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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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DEUTERONOMY  
BLINDED THE MINDS OF THEM...

A BIBLE CLASS  
WISDOM OF THE PROVERBS  
SIGNS OF HIS COMING  
NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS

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AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD  
PARABLES AND PROVERBS

In recent readings, we have perceived how Jesus taught the purpose of God through parables and proverbs. For example:

“... he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine,  
Hearken: Behold, there went out a sower to sow:”  
Mark 4:2-3.

In this parable, Jesus revealed how the seed fell upon poor ground and brought forth little or no fruit; but when the seed fell upon good ground, it:

“... did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.”  
Mark 4:8.

Jesus taught that the seed could only bring forth fruit as it fell on good ground; and the seed of God’s sowing would only be pleasing to Him if it were accepted. The parable showed what was required to bring pleasure to the sower.

By the parables, Jesus taught of God’s mercy and grace. We might ask: What is a parable? It is used as something to make a comparison, a figure or a proverb, which is known to teach something that may not be clearly understood.

Parables and proverbs were used during the times of David and Solomon. Solomon himself used his wisdom:

“And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five.  
And he spake of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall: he spake also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes.  
And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom.”  
I Kings 4:32-34.

The Almighty also said to Solomon:

“... I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel

for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel.

But if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them:

Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people:

And at this house, which is high, every one that passeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss; and they shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and to this house?

And they shall answer, Because they forsook the LORD their God, who brought forth their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have taken hold upon other gods, and have worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath the LORD brought upon them all this evil." I Kings 9:5-9.

The Almighty spoke that Israel would "be a proverb and a byword among all people" if they turned away from Him!

Solomon in his old age did turn from the many proverbs that he had spoken; his heart was toward false gods, for he loved many wives rather than God.

David, known as a man after God's own heart, kept the proverbs of the ancients. For example, when he might have been tempted to kill Saul who sought his life, he said:

"The LORD judge between me and thee, and the LORD avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not be upon thee. As saith the proverb of the ancients, Wickedness proceedeth from the wicked: but mine hand shall not be upon thee.

The LORD therefore be judge, and judge between me and thee, and see and plead my cause, and deliver me out of thine hand." I Samuel 24:12-13,15.

Job was one who glorified God, and was determined to uphold his own integrity:

"Moreover Job continued his parable, and said,

As God liveth, who hath taken away my judgment; and the Almighty, who hath vexed my soul;  
All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils;  
My lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit.  
God forbid that I should justify you (his 'friends'): till I die I will not remove mine integrity from me." Job 27:1-5.

Hezekiah, in times of trouble, fatal illness, and Babylon about to capture Jerusalem, sought God's help:

"These are also proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out.  
It is the glory of God to conceal a thing; but the honour of kings is to search out a matter." Proverbs 25:1-2.

Four hundred years after the proverbs of Solomon, Hezekiah called upon his help, and received the Almighty's mercy and grace; his illness was cured, and Sennacherib was sent back to Babylon without an arrow being fired into Jerusalem.

At the time of Jerusalem's capture, Jeremiah God's prophet, was shown a parable regarding figs. Some were good figs – a figure of those in Jerusalem:

"... whom I have sent out of this place (Jerusalem) into the land of the Chaldeans for their good.  
For I will set mine eyes upon them for good, and I will bring them again to this land, and I will build them, and not pull them down; and I will plant them, and not pluck them up." Jeremiah 24:5-6.

And the evil figs:

"... which cannot be eaten, they are so evil; surely thus saith the LORD, So will I give Zedekiah the king of Judah, and his princes, and the residue of Jerusalem, that remain in the land, and them that dwell in the land of Egypt:  
And I will deliver them to be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth for their hurt, to be a reproach and a proverb, a taunt and a curse. In all places whither I shall drive them.  
And I will send the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, among them, till they be consumed from off the land that I

gave unto them and to their fathers.” Jeremiah 24:8-10.

The bad figs did not obey the parable, and Israel (Judah) was destroyed eleven years later!

Ezekiel was another of God’s prophets, and was with Israel in captivity in Babylon. He spoke to them, saying:

“The word of the LORD came unto me again, saying,  
What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the land  
of Israel, saying, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and  
the children’s teeth are set on edge?  
As I live, saith the Lord GOD, ye shall not have occasion  
any more to use this proverb in Israel.  
Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also  
the soul of the son is mine: The soul that sinneth, it shall  
die.” Ezekiel 18:1-4.

The sons were as their fathers, if they did not turn from “sour grapes.” This proverb had not been put to use!

