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The Remnant of Christ's Ecclesia

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A WITNESS TO THE TRUTH

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

"Take heed that ye be not deceived"

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ZECHARIAH'S MESSAGE - TURN BACK TO HIM

The prophet Zechariah, whose name means "God remembers" endeavored to instill these visions and God's word to the Jews held captive in Babylon. It was now the end of the seventy years when God had promised they would be returned to their own homeland to rebuild the city of Jerusalem and the temple situated there.

In Zechariah's first vision he saw an angel who talked with the Lord saying:

"Then the angel of the LORD answered and said, O LORD of hosts, how long wilt thou not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which thou hast had indignation these threescore and ten years?"

Zechariah 1:12

And the Lord answered:

"... I am jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with a great jealousy.

And I am very sore displeased with the heathen that are at ease: for I was but a little displeased, and they helped forward the affliction.

Therefore thus saith the LORD; I am returned to Jerusalem with mercies: my house shall be built in it, saith the LORD of hosts, and a line shall be stretched upon Jerusalem."

Zechariah 1:14-16

God had turned away from His people because of their idolatry and wickedness in turning away from Him and His word. He used the nation of Babylon as His arm of vengeance and took them into captivity for 70 years. Zechariah was sent now to tell them that their time of exile was ended and if they would turn back to the Lord, He would turn back to them with help and strength.

Zechariah was given several visions in this work, to impress upon him and Judah that God was near at hand and His word would be fulfilled if they had faith and belief.

In chapter two Zechariah saw a man with a measuring line in his hand, measuring the city of Jerusalem. The city had been abandoned, no vestige of her former glory remained. Yet this vision

spoke of her rebuilding into a great city where many men and cattle would dwell:

“And, behold, the angel that talked with me went forth, and another angel went out to meet him, And said unto him, Run, speak to this young man, saying, Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls for the multitude of men and cattle therein: For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her.”

Zechariah 2:3-5

This vision spoke in part of the immediate future when they were allowed to leave Babylon and rebuild Jerusalem, but speaks in greater part of the Kingdom age to come. Only then will Jerusalem be a glory to the entire world, a place of peace and prosperity (as towns without walls) after Christ and His Saints subdue all those nations that oppose God’s people:

“For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye. For, behold, I will shake mine hand upon them, and they shall be a spoil to their servants: and ye shall know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me. Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD. And the LORD shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem again.” Zechariah 2:8-10,12

The man with the measuring line represented the One who in all points was perfect - the standard against which all men should be then measured, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

In chapter three, the third vision given to Zechariah showed Joshua the high priest as the representative of God’s law in the city of Jerusalem and to him was said:

“Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH. For behold the stone that I have laid before Joshua; upon

one stone shall be seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the Lord of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.

In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, shall ye call every man his neighbour under the vine and under the fig tree."

Zechariah 3:8-10

This vision speaks of a time of peace and rest when the high priest would be established in Jerusalem and the word of God would be engrained in each man's living. The earth will be subdued from the curse of laboring by the sweat of one's brow and each man will feel peace, prosperity and love with one's neighbor. Only those who bow the knee to God and obey the righteous rule of Christ and His saints will be permitted entrance and enjoy that wondrous realm.

Each one of these visions was to be accomplished not by the power of man and the arm of flesh but by the power of the Spirit alone. The time will soon be at an end for the nations to rule.

God is patient in waiting for all those to be called - who He knows in His wisdom can conform in obedience and faith, endeavoring to walk after the example of His Son. When His household is complete, then will the trumpet of God sound and Christ will return to the earth to first gather the responsible and judge them according to God's word. Those found approved in His mercy will become an army of saints sent forth into the world to bring the knowledge of God to all mankind. To those who submit to Him will be granted peace and a dwelling place in the Kingdom, while to those who oppose this righteous rule will come destruction and death.

The world has gone on so long weighed under the burden of corruption, greed and violence from the rule of man, yet the time is soon coming when righteousness will overcome all the establishments of men and God will be glorified by all the earth.

Looking about us it seems hard to believe at times, but this is what Zechariah's visions and message of hope was to bring to Judah in his day and to us who wait today. God is constant and ever merciful holding out the hand of life to those who will turn in obedience and faith to Him today.

M.C.S.

