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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

“SHOUT FOR JOY”

We are reading the Psalms as we meet together. These are the pruned songs of David, who was a man after God’s own heart. When we consider the hymns and anthems that we sing (79 in number), 59 are taken from the Psalms. Recently we have read one of these Psalms:

“Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands.”

Psalm 66:1.

Singing a Psalm does not create just a noise unto God, but rather is an expression of one’s joy, such as David wrote of his meditation:

“Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditation.
Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God:
for unto thee will I pray.

My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.

For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness:
neither shall evil dwell with thee.

But as for me, I will come into thine house in the multitude
of thy mercy; and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy
temple.

But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them
ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them
also that love thy name be joyful in thee.”

Psalm 5:1-4,7,11.

Not a noise, but a shout, cry out, sing aloud for joy. Let it be heard by the Almighty! What is joy? It is a cause to sing aloud, to rejoice, cry out, proclaim. It is to make known that one desires to put his trust in God. David cried out:

“Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

Many sorrows (no joy) shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about.

Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.”

Psalm 32:7-8,10-11.

David did cry unto the LORD in his sorrows, troubles, adversities, and failures. Through all his experiences, he trusted in the LORD, and knew the triumph over such difficulties, as he wrote:

“O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph (joy).

Sing praises unto God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises.

For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding.”

Psalm 47:1,6-7.

Let us rejoice; let us clap our hands, expressing our joy for God’s mercy; and, like David in his meditations, let us rejoice in God’s blessing and strength – for he wrote:

“Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness.

They drop upon the pastures of the wilderness: and the little hills rejoice on every side.

The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing.”

Psalm 65:11-13.

The Almighty grants the needed food, the water, the rain, the reaping of the harvest - all bringing strength,

blessing and joy to those who trust in Him.

David rejoiced, as expressed in a Psalm of degrees, or ascent, going up to Zion to rejoice before God. He declared:

“We will go into his tabernacle: we will worship at his footstool.

Arise, O LORD, into thy rest; thou, and the ark of thy strength.

Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness; and let thy saints shout for joy.

For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation.

This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it.

I will abundantly bless her provision: I will satisfy her poor with bread.

I will also clothe her priests with salvation: and her saints shall shout aloud with joy.”

Psalm 132:7-9,13-16.

David ultimately became king over Israel; for Saul had not ruled with righteousness. David ruled, shouting for joy, striving to please God. At the time when God chose David, the words of Samuel are recorded:

“But now thy (Saul’s) kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.”

I Samuel 13:14-15

David’s reign was a righteous one, to the point where Paul, many years later, made it known:

“... (God) raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and 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 shouted for joy during his 40 years' reign. He trusted in God, not in himself; but with God near at hand, he cried out for joy, and worked to grow in spirit:

"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:
And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23-24.

This is one of our anthems. We seek God's mercy and grace, believing that if there is anything needing to be removed, He will reveal it, lest we lose the hope of eternal life. At the judgment seat of those who are responsible, the faithful will have shouted for joy, will have grown in righteousness, and will have the hope of hearing Jesus' words at His right hand:

"... Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared (shout for joy) for you from the foundation of the world." Matthew 25:34.

The Almighty reminds us through Jeremiah:

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?
I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings." Jeremiah 17:9-10.

David realized that the heart is indeed deceitful, and shouted for joy, as he wrote:

"For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried.

Thou broughtest us into the net; thou laidst affliction upon our loins." Psalm 66:10-11.

Silver is tried to see if it is pure by going through a furnace, which removes the impurities and leaves the silver as a precious metal. We do fall into affliction, and call upon the Almighty to help us - we cry out. There is joy when the affliction is removed, through the grace and mercy of God.

David at times was greatly afflicted, and he turned to God for His help and strength to endure. He rejoiced in God's deliverance:

"O come let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today, if ye will hear his voice, harden not your heart,..." Psalm 95:1-3,6-8.

As we sing many Psalms, let us rejoice and strive to give glory to God, lifting our voices with joy, giving praise and honor to our Father.

J.A.DeF.

PSALM 83

A SONG OR PSALM OF ASAPH

David in Psalm 83 expressed the desire of all the faithful as he wrote in vs.18:

“That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth”

Psalm 83:18

What an earth it would be if all were subject to God. There were only two very brief times when such was the case. First, in the garden before the fall of Adam and Eve, and then after the deluge when Noah and his family left the ark to an earth cleansed of wickedness.

The title of this Psalm, “A Song or Psalm of Asaph” is translated as “the Gatherer”, the One who will bring His people to a judgment and those approved in His mercy, on to inherit a place for eternity in His kingdom.

