

JULY 2012

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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”

PSALM 18

PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM

THE POWER AND WISDOM OF GOD
WORKING WITHIN OUR LIVES

A BIBLE CLASS

EMMANUEL - GOD WITH US

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS

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PSALM 18

We have recently read in our Daily Portions, Psalm 18 which contains David's thoughts and praise for God's help in order to overcome his enemies, for the title begins:

"To the chief Musician (Victor), a Psalm of David, the servant of the LORD, who spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul: And he said,"
Title, Psalm 18

We immediately see David's relationship with God as revealed in this title for he viewed himself as "the servant of the LORD". To be a servant is to serve or work for another. David sought to do God's will and here in this Psalm we read of his experiences and subsequent gratitude to God for His manifold blessings. David's writing helps us to combat the enemies we face as well - the greatest being our own flesh.

Most of this Psalm is devoted to speaking of individuals like Saul or heathen nations that made war on David and Israel but also the constant battle he had within himself to walk worthy before God:

"Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation:
and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great.
Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, that my feet did not slip."
Psalm 18:35-36

Here David recognized the help provided by God to overcome his own flesh nature - for God's gentleness and meekness towards him, made David great or to increase as that word means. The "shield of salvation" is the armor which the knowledge of God's Truth provides — an encompassing about from the slings and arrows of this life, as he looked forward in hope to a deliverance, if found acceptable in God's mercy.

Paul was another servant of the Lord's who spoke of a shield provided by God to His servants:

"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."

Ephesians 6:13-16

A shield is a defensive weapon to ward off harm from without. The hope of God's salvation is given as a shield to those who have faith in that word in order to withstand that which causes the flesh to fail. Without faith in God there is no desire or reason to serve. David recognized how much the hope of salvation meant to him and spoke of this shield of salvation as an emblem to withstand the enemy within - his own carnal nature.

David also understood God's word - not by the letter but through the Spirit and so could write about God's "right hand" seen in the promise of his greater Son the Messiah, to be given for His people as a perfect sacrifice. In the previous Psalm 17, David also refers to the saving power of God's right hand:

"Shew thy marvellous loving-kindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust in thee from those that rise up against them."

Psalm 17:7

David was given promises that his greater Son would be at God's right hand - the only One through whom salvation would be possible. It requires trust in God to believe that these promises will be fulfilled and that God would be a source of strength now in this present age to those who look to Him. David believed for he wrote:

"I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.
The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;
my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler,
and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.
I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so
shall I be saved from mine enemies."

Psalm 18:1-3

We are offered the same Truth - the same means of victory through the Lord Jesus Christ who overcame and now sits at the right hand of the Father as our Mediator and Redeemer. What a merciful provision has God granted to those who will look to him in faith and trust, as did David.

M.C.S.

“PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM”
(Psalm 122:6)

How meaningful is this expression. Over the ages, many times Jerusalem has experienced great trouble. But Jerusalem also had within its confines, the Temple of God. The connection which Jerusalem had with the approach of the faithful to the Father in Heaven is seen in the following quotation:

“Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Sion: and unto thee shall the vow be performed.

Oh thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come. Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house; even of thy holy temple.” (Psalm 65:1, 2 & 4)

We see from such quotations, how very important is Jerusalem in the wonderful purpose of the Eternal Father, in the working out of what He has planned in His Creation of this good earth.

Recently voices of unease have come from the nations in the vicinity of Jerusalem. Iran has expressed ambitions relating to the production of nuclear weapons. Israel, which has such weapons, has made clear its deep concern and this has brought Egypt into the controversy too. The Western Great Powers, in turn, have stated that this is a matter which is fraught with danger and have joined with other Middle Eastern powers to work to find a solution. Nevertheless considerable unease still looms in this area of the world because the inclinations of a number of governments have not been made clear.

Oh! How appropriate is the scriptural expression from so long ago:

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem”.

This message of the Psalms goes on to say, “Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good.” (Verse 9)

In these words of scripture there is a wonderful encouragement

to the nations. Certainly the nations need the Temple of the Father in Jerusalem as a means of drawing together the peoples of the world. The following words of scripture describe what is approaching through the overruling goodness of the Heavenly Father.

“...Let us go into the house of the Lord.

Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together: Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord.

For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.” (Psalm 122:1, 3-5)

And then will appear, as testified to by Jesus:

“...Christ is the Son of David?

For David himself said by the Holy Spirit, The LORD said to my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool.