HABAKKUK

We have recently been reading the 56 verses contained in the Book of Habakkuk. He speaks in the first chapter of his lament for the evil of that time:

“O LORD, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! Even cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save! Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance? For spoiling and violence are before me: and there are that raise up strife and contention. Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.” Habakkuk 1:1-4

God’s answer to this wickedness among his people was to bring vengeance and captivity upon Judah through the nation of the Chaldeans:

“For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwellingplaces that are not theirs. They are terrible and dreadful: their judgment and their dignity shall proceed of themselves. Their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves: and their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from far; they shall fly as the eagle that hasteth to eat. They shall come all for violence: their faces shall sup up as the east wind and they shall gather the captivity as the sand.” Habakkuk 1:6-9

Through Habakkuk’s prophecy we see a people who were slack to follow God’s word and were sliding further into the abyss of wickedness and idolatry, just as the alien nations which surrounded them. God’s remedy because they would not hear and fear His word, was to send the Chaldeans upon them to carry them away in captivity to their own land. Since they turned their back against Him so would He turn His back on them - refusing the care

and guidance He had given to a people once eager to follow after His ways.

The second chapter speaks of the vengeance God will bring upon the enemies of His people:

“...Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.” Habakkuk 2:2-3

It may seem the unrighteous rule, but at the end of God’s purpose, destruction will overshadow them and His hand will save those that trust in the goodness of God. Habakkuk goes on to describe those that transgress:

“Yea also, because he transgresseth by wine, he is a proud man, neither keepeth at home, who enlargeth his desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people:

Shall not all these take up a parable against him, and a taunting proverb against him, and say, Woe to him that increaseth that which is not his! How long? And to him that ladeth himself with thick clay!

Shall they not rise up suddenly that shall bite thee, and awake that shall vex thee, and thou shalt be for booties unto them?

Because thou hast spoiled many nations, all the remnant of the people shall spoil thee; because of men’s blood, and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein.” Habakkuk 2:5-8

This was God’s warning to the Chaldeans, but also to any who would lift up their hand against those that are His. We see today in Israel how many nations seek to plunder their land, to cause fear in her people and to place her in harm’s way. Although the Jews are not serving God now as He desires, yet His eye is still upon that land and will not allow their enemies to swallow them up because

of His promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He will preserve them until the coming of His Son Jesus Christ and His saints, when all Israel will then be forced to acknowledge their Savior, Jesus Christ, as the One whom they have pierced.

Habakkuk's prophecy in the third chapter is in the form of a prayer for the power of God to rid the earth of the enemy. In chapter 3 he prophesies of the deliverance to come:

"God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise.

And his brightness was as the light; he had horns (rays of light) coming out of his hand: and there was the hiding of his power.

Before him went the pestilence, and burning coals went forth at his feet.

He stood, and measured the earth: he beheld, and drove asunder the nations; and the everlasting mountains were scattered, the perpetual hills did bow: his ways are everlasting."

Habakkuk 3:3-6

Creating light from the darkness was God's first act in a series of miracles whereby He created the earth and all that inhabited the earth and seas. Vegetation, fruit, the sun, moon and stars as lights in the firmament to continue growth, fish in the seas and fowl in the air, cattle and all creeping things and finally man. All was done in order and progression according to His plan.

In these last days we are living in a violent world guided by its own thinking and strength. Yet it will be brought down by God's power when the age of Christ and the saints usher in a rule of righteousness and justice. The creation of a new world order of peace will be the destruction of men who wish to rule in wickedness as they have always done. They will now be accountable for their actions or suffer the consequences.

Paul quotes the prophecy of Habakkuk as he too speaks of the cleansing that will come in the last days for the righteous:

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto Salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith.” Romans 1:7

To the Galatians Paul again used the words of Habakkuk to encourage them to live by faith and not the law, now conquered by Christ’s death:

“But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” Galatians 3:22-29

Faith will not be accounted to us through the law or by following its precepts, but by following the life of Christ who was born under the law but given the Spirit of God. He then extended to us Gentiles that hope of life through the Spirit within Him. If we can endeavor to walk after His example of faith and Spirit, we are His brethren and sisters and heirs of the promises given through Him.

Habakkuk’s prophecy gives hope of the righteousness to come at the end of God’s purpose when God’s Anointed, along with His saints, will sweep through the earth leaving a path of destruction

upon the wicked. No more will the arm of flesh prevail. But to those of a tender heart, who look to Him in faith and hope, will be granted a place of peace and prosperity in the Kingdom to be established.

What encouragement these words give us as we see the sure deterioration of all that is honorable and moral in the lives of men today. Our prayer, like Habakkuk's, though with a certain fear lest we be found wanting, is:

“He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus.” Revelation 22:20

M.C.S.

