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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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## DANIEL - AN EXAMPLE OF FAITH

While following our annual reading schedule, we spend approximately 12 days reading from the Book of Daniel which covers approximately the 70 years during which the children of Israel were in captivity in Babylon.

Daniel was one of those taken into exile to Babylon, uprooted from his homeland and carried to a foreign land to dwell in captivity. He was separated into a small group chosen to be schooled in the ways and language of Babylon so that they might serve the king in his government. These youths were given preferential treatment and fed from the king's own table to elevate their health above the other captives. However, because Daniel was raised to strictly follow the dietary laws given by God to Israel, he and three of his companions would not eat or drink anything considered to be unclean.

“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself”.

Daniel 1:8

From this group of trainees, only Daniel and three of his companions asked to be given pulse to eat and water to drink instead of the wine and rich fare from the king's table. The king's food would not have been prepared in compliance with Israel's dietary laws and would therefore be considered unclean. God was pleased with their endeavor to remain steadfast to His ordinances, and after ten days it was noted:

“...their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat. As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.” Daniel 1:15,17

These four young men were rewarded of God with the gifts of knowledge and understanding which proved them valuable to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.

When none of the astrologers or wise men from Babylon could interpret the king's troubling dream, Daniel was helped of God to

explain the meaning to the king and in gratitude he set Daniel and his three friends in high ruling offices as a sign of his esteem:

“The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldst reveal this secret.

Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.

Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.”

Daniel 2:47-49

Daniel remained in a position of power even through the reign of the two kings which followed Nebuchadnezzar to the throne of Babylon. Even after the Medes and Persians came to rule, with Darius as their king, Daniel was still a very valued member of the court:

“It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom. And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.

Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm. Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.” Daniel 6:1-4

Seeking to promote themselves and find a cause to humble Daniel, these other advisors to the king searched in vain to discover a fault in Daniel that they could exploit to his detriment. They knew that the only aspect of his life they could attack was his faith:

“Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.” Daniel 6:5

Being shrewd in a fleshly manner, they devised a plan which pandered to the king's pride. No man could ask a petition of any

God or man except the king for thirty days - thus making the king feel he was equal to God. Any caught breaking this royal edict would be cast into the lion's den - a death sentence. They wickedly appealed to Darius' own flesh nature and being flattered he put their idea into law - the law of the Medes and Persians which could not be changed!

Once the king signed the decree, Daniel did not change his devotional habits towards God. He continued to pray daily as he always did, by opening his windows towards Jerusalem, where God's holy dwelling place had once stood and would stand again in the kingdom age. Another with weaker faith may have stopped praying for thirty days or done so where others could not observe him. These wicked men knew what would happen for they counted on Daniel's faithfulness not to waiver:

"Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou has signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him." Daniel 6:13-14

King Darius knew he had been deceived and manipulated by these power hungry men, therefore he "laboured" all day trying to find a loophole in the law that would allow him to rescind his prideful edict - but without remedy. In the end he had to hope that Daniel's God would deliver him from harm for he had no power to save him, even though king:

"Then the king commanded and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel,

Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee." Daniel 6:16

He must have endured a sleep-less night worrying and in his own way grieved by fasting and abstaining from everything but thoughts of Daniel, for he was ready at the break of day:

“Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him.  
Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.”

Daniel 6:18-19

We know the end of this particular trial for Daniel - he was preserved and cared for because of his innocent nature. God overpowered the vicious nature of the lions so they caused him no harm. Although relieved to hear and see that Daniel was safe, Darius' anger was immediately directed towards those wicked men who tried to entrap both him and Daniel:

“And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.” Daniel 6:24

To show his gratitude and respect for Daniel's God, Darius sent a decree throughout his empire:

“I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.

He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.” Daniel 6:26-28

What a witness was made by Daniel's faith and trust in the Lord - even to impress the king of a worldly kingdom who was not before time aware of Israel's God. We too can prosper in whatever trials we face if we endeavor to keep ourselves from the world's influences that can defile our walk in faith. Perhaps inspired by Daniel's record of purity and faithfulness, David wrote in the Psalms:

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.  
And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

Psalm 1:1-3

M.C.S.