David valued the hope of that kingdom and looked forward to its establishment with the eyes of faith. How prophetic is this Psalm especially concerning the nation of Israel, and those who make it their mission to destroy them off this good earth:

“Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head. They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee:”

Psalm 83:1-5

Today, Israel's enemies are much the same as those in David's time, for he identifies them in verse 6:

"The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes; Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assur also is joined with them: they have holpen the children of Lot. Selah."

Psalm 83:6-8

Edom was the name given to the descendants of Esau, Jacob's brother, who did not value his birthright as part of God's people, but sold it to Jacob for a mess of pottage. Jacob in valuing the birthright incurred his brother's hatred because he sought to be pleasing to God.

The Ishmaelites were descendants of Ishmael, the son of Hagar the Egyptian concubine of Abraham. Ishmael was not the seed of the woman or the son of promise as was Isaac. He was separated from Isaac and his family because God knew that Ishmael did not seek to follow Him.

Moab was the son of Lot's eldest daughter while Ammon was the son of the younger daughter. Lot was Abraham's nephew and therefore his daughter's children were connected in the same family line back to Abraham. Moab and Ammon, developed into Arab nations and settled to the east of Israel and have been for ages Israel's enemies.

The Hagarenes refer to the descendants of Hagar, Abraham's Egyptian concubine while Amalek was the grandson of Esau. Again two nations which though related through Abraham have always hated Israel.

Gebal known today as Byblos was the name of a seaport of the ancient Phoenicians which is in present day Lebanon. David also speaks of the Philistines and those of Tyre, Israel's neighbors who often tried to make war on Israel and defeat her. David's first victory as a boy was against the Philistine

champion Goliath, whom he killed with a sling and “five smooth stones out of the brook” (I Samuel 17:40).

The old kingdom of Assur or Assyria, are the lands generally now occupied by modern day Syria, Iraq and Iran – all sworn enemies of present day Israel, as they were in David’s time.

In this 83rd Psalm, David calls upon God to destroy them as he did in times past, believing that their destruction will be assured at the end of God’s purpose, for he says, “Selah” which means “value it, considering the end”:

“Do unto them as unto the Midianites; as to Sisera, as to Jabin, at the brook of Kison:
Which perished at Endor: they became as dung for the earth.
Make their nobles like Oreb, and like Zeeb: yea, all their princes as Zebah, and as Zalmunna:
Who said, Let us take to ourselves the houses of God in possession.” Psalm 83:9-12

All who confronted Israel were made to yield, while they abided under God’s covenant, for He was there to protect and care for them as He promised.

Our hope today is as David’s – to endeavor through obedience and faith to receive God’s mercy and the gift of eternal life when His Son returns to establish the worldwide kingdom of Israel.

So many in the world today do not know of Jehovah as the One true God and Creator. Only when His Son, the Lord Jesus returns to gather His people, will the gospel message be proclaimed from one end of the earth to the other – enlightening all. Then all will know of Him, His Son and His purpose with His people Israel.

We are helped in knowing that the generations of Israel’s

enemies have not been successful, nor will they be in the future, in destroying this tiny nation. Although today Israel does not walk in His precepts, they are still in His eye and in His purpose, and will be sustained until the end so that they might recognize and receive their Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ. Their survival is a sign that His people, spiritual Israel, those who believe in His word will also be cared for and endure while they are covered under the saving name of His Son.

So many Christians today who say they follow Christ's word do not acknowledge the nation of Israel as God's people, but look upon her with disdain. Yet the Savior was a son of Abraham who kept the Law faithfully and in perfect obedience to God's word offered His life (as seen in type in the sacrifices under the Law). His blood was shed to make atonement for those in the past who saw Him in faith as well as those today, who are privileged to be known as spiritual Israel through adoption.

Israel though they disobeyed God and were taken into captivity through great persecution and suffering, purged from their inheritance and scattered over the breadth of the earth, have not been obliterated.

One day, all the earth will know of God's purpose when the Gatherer, the Lord Jesus, returns to gather His people to a judgment and those approved to reign with Him in the kingdom age. God's word will be proclaimed then throughout the entire world and all will know Him as the God of Israel.

This ultimate gathering will call all those who died in faith from the time of Adam, to those alive at His coming. Those who have endeavored to put on the name of Christ and walk after His example. Then will all the world know that it is the Most High who rules in the affairs of men.

M.C.S.

“THOU SHALT NOT ABHOR AN EDMITE”

Deuteronomy 23:7.