“THE LORD WEIGHETH THE SPIRITS”
Proverbs 16:2

Our verse under consideration displays the great wisdom of Solomon, granted by God, so that we may consider our ways in our daily struggle to please God. For further clarification, consider the definition of the words “weigh” and “spirits.” To weigh is to compare with a standard, or to ponder. When we use a scale or balance to weigh an object, the measuring device already has been calibrated using a standard or known weight. The spirits refer to the breath of man or his life. To gain further insight we must consider the whole verse:

“All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits.” Proverbs 16:2.

The verse instructs that God is the true judge of man. Man cannot truly judge himself, for he is blinded by fleshly ways. There is an obvious contrast between God and man’s version of clean. In man’s eyes all things of man are clean or good, because they are what please him; but in truth, the way of man is evil and it is only God’s influence that brings any redeeming characteristics to man. A man seeking to please God will struggle to be obedient, but only the Almighty and His word can truly judge what man does. Man can deceive himself, or others, into believing that what he does is for good; but in the light of the Word of God, man’s best intentions often pale. It is for this reason that we must keep in mind that God is weighing our spirits daily, and we must turn to His instructing Word to gain strength and guidance.

“Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.” Proverbs 16:3.

By living with God in the forefront of our mind, man’s thoughts and actions will become more pleasing to Him. It is the constant influence of God, through His Word, that keeps the flesh of man in check. Thus sin does not manifest itself, which is pleasing to God. As the Word of God influences the works of man, they become a reflection of His righteousness.

“By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.” Proverbs 16:6.

It is the fear of failing God that drives the godly man to seek Him more diligently. If fear is not present, it is because the flesh has taken hold and the ways of this world have become the priority. The mercy and truth that purges iniquity gives the recipient a good witness that hopefully causes him to turn from his failures. Jesus' perfect fear and love for His Father allowed Him to overcome His fleshly nature. We know Jesus fulfilled God's Word by the fact that He was called "the Word was made flesh" (John 1:14). It is by His example that God weighs us. Jesus did not fail, and because of His victory God raised Him from the dead, to be our Mediator and Redeemer, to make intercession on our behalf.

As a daily reminder that God is judging our words and actions, and comparing them with the standard (Jesus), He tells us through the words of Isaiah:

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."
Isaiah 55:7-9.

We are told clearly that God's ways and thoughts are higher than man's; and only when we turn from our fleshly ways can we be pardoned by God. The Almighty in His mercy has provided a way to be pardoned through Jesus, but only if He sees that our actions are appropriately centered on Him, and we seek His Word to make changes within ourselves.

When man's ways seem right to himself it is likely that his flesh is blinding him from the reality that is before him. Thinking back to Adam and Eve: Eve was tempted to eat the fruit and thought that she could eat of it even though God had commanded them:

"... Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die."
Genesis 3:3.

Eve felt that she could eat of the fruit and not die, but "be as

gods, knowing good and evil." After Adam and Eve had eaten, God came to them and passed on the sentence of death to all flesh because of their disobedience. God, in His mercy, provided the covering of skins, which was a sign to them, and to all future generations, that He has provided a way for those sins to be forgiven by the shedding of blood. We know that the blood spilled for our sins was that of Jesus, and only through His covering sacrifice do we have a hope of attaining God's promised Kingdom. However, we must control our own flesh by recognizing the importance that God is weighing our every step every day. The example of the first man and woman and their sin allow us to perceive this.

"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Proverbs 16:25.

So let us keep in mind that God is always watching us, looking to see how we act and react to each circumstance that we meet. We cannot hide our faults from God, as we can from man and sometimes even from ourselves! He sees us when we are at our best, which pleases Him; and He sees us at our worst, as Job said:

"Doth not he see my ways and count all my steps?"
Jobs 31:4.

By those ways and steps, God ponders and compares us against His standard each day, keeping account for that Day of Judgment. Let us take heed and make sure our hearts are timed to God, and our fruit is the good fruit that He seeks:

"... the tree is known by his fruit." Matthew 12:33.

If our fruit is not good fruit and we cannot keep the Word of God as an anchor within our lives, then we will hear the words of God, as spoken by Daniel to Belshazzar, king of Babylon, on the day of our judgment:

"... Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting." Daniel 5:27.

E.J.M.

A BIBLE CLASS

“MERRY HEART HATH A CONTINUAL FEAST”

Proverbs 15:15

To get the full picture, the whole verse is quoted as follows:

“All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast.” Proverbs 15:15.