**"THE SIMPLE BELIEVETH EVERY WORD..."  
(Proverbs 14:15)**

What is simple? In today's world it means uncomplicated or basic. What does it mean when describing a person? A simple person possesses little understanding and can be considered half-witted; but it also can mean one who does not possess guile. The concordance lists simple as meaning silly, seducible, or foolish, and is derived from a root to be open or to make roomy.

Let us consider the thought of an empty space, which has the potential of being used for many things, but if it is left empty it remains empty and basically useless. If it is filled with good things, then it becomes more valuable. The better the items placed within a space, the more valuable the space becomes. For example, consider a museum filled with precious art. To some that space is a treasure; but to others it might be more valuable being filled with books to make it a library. With man it is the same. Some men fill themselves with nothing but the wisdom of this world and become the best in their field, with no regard for God and His wisdom. Others, desiring to please God, reach a balance between worldly wisdom and God's word.

We all start out as simple (open) beings. As children our understanding is limited, we are uncomplicated and trusting. We are open spaces waiting to be filled with knowledge, completely

dependent upon our parents for all things. It is for this reason that Jesus told His disciples to:

“... Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 19:14

The Lord Jesus serves as an example to us, even from the early age of 12 when Mary and Joseph traveled to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover and took Jesus with them. Returning home, Jesus was not with them, nor in the company of those with whom they traveled. Mary and Joseph turned back to look for Him, and after three days' search, Jesus was found at the temple, asking questions of those there, and astonishing them with His knowledge and understanding. When Jesus was asked:

“... why hast thou thus dealt with us?”

His answer:

How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?” Matthew 2:48-49

Even from that early age Jesus knew he could not be simple in the ways of God, who had given Him a tremendous work - a work that required Jesus to fill every corner of potential empty space with the word and knowledge of God. He agonized to be that perfect sacrifice, fulfilling all righteousness, so that mankind would have a hope of eternal life in God's kingdom, through the freewill offering of His own life and body. The simple characteristics of children are what God would like all of His children to have according to His will and word, but we live in the world where sin abounds. We must become prudent and perceptive; we must be led by God away from the easy (simple) path of our own flesh with its temptations and sin. Rather, we are to walk that straight and narrow way which He has set forth for us, that can lead to eternal life:

“A prudent man foreseeeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on and are punished.” Proverbs 22:3

If man does not include the influence of God in his life, then there will always be an empty space within him, because we were created in His own image and were meant to be worthy servants,

praising the Almighty Father with our deeds and words. We must remember this was the purpose of God in creating the world:

“... for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.”  
Isaiah 43:7

Without God’s influence in our lives, man will search for ways to fill that empty space with the wisdom of this world, but we know man’s wisdom is nothing in God’s eyes:

“For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God...”  
I Corinthians 3:19

Even with God’s influence in our lives, we still remain simple, for we can never be completely filled with God’s word, knowledge and Spirit, while we are flesh. It is only upon Jesus’ return and the faithful are judged righteous, that there is hope of becoming Spirit beings, living in God’s kingdom in everlasting joy and peace. God’s word gives us hope, gives us direction, and provides us with a way to fill our open spaces as simple creatures, transforming us into vessels worthy of reflecting His word, and doing it willingly each day of our lives:

“Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them.  
The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.  
I opened my mouth, and panted: for I longed for thy commandments.  
Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; and teach me thy statutes.”  
Psalm 119:129-131,135

Also, further words of David:

“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.”  
Psalm 19:7

As we grow in the Lord, we gain a knowledge that gives us direction. We know what we must do to please God, but that does not mean we have it easy. On the contrary, the struggle will continue, for God tests us, to prove us, whether we will continue to seek and

rely on Him. The simple man will likely revert to his old ways because he will not conform. It isn't easy, as is seen from the words of Solomon, speaking of wisdom:

“How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?

Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.”

Proverbs 1:22-23

On the other hand, a prudent man understands that with the knowledge of God comes great responsibility. He will continue to look to the future and the hope that God has promised to those who remain faithful. Faith in God gives him an anchor to keep him on the path that God has set forth. Because of the knowledge and hope God has imparted, we know the direction we must continually strive to follow, so that we are not distracted by the simple (easy) things in this life. We must remain vigilant to subdue our own flesh and the influences of the world, for it will always be a struggle until Jesus comes. As He told His disciples:

“Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.”

