18:26-27.

It was not about having either a little money or great wealth, but rather where one’s heart was lodged. Was the accumulation of wealth, prestige and honor among men their prime goal? If so, they

had no room in their heart for the love of God and a service to His ways. This the Lord points out as He continues:

“... Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God’s sake,
Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time,
and in the world to come life everlasting.” Luke 18:29-30.

He was saying that if a man was willing to place God first before all else in his life, these other temporal blessings may even be added to him, “in this present time”, as well as life everlasting in the Kingdom age to come.

It was not the fact that his young ruler had great wealth that blocked his path to following Christ, but that he loved his riches above all else.

There were many righteous men of great wealth recorded in the scriptures, such as Abraham, Job and David. These men were increased in goods by God because their hearts were right towards Him. Of Job in particular we are told:

“There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters.

His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.”

Job 1:1-3.

We know Job was tried of God by stripping him of all his possessions - even taking the lives of his children. Yet through all this tribulation, Job would not curse God or his circumstances, but still worshipped with a heart that could say in humility:

“... Naked came I out of my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath

taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.
In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.”
Job 1:21-22.

From being the richest man in the entire east, Job was reduced to complete poverty, losing everything he owned. This sore trial was sent to prove his love for God. Was it there in times of wealth and ease as well as in poverty and distress? The record of Job proved his righteousness and faith, and God rewarded him by increasing his wealth and family. His love for God was greater than his love for family or wealth, unlike the rich young ruler of Jesus’ day.

“So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses.
He had also seven sons and three daughters.”
Job 42:12-13.

What is foremost in our heart? Are we concerned with our present situation and possessions like the rich young ruler? Or will we trust that God knows our heart and will oversee every aspect of our living, if we endeavor to walk in obedience and faith after the example of His Son?

M.C.S.

“THERE WERE GIANTS IN THE EARTH.”

The book of Genesis, the preserved scriptural account of early times, refers to giants. The original hebrew word means ‘a monster’, and concerns forms of life which lived before the flood. Noah’s ark carried life into a new period after the flood had subsided. Obviously Noah did not take into his Ark some giant forms of life. The way the wording comes to us in the book of Genesis, indicates a meaning “that some of those giant forms actually passed away in that past time.” Not that all of the giants completely passed from the scene. The book of Job declares Job’s feelings in the words which he uses in his reference to giants as a way of describing his troubles, as follows:-

“He breaketh me with breach upon breach, he runneth upon me like a giant.” Job 17:14

Even to this day giant forms live among the wonderful life of all the creatures which move about. For example there are the camels and the elephants. But scripture is emphatic, in life which moved about before the Flood there were giants in the earth. Recently the media made a pertinent reference to these, and herewith we will quote from some of the remarks made by those who claim to be intellectuals and teachers.

“Dinosaurs survived for more than 700,000 years after a massive meteorite was thought to have wiped them out- - -. Experts believe they disappeared almost six million years ago when debris from the meteorite blocked out the sun, killing vegetation worldwide. Tests on a fossilised thigh bone of a plant-eating dinosaur discovered in New Mexico found it was ‘only’ 64.8 million years old, meaning it was alive almost 700,000 years after the meteorite fell. - - - Scientists used radio-active dating to establish the age of the creature’s thigh. The New Mexico hadrosaur could have come from dinosaurs which survived because they inhabited areas where vegetation was not completely wiped out - - - extreme climatic conditions needed to be explored.”

Such comments from the world of knowledge is a challenge of the Truth, which Heavenly Father’s Biblical Word gives witness to. How can the world of knowledge rightly know a correct time scale, when such huge figurations come into the consideration?!

A BIBLE CLASS

THE SCAPEGOAT

Leviticus 16:8

The scapegoat was a part of the day of atonement - a time to cleanse, forgive, pardon and purge: first for Aaron, the high priest, and then for the people of Israel. God established this yearly feast:

“... on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.” Leviticus 23:27.

The high priest was to take a young bullock for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. Also he was to take of the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats for a sin offering and one ram for a burnt offering. First, the high priest was to:

“... offer his bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make an atonement for himself, and for his house.

And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat.

And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the LORD'S lot fell, and offer him for a sin offering.

But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness.” Leviticus 16: 6-10.

Aaron was to make an atonement for himself by taking the blood of the bullock into the most holy place, and sprinkling it upon the mercy seat. Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering that is for the people, and also sprinkle the blood upon the mercy seat. In doing so:

“... he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness.