In all the great over ruling of matters of these last times, one of the significant trends in the nations is the Jewish people becoming again the nation of Israel. But there are also important matters in the Arab world. Arab peoples have again, in various places, become nations of importance. This is in accordance with scripture that is for these last times. Through Moses in those earlier years, came the affirmation that those from Abraham, whether Jew or Arab, were in an overall grouping. Consider the divine declaration as follows:-

“Thou shalt not abhor an Edomite; for he is thy brother: thou shalt not abhor an Egyptian; because thou wast a stranger in his land. The children that are begotten of them shall enter into the congregation of the LORD in their third generation.”
Deuteronomy 23:7-8.

This is the divine position concerning Israelites and Arabs. As a result, developments of happenings among such people has had a guiding over-all heavenly control. A recent media report has a particular significance. We will herewith quote from the media:-

“British European Union foreign affairs supremo will - - - promote democracy and civil rights in Egypt, Tunisia and other Middle Eastern countries following the ‘Arab Spring’. But the huge hand-out, which comes on top of five billion pounds already - - - promised - - - over the next two years intensified, concerns about the growing ambitions of Brussels diplomatic corps - - -.”

However, the overall position is that Arabs have a degree themselves of influence, to go on maintaining their own position in the world, and a remarkable amount of monetary help is finding its way to them. As we look at scriptural prophecy we then see not only is scripture very concerned about Israel, the prophecies also

speaking of Heavenly help for the Arab world, and what we see in present events, heralds the neighbouring countries to Israel are to be ultimately controlled from Heaven, and the outcome from this will be Israel with other peoples of Abraham, and the resultant worldwide Kingdom of God, with Christ in control, as the Prince of Peace.

A BIBLE CLASS

“TILL THE INDIGNATION BE ACCOMPLISHED”

Daniel 11:36

It may be asked: What is indignation? It is anger, rage – coming from a root word to foam at the mouth or be enraged. There are times when God has shown indignation. David spoke of God’s plagues upon Egypt:

“He cast upon them the fierceness of his anger, wrath, and indignation, and trouble, by sending evil angels (messengers) among them.

He made a way to his anger; he spared not their soul from death, but gave their life over to the pestilence;” Psalm 78:49-50.

David spoke of himself during times of his failures:

“... I have eaten ashes like bread, and mingled my drink with weeping,

Because of thine indignation and thy wrath: for thou hast lifted me up, and cast me down.” Psalm 102:9-10.

The Almighty’s indignation was brought about when Israel was finished as a nation, due to their disobedience to His word.

Daniel, God’s prophet, was among those taken into captivity in Babylon. There he saw visions regarding God’s activity with those powers over Israel during their captivity. Daniel’s first vision (Daniel chapter 2) was of king Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of an image, revealing national change. First was Babylon (BC 603); next, the Medes and Persians; then Greece (under Alexander); and finally Rome.

Later (BC 555) Daniel had another vision (Daniel chapter 7),

which revealed the same future nations: Babylon, Medes and Persians, Greece, and Rome. Further, (BC 534) Daniel had a third vision (Daniel chapter 11) revealing the same powers. The Almighty's indignation rose against these nations. The king of the last power:

“... shall do according to his will; and 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 shall be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.

Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.

He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be over-thrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.

He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape.

But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.”

Daniel 11:36-37,41-43.

The worldly kings will exalt themselves, ruling over the nations.

However, a change takes place:

“... tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.

And he shall plant the tabernacle of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.”

Daniel 11:44-45.

What were the “tidings out of the east and out of the north”? Daniel was shown:

“... at that time shall Michael (the Lord Jesus) stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book (book of life).

And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.” Daniel 12:1-3.

The Lord Jesus (Michael), who was born of Mary and of God, came and preached the gospel, and ascended to heaven after being crucified in AD 33. He foretold His disciples:

“... He shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” Matthew 24:31.

John, the beloved apostle of Jesus, was given the vision of the Revelation (AD 36):

“... the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb (Jesus);”

Revelation 14:9-10.

The time is coming when all those who belong to the flesh shall be cast into the lake of fire; then all indignation will have been accomplished.

J.A.DeF.

DILIGENCE

In a recent study of Paul's writings to the Hebrews, we are warned of the danger of becoming complacent and falling away from the hope of the Truth, through lack of diligence and faith:

"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 6:11-12

To be diligent means to be earnest in care and without haste, – to not move quickly without thought, but in careful deliberation. On the other hand, to be slothful is to be sluggish or inordinately slow to respond, giving little care or thought to a matter. Only through a careful diligence and perseverance were the promises sought after by the faithful of old – many times accompanied by great persecution and suffering:

"For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, Saying, surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise." Hebrews 6:13-15

Peter also gives the same message of diligence to Christ's followers in his day – to keep the promises ever before them in order to endure to the end:

"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.

Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth." II Peter 1:10,12

Peter was reminding them of the privilege they shared in their calling to God's Truth. Those chosen to serve have an obligation to keep their eye on the prize and not become lax in their duty of obedience and faith. Because of the knowledge granted of the means of life through the blood of Christ, Peter reminds us as well today, to work to be worthy of these promises:

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." II Peter 1:4-8

One's calling through Christ must be fruitful in obedience and faith – diligent and not slothful. If we forget this privilege granted, there are dire consequences, as Peter warns:

"But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins." II Peter 1:9

This is a sober reminder that if one is not diligent, they may slide back into their old fleshly thinking and disregard the great gift bestowed in being part of Christ's household. They must produce spiritual fruits in their living in order to keep their election sure.

Peter goes on to remind of the end that awaits those who have once been saved from the world and who fritter away the gift of life they have been offered through Christ:

"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world

through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."

II Peter 2:20-22

To his son in the faith Timothy, Paul wrote encouraging him to pursue those spiritual attributes in his living with all diligence, continuing with zeal to the end promised:

"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 6:12

It is God who quickens the man of spirit at baptism and once reborn, if he fails to move diligently in a spiritual manner, it is easy to slip back into the old fleshly way of living and thinking and lose the hope of life.

Christ was the perfect example of diligence. We must follow closely in His footsteps to be anchored in the same faith. His example keeps us grounded and straight on the path to pleasing the Almighty in our living. Through His covering, we are granted the opportunity as Gentiles to be grafted into the hope of Israel and to share with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the blessings promised to faithful Israel:

"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 6:19-20

M.C.S.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

**“Tarshish with all the young lions.”
(Ezekiel 38:13).**

The alignments of the modern day nations of men is itself a very great sign. Ezekiel’s prophecy speaks of a great clash of the groupings of powers. Some verses in Daniel are significant in their description of nations in these later years. We will quote concerning such:-

“And the king of the south shall be strong.”
(Daniel 11:5.)

“ ... And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him ... and ... he shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown ... and the land of Egypt shall not escape ...”
(verses 40-42.)

This description of the groupings of nations, when they so take place, is a great sign to ourselves. As we look at the nations of this our time, we see Russia and associates, and also China to the north, and then we see Britain which is linked to the United States, and with it a degree of connection with Egypt to the south.

Britain is particularly allied with the United States, which we can see confirmed, from time to time in the media’s comments. Britain has recently occupied a position with the European Union, but for all this, the United Kingdom does not appear as completely absorbed into Europe as other European nations are. We quote here from our media, some of the comments that add emphasis to Britain’s particular EU position:-

“...The Special Relationship.”

“Early in his term of office (the President) appeared to

undervalue Britain's contribution to the spread of civilised values across the world. --- Yesterday the President (USA) made good that shortfall during a thoughtful speech about relations between America and Britain, which he heralded, 'one of the oldest and strongest alliances the world has ever known' --- the United States clearly remains Britain's most important ally - - - the personal chemistry that exists between President and Prime Minister is to be greatly welcomed."

Such comments underline the special position the U.K. and the U.S.A have, and is in line with Biblical Prophecy.

The clash between the king of the north and the king of the south that is coming, in line with Biblical Prophecy, is evident to all who respect the details of scripture, and can be seen today in the position of National Groupings; and can help our faith in God's wonderful over ruling control of His good earth!

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR AUGUST 2011

Hamburg, NEW YORK

Sunday: Breaking of Bread 11:30 am
Thursday: Bible Class 3:30pm; Forestville, Hamburg &
Fredonia
Every Third Week: Revelation Study

As we are ever mindful of the welfare of our Brethren and Sisters, we rejoice in our Father's care, in providing help for our spiritual family across the sea.

As world events continue to move in the direction prophesying of the nearness of Christ's return, we ask our Heavenly Father for guidance in leading us in the way everlasting.

M.C.S.

MANCHESTER

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.
Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

As Magazine News time arrives again and we seek to communicate once more via our publication to the Brethren and Sisters of our other Ecclesias.

Salient News items seem to be again appropriate; happenings in the world prompt us to look at troubling events taking place. Oh what a blessing we have in the unity of our Ecclesias assuring us that very great things approach, when events of Ecclesias will see the united gathering of all who held on to the Eternal and to the hope of the Holy call from Heaven. How thankful we are for the help we get from above and prayers of our Brethren and Sisters.

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

www.remnantofchristseclesia.com