Matthew 10:16

We are reminded of Solomon's words, the author of the verse we have just considered. He was granted much wisdom by God, enabling him to rule Israel with a wise and understanding heart, so that there was none like him, before nor after him, to have such wisdom. Yet this man was seduced by his fleshly desires until at the end of his life, he became simple in the ways of God, and wise in the ways of man. Recognizing his failings, he said:

“Better is a poor and wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no longer be admonished.”Ecclesiastes 4:13

E.J.M.

## HIS ENDURING WORD

God's word, consistent in hope and promise, has been given that those who love Him may abide therein, growing in spiritual strength as it is absorbed into their living. In this endeavor, Peter directs his letter to the brethren dispersed throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia as he writes:

"For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

I Peter 1:24

He reminds that man is as the grass which soon dries up and is gone and urges that they focus upon the enduring word of God as the only sure source of stability. Peter is quoting from the fortieth chapter of Isaiah where the prophet also foretells of the fulfillment of His promise to man:

"The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it:

The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field:

The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.

The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."

Isaiah 40:4-8

Isaiah and Peter living hundreds of years apart, both preached that same word with confidence that these things would come to pass because, "the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it". That word has been sent to all generations of the frail and lowly in spirit,

bringing the joyful news of the kingdom of God on earth through His Son Jesus Christ. Peter said those who had this knowledge in faith were, "elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father", and indeed only through the mercy of the Almighty has this wisdom been made possible for those who seek to please him.

"But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you."

I Peter 5:10

Peter labored to bring this knowledge to his brethren; the understanding that the flesh had to be restrained and diminish in order that the spirit man within may grow and flourish. How is this done? Peter explains:

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."

I Peter 4:12-13

Just as a fire burns and purifies, so too must the natural man be consumed through patience in adversity in order that what remains may be a man of spirit pleasing to the Father.

David was one who through trial and affliction settled his mind upon the enduring hope held out to those who stand fast:

"For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: thou has established the earth, and it abideth.

They continue this day according to thine ordinances: for all are thy servants.

Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction.

I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast quickened me.

I am thine, save me; for I have sought thy precepts."

Psalms 119:89-94

It was God's word that in the beginning created all that was good. It was the work of that same Word made flesh that Peter had looked upon in the face of the Lord Jesus, and that which he preached of to his brethren, exhorting them to hold fast to the hope extended:

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy."  
I Peter 4:9-10

What a blessing to man that through God's word we are called out of the darkness of ignorance and unbelief unto the hope of life. This can be possible however only by God's grace and mercy, and as diligent effort is made to restrain the wilfulness of the flesh nature through obedience unto that word.

David writes further in thankfulness for that mercy extended to him:

"I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations. For I have said, Mercy shall be built up for ever: thy faithfulness shalt thou establish in the very heavens. I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant,  
Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah."  
Psalm 89:1-4

"Selah" meaning, value it considering the end - value the gospel and covenant of God made with David and His chosen throughout the generations, truly appreciating that there has been promised at the end of His purpose a kingdom to be ruled over by the Lord Jesus and His saints. All this is made known through that same word to us today. This is the enduring message of hope which Peter exhorts his brethren to lay hold upon:

"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

I Peter 1:22-23

If that word does not live within us, there can be no hope of sharing in the future immortality of that royal priesthood which David, Peter and we today as Gentiles grafted into the hope of Israel, aspire unto. These words have been a source of life and hope, abiding throughout the ages. Let us too hold them fast, that we might hope in His mercy and be granted a place as His saints - a people eternal with God.

### A BIBLE CLASS

**"For the word of God is quick and  
powerful, and sharper than any  
two edged sword"  
(Hebrews 4:12)**

In our chapter under consideration, Paul is warning the Hebrews to remain steadfast under the new covenant they have embraced - the gospel of Christ preached to them. Paul encourages them to work to be able to receive the reward of salvation promised and not to fall away (as did their fathers) due to unbelief or disobedience. To those Hebrews who had now embraced Christ, Paul exhorts:

"For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end:  
While it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.  
For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.  
But with whom was he grieved forty years? Was it not with

them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?  
And to whom swore he that they should not enter into his  
rest, but to them that believed not?