And he shall go out unto the altar that is before the LORD, and make an atonement for it; and shall take of the blood of the bullock, and of the blood of the goat, and put it upon the horns of the altar round about.” Leviticus 16:16-18.

Aaron would make an atonement first for himself, and then for his people by going into the most holy place; next, he would make an atonement for the holy place, and then the altar. With this accomplished:

“... Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man, into the wilderness:

And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.”
Leviticus 16.21-22.

The scapegoat was not used as a sacrifice, but was presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, and then was sent off into the wilderness by the hand of a fit man:

“And he that let go the goat for a scapegoat shall wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in water, and afterward come into the camp.”
Leviticus 16:26.

The blood of the bullock, the ram, and the one goat removed the iniquities and transgressions of Aaron, the people of Israel - as well as the most holy place, the holy place, and the altar. These were reconciled on the day of atonement. The day of atonement, with the scapegoat, looked forward to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, as the means of reconciling his people. He Himself, as the son of man, first reconciled himself when He died upon the cross, crying out: “... It is finished” (John 19:30) - never having sinned as the son of man.

Paul helps us in the fulfillment of the day of atonement:

“... Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;
Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood, he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

How much more shall the blood of Christ, who, through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament,

that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself now to appear in the presence of God for us:

Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."

Hebrews 9: 11-15,24-26.

God instructed on the day of atonement:

"... it shall be an holy convocation unto you, and ye shall afflict (gentle) your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people."

Leviticus 23:27,29.

To afflict one's soul is to abase the flesh, to confess sin, and turn from it, so that all in Israel who remained were atoned for. Those who did not afflict their souls were cut off from among his people - as it were, sent into the wilderness on the scapegoat who did bear upon him all their iniquities.

When the Lord Jesus returns to judge those who are responsible:

"... he shall set the sheep on the right side, but the goats on the left.

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire..."

Matthew 25:33-34,41.

How blessed we are in our striving to be among those sheep who are afflicting (gentling) their souls!

J.A.DeF.

WHO DID SIN, THIS MAN OR HIS PARENTS?

We have read recently from our readings in John of the Lord Jesus' meeting a man blind from birth.

"And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.

And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?"

John 9:1-2.

We see the mind of those in that day feeling that there must have been sin committed, either by this man or his parents for him to suffer such an affliction. This same thinking was expressed in Luke as some told the Lord Jesus of certain Galilaeans brutally killed by Pilate:

"There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things?"

Luke 13:1-2.

It was clear that the onlookers did believe that these people died because they were more sinful than others.

Another example of such widespread thinking was recorded in Acts during Paul's shipwreck off the island of Melita:

"And the barbarous people shewed us no little kindness; for they kindled a fire, and received us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold. And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand.

And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live.

And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm.

Howbeit they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly: but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god."

Acts 28:2-6.

Knowing the bite of this serpent was lethal, they all surmised that Paul was no doubt a vile person deserving of such a fate. However, when he shook off the snake into the fire and appeared not to have been harmed, they conversely changed their opinion, now thinking he must be a god.

Through these two references, this thinking was shown to be shared by not only the disciples, who had a knowledge of the Truth, but also those barbarians of Melita, knowing only pagan superstition.

Going back to the blind man from the record in John, the Lord Jesus was quick to clarify the cause of the man's infirmity for His disciples' instruction:

"Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him."

John 9:3.

This man's blindness had nothing to do with his sin or that of his parents, but that it offered an opportunity for the Lord Jesus to do God's work in hope of helping some to believe on Him and the Father who sent Him.

"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

John 9:4-5.

While he was in the world for the three and a half years of His ministry, He was to help men see the Truth of God's Word and the hope of Israel. If the onlookers could believe in the power He had been given to heal, then hopefully they would believe His teaching and recognize Him as God's Son - the only means through which salvation could be obtained.

Israel had been given the law under Moses leadership in order to teach how they might follow the Lord's precepts unto life eternal. However, through the hardness of their heart, many viewed the law as only a set of rules and regulations to be exacted with vengeance. They overlooked the spirit of love and forgiveness contained therein. Such an example is seen when the scribes and Pharisees, those well versed in the law, brought a woman accused of adultery and placed her before Jesus:

"They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.

Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?

This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her."

John 8:4-7.

The law was very clear - adultery was to be punished by stoning to death. Yet the spirit of love within the law allowed for forgiveness when repentance was evident. David himself was guilty of the same and should have been stoned for his sin with Bathsheba, but was spared of God because of his speedy remorse and repentance.