The Lord Jesus used parables and proverbs often, to teach His disciples and those who sought His help. He spoke in the synagogue and read from the book of Isaiah:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.

To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.” Luke 4:18-19.

Those who heard were amazed:

“...This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.  
And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said,  
Is not this Joseph’s son?  
And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country.  
And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.” Luke 4:21-24.

Those who heard Jesus did not perceive His ability to speak and to heal, like unto a physician.

When Jesus was about to die on the cross, He said:

“These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs (parables): but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.

At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you:

For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.

I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.

His disciples said unto him, Lo, now speakest thou plainly, and speakest no proverb.

Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou comest forth from God.” John 16:25-30.

As we perceive these proverbs and parables, we can be greatly strengthened, and have hope to overcome and know eternal joy, even as Jesus overcame:

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

J.A.DeF.

## DEUTERONOMY

We have recently been reading from our Daily Program, the Book of Deuteronomy. This fifth and final book written by Moses is a repetition of the law, recited to Israel shortly before they entered the Promised Land:

“These be the words which Moses spake unto all Israel on this side Jordan in the wilderness, in the plain over against the Red sea.

And it came to pass in the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, on the first day of the month, that Moses spake unto the children of Israel, according unto all that the LORD had given him in commandment unto them.”

Deuteronomy 1:1,3.

Moses had brought them from bondage in Egypt to the edge of the Promised Land through the might of God’s hand working on their behalf. In Deuteronomy he reminded them of their past and the future that lay before them.

The congregation who first heard the law as delivered from God to Moses at Sinai after leaving Egypt, were sentenced to wander forty years in the wilderness because of unbelief. They feared the report of the spies sent to search out the land and refused to enter. They heard it was indeed a fruitful land but had walled cities and the sons of giants dwelt among the inhabitants. Because they would not listen to the two faithful spies, Caleb and Joshua, who encouraged them to trust in God, all those twenty years of age and upward died in the wilderness during the forty years of wandering, which God placed upon them as punishment:

“And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt or would God we had died in this wilderness!

And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? Were it not better for to return into Egypt?”

Numbers 14:2-3.

Caleb and Joshua were the only two spies of twelve to come back with an encouraging message of hope. These faithful men believed that God would be with them to strengthen and help defeat the inhabitants of the land. They tried to strengthen the hearts of the people to have faith, but were ignored:

“And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes:

And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land.

If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.

Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not.”  
Numbers 14:6-9.

The congregation expressed fear that their children would be at risk in this new land and become “a prey”. Yet only their children - those less than twenty years old at that time, were now standing before Moses, ready to enter the inheritance their parents had refused. The elders had all died in the forty years of wandering without seeing the ultimate end of their journey. No doubt thousands had died during that time and every family would know the loss of an elder or two. Therefore, Moses repeated the law, as we will read further, doing so to remind them of what had happened in the past because of their fathers’ failures:

“And the LORD heard the voice of your words, and was wroth, and sware, saying,

Surely there shall not one of these men of this evil generation see that good land, which I sware to give unto your fathers, Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him will I give the land that he hath trodden upon, and to his children, because he hath wholly followed the LORD.

But Joshua the son of Nun, which standeth before thee, he shall go in thither: encourage him: for he shall cause Israel to inherit it.

Moreover your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, and your children, which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil, they shall go in thither, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it.”

Deuteronomy 1:34-36,38-39.

This was a different group than those who had left Egypt. Therefore, Moses repeated to them God’s law and reminded of what had happened to their elders because of lack of faith. After hearing

his words, those sensitive in heart and mind would realize that God was in control and if they submitted to His hand with obedience and trust, they would prosper.

Jacob's family numbering seventy souls had gone down to Egypt to escape the famine. God had already established Joseph there, second only to Pharaoh in command of Egypt, who was now in a position to care and nourish his brethren from the storehouses and wealth of Egypt. They were settled in the land of Goshen and through God's protection and care, had grown and prospered into a great multitude. After four hundred and thirty years they were delivered under the hand of Moses and numbered about six hundred thousand men plus women and children – from only seventy souls:

“And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot that were men, beside children.

And a mixed multitude went up also with them; and flocks and herds, even very much cattle.” Exodus 12:37-38.

Moses and Aaron had also failed while in the wilderness when bringing forth water out of the rock. They failed to give God the glory because they were provoked by Israel's constant complaints. Because of their failure, they too were not permitted to enter the land promised.