So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief."

Hebrews 3:14-19

Paul continues in the 4th chapter saying:

"Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man  
fall after the same example of unbelief. For the word of God  
is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged  
sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and  
spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of  
the thoughts and intents of the heart." Hebrews 4:11-12

In the above verse, the word of God is described as a two -  
edged sword - one of the deadliest weapons known to those of Paul's  
day. A single edged sword could be either straight or curved, but  
the purpose of either sword was to inflict damage. The two-edged  
blade was much more deadly for the target could be lacerated with  
either a forward or backward motion of the arm and a soldier with  
a two-edged blade had a distinct advantage over an opponent with  
only a single edged blade.

History tells us that the children of Israel when they conquered  
the Promised Land would no doubt have used single edged swords  
made of bronze. During the time of the Philistines, two-edged  
swords made of iron were introduced and they were careful to keep  
them out of the hands of their enemies the Israelites until the time  
of David. The Romans continued the use of these weapons but  
advanced the technology by making them with iron and steel. Those  
of Paul's day would have been very familiar with the devastating  
power of the two-edged sword wielded by the Romans. Therefore,  
when Paul speaks of God's word being more power than a two-  
edged sword it would have been as if he spoke today of the latest  
battle tank or a guided missile.

Reading further, Paul refers to the word of God, "sharper than  
any two-edged sword" - being able to divide the joints and marrow,  
soul and spirit, making all parts open to His eyes - nothing hidden.  
This is how penetrating the word of God can be - He knows the

heart and mind of each person - we can hide our thoughts and intentions from others, but to God nothing is hidden.

This is not the only example where the word of God is compared to a sword. In Ephesians, Paul speaks of the spiritual armor of God available to the faithful:

“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day and having done all, to stand.  
Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;  
And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;  
Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.  
And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God;”  
Ephesians 6:13-17

John writes in the Revelation of the vision he saw of Christ who was the personified word of God:

“And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.  
His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;  
And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.  
And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.” Revelation 1:13-16

David was one who believed in the coming of God’s judgment and hoped to be part of the future saints who will share with Christ their Head, in the work of bringing righteous judgment against those nations opposed to God, Christ and His people:

“Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints.  
Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of

Zion be joyful in their King.  
Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises  
unto him with the timbrel and harp.  
For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify  
the meek with salvation.  
Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon  
their beds.  
Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-  
edged sword in their hand.  
To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments  
upon the people;  
To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters  
of iron;  
To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour  
have all his saints, Praise ye the LORD." Psalm 149:1-9

Again, the two-edged sword is spoken of as part of the Saint's armour. But now as His Saints and Spirit creatures, they are able to exact a terrible vengeance with God's power.

Going back to our study in Hebrews 4, Paul tells us that God's word is even more powerful than a two-edged sword - "dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart". No actual sword has the ability to divide the soul and spirit or discern the thoughts of the heart - only God is capable of such power and will do so when all is revealed at Christ's judgment seat. To those found approved in that day, their once fleshly bodies will be regenerated into an incorruptible spiritual mind and body, with fleshly distractions removed now able to glorify God with perfection for all eternity.

J.N.S.

## GRAVESIDE COMMENTS AT A RECENT BURIAL

As we are assembled here this morning, we have only to look about us to observe the many graves and headstones located in this quiet little cemetery. These graves are confirmation of the undeniable truth of God's Word - that as a result of man's disobedience, all have been cursed with the sentence of death, rendering all men dying creatures. All know they will die as attested to by the many names engraved on these headstones around us. Some have already died and some names are engraved alongside a family member while still alive but waiting their death.

Such was the case of John DeFries whose name was engraved beside his wife of 59 years, Naomi, who was laid to rest almost 10 years ago. At that time his name and birth date were placed on the headstone beside hers and soon the date of his death, January 7, 2012 will be added to the stone.

At age 94, John had a long and accomplished life. If he could speak to us assembled here today, he would say the greatest of these accomplishments was his embracing of God's Truth. He knew the blessing of understanding God's Word and valued the struggle to walk in it. He knew of God's curse upon man, but also knew God's mercy and grace in providing a way of escape from the bonds of death through the victory of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. He held this hope dear right to the end of his earthly probation. Now that his probation is ended, he awaits in sleep in this very grave for the call to judgment at Jesus' return, as the Apostle Paul writes:

"For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death."