Jesus' words, "he that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her" must have pricked at their hearts. Who among them could say he was without any sin? The Lord Jesus did not condone her sinful behavior but in seeing within her heart, could forgive her and say, "go, and sin no more". Here was an example of the spirit of love within God's law that so many did not see because they judged after the flesh and not after the spirit. The law was to be a schoolmaster, to teach them of the coming Christ - the Mediator who would in love carry His people's petitions to God, that they walk after His light and not in the darkness of the flesh:

"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12.

He was the light sent by God to illuminate the path of obedience which all must walk, if they hope to please the Father. His living, teaching, obedience and acts of healing all bore witness of a power, which could only come from above. He was the standard by which all men were to follow if they hoped to please the Father and attain unto the hope of eternal life - the hope of Israel.

It is the flesh's way to point the finger at another's infirmity or lack and blame it on their sin, as seen in our earlier examples from the scriptures. By doing likewise we are forgetting that we too are but flesh and prone to the same failures.

Although we stumble and fall at times, as we endeavor to walk in His light, let us remember James' words, preserved for our help and admonition:

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whose looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

James 1:22-25.

M.C.S.

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

“In the Beginning.” (Scientific admissions)

The Holy Creator’s witness is that:-

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth..”
(Genesis 1:1) In this infinite stretched out space, were objects at that time moving about in the vast expanse, and uniquely among these, was the earth. This object in the heaven was a globe, and there were no particular distinguishing features upon its surface. And then God began His wonderful purpose with this earth.

“ - - - the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters -
- - and God said, Let there be light - - - and God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament
- - - and God said, - - - Let the dry land appear - - - and called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called He Seas: and God saw that it was good.”

Genesis 1:2-10.

And then the Eternal One of the Heavens began the forming of the teeming life and abundance of this good earth, with mankind upon it! What a wonderful work it was !! In all this was a glorious purpose leading on to what will be the Righteous Kingdom of God.

The Holy scriptures which are from God, give testimony to this wonder which is so unique amongst these objects of this vast expanse.

Alas, mankind who live among these wonders of this good earth have not perceived fully how the Great God of Heaven has so worked. So have come about theories that are far removed from what His word so clearly bears witness to. Intelligent men have risen up, giving explanations for what is seen around. But recently, in the media, has come about a significant change in these ruminations of the thinkings of some of those clever scientists. We will now endeavour to quote some of their recently remarkable admissions!

“Space scientists have concluded that it is very unlikely we will ever find alien life on other planets. The revelation comes after space agency NASA announced that it had

discovered the first genuinely earth like planet outside our solar system.

It is a little larger than Earth and orbits a star named KEPLER - 10, over 500 light years away. But the planet is far too hot and experts say almost all of the other planets discovered so far are roasting hot or freezing cold.

The new information we are getting suggests we could effectively be alone in the universe. There are very few solar systems or planets like ours. - - -

It means it is highly unlikely there are any planets with intelligent life close enough for us to make contact."

In this world of books and learning what remarkably has been declared now about this vastness in the wonderful sky above us, which in its extent 'goes on and on'. This great stretch, when it is considered, does help us to think about the omnipotence of the Lord. So we have the declaration:-

"Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.

They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed.

But thou art the same and thy years shall have no end."

Psalm 102:25-27.

To be given such help to an understanding of omnipotence, free from being wrongly lead, in our understanding, by those who are described as:-

"- - - wise in this world."

against whom is the exhortation to us:-

"- - - let no man deceive himself - - -"

and against whom is the spirit's call to:-

"- - - Let him become a fool, that he may be wise- - -"

I Corinthians 3:18

What a great blessing indeed it is, that we should be so mercifully enlightened!

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR APRIL 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

Unrest in the middle east brings Israel's place in that arena into sharp contrast with its Arab neighbors. It should focus our attention upon God's ultimate plan and with the events prophesied to take place, prior to Jesus' return.

Such awareness can prompt us toward preparedness, so as not to be found wanting when the Trump of God is sounded.

M.C.S.

MANCHESTER

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

In this troubled world we have the blessing of our Ecclesias. The Meetings together with those close to us in the hope which our Heavenly Father has graciously given to us. As we endeavour to continue in our witness to the Truth, the mind recollects the scriptural exhortation:-

“Cast thy bread upon the waters, for thou shalt find it after many days.”
Eccliaestes 11:1.

Efforts over the years to speak about God's holy word, will ultimately bring about a response that will see among some a glorious, eternal fulfilment!

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

www.remnantofchristsecclesia.com