It may be helpful to briefly cover the definitions from the concordance of a few of the words in our verse under consideration:

Afflicted - to be needy, poor, oppressed, lowly, often referring to a class of persons lacking resources and of a low status.

Evil - translated as bad, disagreeable or inferior.

Merry - the root word used in our verse means good, pleasing, desirable, glad, pleasant, cheerful, and loving. This is opposed to some other places where merry has a root conveying celebration or revelry.

Feast - a good thing which is based on God’s word; it is understanding:

“Understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly.” Proverbs 16:22.

Regarding the afflicted, or the idea of being afflicted, everyone faces troubles and trials during their lives; this is to be expected. It is how we handle our trials that can make all the difference! There is a distinction between affliction and being afflicted. Someone who is undergoing a trial is suffering affliction, but it is something they are struggling against and working to overcome. To be called “afflicted” conveys the idea of a class of people who basically identify themselves with that affliction, who are oppressed by it, and falter under its weight. Affliction tries us and brings out our true character. We can overcome with God’s help. This idea may be implied by the “continual feast”, as mentioned in our verse — the idea of a continual feeding upon God’s word which will strengthen us against our fleshly impulses. It is how a spiritual life can be obtained. An example of a “continual feast” is found in Paul’s words to his Roman brethren:

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us.”

Romans 5:1-5.

Solomon expressed a similar thought later in the Proverbs:

“A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.”

Proverbs 17:22.

A merry heart - made so and strengthened by the knowledge that God is with us to help us overcome our trials - helps to buoy us in times of difficulty. It can act as a preventative medicine, which might not take away all the pain, but helps to dull it and make it more bearable. In contrast, someone with a broken spirit, who is bereft of the confidence inspired by the knowledge that they can receive divine assistance, is likely simply to fall apart under the pressure and allow themselves to wallow in sorrow and become engulfed by depression.

Peter provides us with an interesting perspective on trial:

“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.

If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.”

I Peter 4:12-14.

It may seem strange to rejoice during trial, for this certainly is not pleasing to the flesh! However, rather than bemoan our troubles, Peter advises us to embrace them as an assurance that we are

following after Christ's example. If we can deal successfully with our trials, this will be counted to our credit at the time of judgment.

James expresses a similar sentiment:

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;
Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.
But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.” James 1:2-4.

The trials that we face, if we come through them successfully, will strengthen our faith and allow us to handle even greater difficulties in the future, and conform ourselves to the example set forth by the Lord Jesus. Paul further encourages his Hebrew brethren:

“Now no chastening (affliction, trial) for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.” Hebrews 12:11.

And further:

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:2.

The Lord Jesus was evil spoken of, but rose above it:

“... consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.” Hebrews 12:3.

Affliction is given to us in order to combat our fleshly nature. David expressed his mind:

“Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.
I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that

thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.
Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have
perished in mine affliction." Psalm 119:67,75,92.

Returning to Proverbs, Solomon says:

"The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a
wounded spirit who can bear?" Proverbs 18:14.

A man who has a right spirit - that of looking to God for help and guidance - will be able to weather the inevitable storms that come. However, someone with a wounded spirit does not have the conviction that God's help is available. This person will allow the natural pessimism and negativity of the flesh to pull him down and become overwhelmed by his burdens, unable to endure.

It is easy to maintain a merry heart during the good times! However, it is even more important to try and maintain that merry heart during the times of difficulty, not only from a practical, psychological standpoint for our own well being; but because the spirit of a person who can maintain that merry, appreciative heart will be pleasing to God. Our faith will be strengthened, believing He will guide us through distresses; and it will help to mold us into having that right spirit which can be found acceptable at the day of judgment, and bring the hope of entering that promised joy and blessing of the kingdom.

"We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.
But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; ...as having nothing, and yet possessing all things."

II Corinthians 6:1,4,10.

J.N.S.

ELISHA THE PROPHET

The Biblical account of Elisha's life has been preserved in scripture undoubtedly to encourage all in these last days who seek and hold fast to the precious truth.

We shall quote from some scripture:

"Then spake Elisha unto the woman, whose son he had restored to life, saying, Arise, and go thou and thine household, and sojourn wheresoever thou canst sojourn: for the LORD hath called for a famine: and it shall also come upon the land seven years.

And the woman arose and did after the saying of the man of God: and she went with her household, and sojourned in the land of the Philistines seven years." (II Kings 8:1-2)

This account is encouraging and we shall endeavour to point out why. The overruling help from Heaven may we list herewith:

1. There had been the bringing of the resurrection to the woman in the raising of her son.
2. The woman had responded in FAITH.
3. The calling out from the land was a great trial.
4. Provision was made for her.
5. Further help was given to her in the restoration of her properties.