They were poised to enter the land at the city of Jericho – the first of the cities they were to conquer in order to possess their inheritance. Moses was allowed by God to see the land stretched before them and was taken into the top of a mount to view the expanse:

“And Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, that is over against Jericho. And the LORD shewed him all the land of Gilead unto Dan,

And all Naphtali, and the land of Ephraim, and Manasseh, and all the land of Judah, unto the utmost sea.

And the south and the plain of the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, unto Zoar.

And the LORD said unto him, This is the land which I swear unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither.”

Deuteronomy 34:1-4.

He could see the land stretch before him – a fruitful plain as promised by Yahweh to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Here was the end of their journey - the long awaited inheritance they had struggled to reach after all the years of bondage in Egypt. Although Moses knew it was in God's purpose that the leadership now pass to Joshua, and would regret not being allowed to enter, he would delight in the knowledge that he had been chosen to bring the people this far.

Israel had failed in the past by not trusting or relying on God's power to deliver – whether it be food or water or help in battle. The conquest of Jericho the first of many cities to be subdued would test their faith and resolve in God's ability to save.

They were given explicit instructions, not to raise a sword or shield, nor even to make a noise, but in silence to march around the walls of the city following the ark and the priests, once for six days. On the seventh day, they would encompass the city seven times, at which time the priests would blow the ram's horns and the people were to make a great shout.

“And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout.”  
Joshua 6:10.

These were not their battle plans – they were God's. They were not to lift up their weapons, not even their voices until the signal came from the priests blowing the ram's horns. How possibly could a city be taken this way without battle by sword and spear? Only by the power of God and this is what they must understand. The battle was not theirs but God's and if they would obey Him, they would be victorious now and in conquering every city that lay before them. Complete trust and obedience was required not to make the same mistakes as their fathers had done before them.

We know from the record, they did obey and the city fell into ruins. Only Rahab and her family were saved alive because she feared the God of Israel and desired to become adopted into God's people.

From this display of God's power, the surrounding nations were struck with fear at the power that was with Israel. Israel too would keep this memory in their hearts and mind, reciting the events to their children and grandchildren for years to come so that they too would remember the power to overcome was not in the arm of man, but in obedience and trust in the God of Israel.

M.C.S.

“BLINDED THE MINDS OF THEM...”

## 2 CORINTHIANS 4:4

Paul warned of what would come to the ‘non believer’. But he added about the great heavenly help that would also come in other ways:-

“Hath shined in our hearts...” 2 Corinthians 4:6.

The world has not responded to this Heavenly approach. In this last time of the end, the ignorant have turned more and more towards injurious products of their own cleverness and devising.

Let us now look at some media comments at what peoples of the world are supporting. We will quote:-

“Britain has become a nation of pill-poppers. An average of 18 prescriptions a year are handed out by doctors to every person. Millions are now reliant on powerful drugs... orders for treatments are soaring by nearly 70% in just a decade. And this only accounts for a fraction of the tablets and medicines we are taking. A huge range of treatments are freely available...over a million prescriptions a week (are given)...a huge increase exposes the true toll (of) the nation’s harmful habits; such as are with junk food, smoking and boozing; they are having a long term health effect...it was declared that the over-all cost was £8.83 billion...up four percent on the previous year...The data from the NHS Information Centre, relates to prescriptions dispensed by community pharmacists.”

Commentators are uneasy about such figures. But there is also the marketing of harmful drugs, which affect the attitudes of those who are inclined towards, and having an indulgence for. A well known politician recently declared that MPs are “entitled to a life before politics”, claiming latitude for certain behaviour.

Paul, in that earlier time was strong to affirm:-

“For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts; to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have

this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us." 2 Corinthians 4:6-7.

This world now has a very great drug industry. But in all this, we ask, where is there perception of a way of life amongst all these peoples towards the Holy Heavenly Father, who gives life to, and a continuance to, the various races of mankind?

The position is, that the world has lost sight of a deteriorating trend "in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not."

So, the so called intellectuals speak out for their teachers; they are followed and God's testimony is put on one side.

## THE WISDOM OF THE PROVERBS

From the Scriptures we know that God endowed King Solomon with great wisdom and understanding because he sought to please Him, as did David his father:

“In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.

And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou has given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?”

I Kings 3:5-6,9.

Solomon could have looked upon his position as David’s son and heir and now king over Israel, with pride and self-glory, yet he was humble and unpretentious, looking upon himself as a “little child” who needed a Father’s direction and guidance:

“And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.

And the speech pleased the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing.”

I Kings 3:7,10.