I Corinthians 15:21-26

This was also John's belief. He was not misled by the popular but false notion of entering into either heaven or hell at death, but knew that the Kingdom of God would be here upon earth, established at the return of the Lord Jesus. And in the meantime he sleeps here in hope, awaiting Jesus' call to resurrection.

This same promise was written of by the prophet Isaiah:

"For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.

And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD."      Isaiah 65: 17-19,25

This was John's hope - a hope shared by his brethren and sisters in Christ, both here and in England, who in faith also await Jesus' return.

In speaking of faith we are left a record in Hebrews chapter 11 of many of the faithful of old such as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and many others of whom it is said:

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise.

God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."

Hebrews 11:13,39-40

These faithful of old likewise await Jesus' return, giving us an example from their record of good works how we are to conduct our living today in faith and belief in God's promise to us.

This was the faith of the one we come to lay to rest today, as well as the faith of his sister wife Naomi and his sister Nancy Brown who likewise takes repose here.

Yes, we remaining have lost a beloved family member and a good friend - but we know of his hope and trust in God, which helps to lessen the sorrow we now feel at his absence.

“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”

I Thessalonians 4:13-14,18

M.C.S.

## SIGNS OF HIS COMING

### “UNTIL THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES BE FULFILLED”

(Luke 21:24)

From the nations of the world come many troubled reports and today we are considering just two of these. From the Middle East there are numerous reports of turmoil, violence and deep political problems as well as threats of new hostilities breaking out. From the Falkland Islands and South America, Britain's interests are being challenged and tensions between the UK and Argentina are growing.

A report from the media summarises the current situation in the Middle East:

“The Arab Spring is rapidly turning into a winter of chaos and oppression. As protests grip the Egyptian capital of Cairo, and Islamic fundamentalists gain in confidence there and elsewhere across the region, the hopes of Western leaders for a new era of democracy across the Middle East have been exposed as hopelessly naive.

For far from paving the way for freedom and pluralism, the uprisings have led only to more intolerance, authoritarianism and division.

The sense of darkening crisis in Egypt this week is a disturbing example of this trend."

The crisis in the South Atlantic is a reminder of the Falklands War which took place some thirty years ago. At the time of the former troubles Britain sent a naval force to the South Atlantic to respond to an Argentinian invasion of the Falkland Islands. It was an unhappy time and many lives were lost. These new tensions are being discussed in the media and we quote herewith:

"We are ready for Falklands War says Argentina.

Argentina raised prospect of conflict with Britain...the defence minister in the Buenos Aires government accused the UK of attempting to destabilise his country and provoke hostilities. Argentina was ready to go to war... 'we will exercise our legitimate right.., and we have the capacity to do so' ...the foreign ministry protested to the UN about the militarisation of the South Atlantic."

The British Prime Minister retorted that, "We are not militarising the South Atlantic. Our defensive posture in the Falklands remains the same." But in Argentina there have been public demonstrations and protests against Britain.

Christ declared that these troubled times would come to an end and warned that the time of gentile nations would not continue forever. As we look at world events, do we not see, taking place around us and across the world, the working out and the development of that which will bring this Kingdom of Peace.

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR APRIL 2012

HAMBURG, NEW YORK

Sunday: Breaking of Bread 11:30 am

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

Every Third Week: Revelation Study

As reported elsewhere in this issue, we note the passing of our dear brother and friend, John DeFries. Of his 94 years, 66 were spent in the pursuit of fellowship with the Lord Jesus, "The only name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved". He will be sorely missed by those left behind, but the hope of being reunited with him at the return of the Lord Jesus, encourages us to walk in that straight and narrow way as we trust in God's mercy and grace. We have all appreciated his ministrations and kindness in our shared walk.

M.C.S.

MANCHESTER

Sunday: Breaking of Bread 11:30 am

Thursday: Bible Class 2:00 pm

The time for another communication from the Manchester Ecclesia has arrived. The Ecclesial meetings continue to take place; it is a provision of our Heavenly Father. It is such a blessing, to keep in continuing fellowship - brethren and sisters in the rejoicing of the Faith.

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

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