There is a lot of help for us too and as we learn from the experiences of early days we can readily see the help given to us in our own time.

The Most High looked down from Heaven and sent His care and His help. This particularly came at that time to that woman with THAT Faith, and these details are preserved in the Holy Word to encourage those of the precious TRUTH, even to this last time.

The life of Elisha was an example and these details come as an

exhortation. In trying times he was faithful to what he had been called to hold to. Elisha became sick, but even to the last he was concerned for the people of the FAITH. One of his last endeavours was as he called for Joash who was the ruler. And we have these meaningful words to consider:

“And Elisha said unto him, Take bow and arrows. And he took unto him bow and arrows.

And he said to the king of Israel, Put thine hand upon the bow. And he put his hand upon it: and Elisha put his hands upon the king's hands

...Then Elisha said, Shoot. And he shot. And he said, The arrow of the Lord's deliverance...from Syria...”

(II Kings 13: 15-17)

And so looking further at II Kings which contained the expressions of the FAITH of Elisha and the woman, we see how people of faith are helped by recollecting what has gone before. And now we quote further on what happened to this woman of FAITH:

“So the king appointed unto her a certain officer, saying, Restore all that was hers, and all the fruits of the field since the day that she left the land, even until now.

And Elisha came to Damascus...” (II Kings 8:6-7)

Recollection is what we are called to do as we look into the precious Word in these last days.

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

“AND KNOWLEDGE SHALL BE INCREASED”

Daniel 12:4

The accumulated knowledge at man's disposal today is overwhelming. In all fields of human endeavor, the depth and breadth of human understanding has increased exponentially since the time of our reference above taken from Daniel. The end of man's fleshly aim is to be like God - all powerful.

It was the serpent's subtlety back in the garden that tempted the first man and woman to disobey God and eat of the forbidden tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Having consumed the fruit, their hope was to now "...be as gods, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:5). However, life would no longer be simple, for the life they once knew would now come to an abrupt end, followed by death. The flesh's desire since that time has endeavored to nullify the curse placed upon man, and as time has passed to our generation today, we see how man's knowledge has increased to bring man to the brink of creating human life itself.

An article was seen recently in the April Popular Science magazine entitled "Human Eggs Grown In The Lab Could Produce Unlimited Supply of Humans". This article went on to say that this could be one more step on the path towards reproduction without human interaction. This research could also turn stem cells into an infinite loop of egg cells into embryos into stem cells and on and on. The first human eggs grown from human stem cells could be fertilized with human sperm cells later this year by teams of researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital and scientists at Edinburgh University in the UK.

Man is endeavoring to play God by using their increased knowledge to bring God's word to no effect by overlooking God's plan for life on this earth.

The words of Daniel come to mind concerning the end of God's purpose with His creation:

“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there

an 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.

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.

But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Daniel 12:1-4

Daniel couldn't even begin to perceive the explosion of knowledge that would take place over the next 2550 years. Really it has been only in the past 125 years or so that most achievements have come to the forefront.

Clearly we are living in the last days with so many signs about us forecasting the soon return of the Lord Jesus, who will come as a "thief in the night". However, we are not left in the dark - God's word shines as a light upon the true path of life that can lead us to not only life today but to everlasting life at His Son's return. There is no experiment necessary to prove this fact - just our faith.

M.C.S.

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR JUNE 2012

HAMBURG, NEW YORK

Sundays: Breaking of Bread: 11:30 am

Thursdays: Bible Class 3:30 pm, Forestville, Hamburg &
Fredonia

Every Third Week: Revelation Study

We rejoice in the recovery of several here from various illnesses, which bolsters our faith in the great healing possible from our Father. Such maladies remind us of the failing of our own strength and helps us to put our trust in God.

M.C.S.

MANCHESTER

Sunday: Breaking of Bread 11:30 am

Thursday: Bible Class 2:00 pm

The middle of the year has arrived and our thoughts are drawn to the Brethren and Sisters of the Ecclesias. The days pass by and as we reflect upon our circumstances we are brought to consider that the provision of Heaven is very great towards us. We have our Brethren and Sisters who apply themselves to scripture to help us rejoice with them in reading about our Lord Jesus and also in considering with them the message sent from Heaven through the scripture for us.

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

www.remnantofchristsecclesia.com