He had not asked for riches, power or prestige as the King of Israel, as some men might, but rather asked for an understanding heart to know God’s ways and to lead His people in righteousness. What an admirable spirit of humility he displayed. Because of this tenderness of heart, the Lord granted him his desire but also added to him those things he had not asked for – riches and honor:

“Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.

And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour, so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.

And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and

my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.” I Kings 3:12-14.

With that gift of wisdom from God, Solomon penned the Book of Proverbs through the inspiration of the Almighty’s Spirit. Often in Proverbs, such a few words contain a wealth of knowledge and direction to help those seeking God’s way and to apply it in their living:

“The Proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel; To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.

A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels: To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.” Proverbs 1:1-6.

If applied, this knowledge could make one wise in the ways of God in order to be found pleasing in His sight and receive the reward promised of eternal life at the return of His Son.

The phrase “dark sayings” means a puzzle-like knot in a rope, implying a hidden meaning to be found within. How often we find a hidden jewel or second layer of understanding within these verses - hid to those who take only a cursory glance, but there for the enrichment of those who study to search it out.

Through a reverence and fear of God, wisdom begins to grow during the days of one’s probation. The understanding of God’s word speaks of His promise for an everlasting kingdom to be established by His Son, the Lord Jesus at His return. To those who have endeavored to walk after His example, is held out the hope of life eternal, to share with Christ in the peace, prosperity and blessing of a time of righteousness only seen once before – in the days before the fall in the garden. This hope can be seen buried as a hidden jewel beneath the words of Proverbs 9:10

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.  
For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased.” Proverbs 9:10.

One's natural life may be increased during probation, but the message hid here is that there is a longer life in store in the kingdom age to the faithful – life eternal, for those found approved at Christ's coming. This is a gift that only God can give.

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”  
Hebrews 11:6.

If one has a reverence for God, they will seek to follow after His word in faithfulness. Paul says that faith is the only way to please the Almighty. This is why Noah was saved, because he walked in fear of displeasing God:

“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”  
Hebrews 11:7.

He and his house of only eight souls were saved because of faith. Only eight saved who grew and multiplied to populate the world, as we know it today.

Seeking this understanding and knowledge of God's ways was foremost in Solomon's early years. However, we know from the record, that other matters diverted his love and attention and he lost his focus to diligently seek out God's Truth, as he instructed others through the Proverbs:

“My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;  
So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;  
Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;  
If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;  
Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.”  
Proverbs 2:1-5.

Solomon through his writing, instructed those seeking God's way, to search out His knowledge and understanding – to make it the guiding force in their living in the hope of entering into the kingdom promised for those found faithful at His Son's return. Later

in the Book of Ecclesiastes, also written by his hand, he sums up the work of man:

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14.

John saw this same reward in vision – the reward to be granted those who walk in faith, endeavoring to keep His commandments:

“And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunders, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.”

Revelation 19:6-8.

This is the same promise as taught by Solomon through the Proverbs – the reward of resurrection unto life eternal for those who have feared His name and have made it their whole life’s duty to submit in obedience unto His ways. Their hope is to reign with Christ as His people – His Bride, clothed in white linen as a sign of their endeavor to walk righteously during their time of probation. What a glorious hope is held out for those who stand firm and fast in the fear of the Lord and endeavor to persevere in His ways until the end of their time appointed.

M.C.S.

A BIBLE CLASS

"A PROPHET'S REWARD"  
MATTHEW 10:41

When the Lord Jesus:

"... called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease."

Matthew 10:1.

Jesus called these twelve disciples to be apostles:

"These twelve (including Judas Iscariot) Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 10:5-7.

As Jesus sent these apostles, He told them:

"... it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you."

Matthew 10:20.

The Almighty gave them the power of His Spirit to preach the gospel – not as their way, but God's. What a reward to be allowed to do the work of God and His Son, Jesus! However, in doing so, they were despised, stoned, and punished by those who were the people of Israel.

As Jesus sent forth the twelve apostles, He encouraged them not to fear:

"Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Whosoever shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 10:31-33.

What is the reward that the Almighty grants to His people? Jesus tells us:

"He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall

receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward." Matthew 10:40-41.

The Lord Jesus gave His life, which He received from God, and received His reward of eternal life, and now sits at His Father's right hand. For those who are prophets and are righteous, giving their lives to God through Jesus Christ, they will be placed at the right hand of Jesus when He returns to judge those who are responsible. They will hear His gracious words:

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

Matthew 25:34.

Those who do not respond to God's merciful kindness will be rejected at this judgment, to be cast into the lake of fire. Will we be among those who have been "prepared" to inherit the kingdom? Of the twelve apostles, eleven received Jesus' teaching; but Judas Iscariot did not receive righteousness, and sold His life for thirty pieces of silver. His end came with no reward, for he hanged himself. Jesus had said to His apostles:

"... go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go preach, saying, the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Heal the sick, cleanse the leper, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses. Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat."

Matthew 10:6-10.

Eleven received freely, and freely gave; Judas received, yet did not give; but rather demanded the thirty pieces of silver.

We, brethren and sisters, are striving to be among the prophets at Jesus' judgment, praying to receive a prophet's reward. As we prepare ourselves now, through God's grace and mercy, let us rejoice in Peter's comforting words:

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, ..."

I Peter 1:3-4.

J.A.DeF.

## SIGNS OF HIS COMING

**“Ungodliness and unrighteousness of men...”**

**Romans 1:18**

Paul, speaking about deteriorating human behaviour ensuing from time to time, speaks of certain aspects of human failure which we will make reference to, in what we describe here:-

“Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents. Without understanding...”  
Romans 1:30-31.

Scripture, speaks of times of Heavenly intervention in the past, when God brought judgment upon peoples in various places, who failed a reasonable moral behaviour in their living. Paul in his gospel work gave a serious warning of further righteous Heavenly action which is to take place:-

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;”  
Romans 1:18.

These words reveal the displeasure of The Creator when He sees an increasing trend of misbehaviour.

We will give some media comments concerning children, to whom Paul refers, as one of the deteriorating lamentable failings of peoples who have “changed the truth of God into a lie”. They are “disobedient to parents.”

So we will now quote some of the media laments:-

“Classroom violence is out of control, with over one thousand deadly weapons, including swords, knives, axes, seized from children...The arsenal included details of a knife carried by a six year old...and classroom violence has doubled in a year...a Freedom of Information is requested to police forces across Britain; this revealed that one thousand one hundred and forty five weapons were seized ON SCHOOL GROUNDS between 2006 and 2010. A total of 52 forces were asked for details with 27 responding. Had all replied the figures would have been even higher. During the same period, there were 20,841 violent crimes REPORTED ON SCHOOL PREMISES... Police have also

made 1,399 drug seizures in schools. (Including ecstasy and cannabis in the past five years... Teachers needed to be given the power to search pupils... Figures were released as the Government issued new guidelines allowing teachers to use a degree of force with unruly pupils... and allowed teachers to eject pupils, break up fights or search them. Police in Surrey seized a sword from a teenager... and a one foot long bayonet from another... and in Lancashire there were ten year olds carrying knives!"

It is a lamentable situation when young children can have such a terrifying effect.

So looking at the words of the prophet Ezekiel we read of a situation described as shameful! We then will quote such significant words as:-

"Zidonians... gone down with the slain; WITH THEIR TERROR THEY ARE ASHAMED..." Ezekiel 32:30.

But looking now at the present world situation! Where do we see in this reporting, a deep feeling of shame, at such behaviour of their children? If the parents have disobedient children, oh how they have failed as parents!!

And then we think of The Holy Father looking down from Heaven above. Times of Heavenly action approach and then there is to be the Second Coming of Christ.

We will conclude with another disturbing media comment:-

"We are scared of our own children... Are we destined to be the first generation to fear its children? Violence by pupils against teachers has doubled in a year. Forty four teachers were taken to hospital last year after being assaulted in their classrooms. Meanwhile on the home front, attacks by children, some younger than five years old, on their parents are becoming increasingly frequent. Children used to be associated with innocence, vulnerability and helplessness."

## NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR OCTOBER 2011

Hamburg, NEW YORK

Sunday: Breaking of Bread 11:30 am

Thursday: Bible Class 3:30pm; Forestville, Hamburg & Fredonia

Every Third Week: Revelation Study

We have received several communications from Christadelphians in various parts of the world, concerned about the laxity they find in their various meetings. This causes them to question their position within such bodies. The lack of a true understanding of fellowship is at the heart of most of their inquiries and this lack has led these bodies to become just another sect of Christendom.

Our witness to the Truth in these matters is encouraging and we pray that God might guide those in such a position to see the true light.

M.C.S.

## MANCHESTER

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

As the months move on we are helped and provided with enablement to continue as an Ecclesia in this place. This is also an honour to us, to be able to so witness, with the help of the Brethren and Sisters across the seas, who are so united, who are the cause of much rejoicing.

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

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