David therefore himself calleth him LORD; and whence is he then his son?” (Mark 12:35-37)

So Jesus is to appear at Jerusalem with His faithful loved ones with him.

THE POWER AND WISDOM OF GOD WORKING WITHIN OUR LIVES

The life story of Joseph is well known to us and demonstrates that nothing is impossible when God is controlling our circumstances. We know that Joseph was Jacob's (Israel's) favorite son:

"Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours."
Genesis 37:3.

Joseph was also the son of Rachel, Jacob's most beloved wife, and that too was likely another reason why Jacob favored him more than all his other sons. As a result, Joseph was hated by his brethren:

"And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him."
Genesis 37:4.

The dreams that Joseph had about his ruling over his brethren only strengthened their hatred and envy of him. It was out of these conditions that God chose to change all of their lives in ways that none of them could ever imagine.

Jacob sent Joseph to visit his brethren who were tending Jacob's sheep. As Joseph approached his brothers:

"... they conspired against him to slay him." Genesis 37:18.

Reuben had pity on Joseph and convinced his brethren to drop Joseph into a pit, from which he intended later to remove Joseph, and return him safely to Jacob. This idea was thwarted when some Ishmeelites passed by, and the other brethren determined that it would be of no profit for them to kill Joseph:

"... What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood?"
Genesis 37:26.

Joseph was lifted out of the pit and sold to the Ishmeelites, for 20 pieces of silver, and taken to Egypt.

In Egypt, Joseph was sold to Potiphar, and was made to prosper by God. Because of God's blessing, Joseph found grace with Potiphar and was made overseer of all Potiphar's possessions. All was well until Potiphar's wife started to make advances on Joseph to lie with her. She pressed him daily, and each time he refused her, until one day he left his garment behind while trying to escape from her grasp. Taking the opportunity, she called out to the men of the house and claimed that Joseph had tried to lay with her, but ran and left his garment as she cried out.

Joseph was bound and taken to prison where, once again, the Lord had mercy on him:

"But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it." Genesis 39:21-22.

After some time, Joseph became acquainted with two former officers of Pharaoh - the chief of the butlers and the chief of the bakers. Both officers had fallen out of favor with Pharaoh and he had placed them in prison. After a time, both officers had dreams in the same night, and both were greatly troubled. Upon seeing the men, Joseph inquired of their troubles and they each informed him of their dreams:

"And they said unto him, We have dreamed a dream, and there is no interpreter of it. And Joseph said unto them, Do not interpretations belong to God? tell me them, I pray you." Genesis 40:8.

Joseph was given the interpretations by God. He informed the chief butler that he would be restored to his former position within three days, but to remember him (Joseph) there in prison once he was restored to his butlership. Also the chief baker was told by Joseph the interpretation. In three days Pharaoh would have him hanged. After three days the interpretations proved to be correct, but the butler forgot his promise to Joseph, and so Joseph remained in prison.

Two years passed, and Pharaoh had two dreams, but none of

the magicians of Egypt could interpret them. It was then that the chief butler remembered his promise to Joseph, and told Pharaoh of the young Hebrew who had correctly interpreted his dream while in prison. Pharaoh called for Joseph to be removed from prison and brought before him. Pharaoh asked Joseph to interpret the dream, and Joseph said:

“... It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.”
Genesis 41:16.

Pharaoh told the dreams to Joseph, and Joseph replied:

“...The dream of Pharaoh is one: God hath shewed Pharaoh what he is about to do.”
Genesis 41:25.

The interpretation was that there would be seven years of plenty, followed by seven years of famine. Joseph told Pharaoh:

“Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.” Genesis 41:33.

This man was to prepare the people and the land of Egypt for the upcoming famine by growing corn during the seven plenteous years and storing it up for the lean years. Pharaoh inquired of all his servants where he could find such a man. Then he said to Joseph:

“...Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art.
Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.”
Genesis 41:39-40.

So Joseph set about to prepare the land for the famine, and harvested much corn during the seven plenteous years.

As God had predicted through Joseph, the famine did arrive at its appointed time; but Egypt had plenty of food because of God's blessing. The famine grew worse throughout all lands, including the land of Canaan where Joseph's father and brethren lived. Jacob told his sons:

“...Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die.”
Genesis 42:2.

After Jacob’s sons arrived in Egypt, they came before Joseph, who was the governor, and he inquired from whence they came. Joseph recognized his brethren, but they did not perceive it was their brother. Joseph further inquired whether they were spies come to see the land. They told Joseph that they were of the twelve sons of one man of Canaan, who had come to buy corn; one brother was no longer, and the youngest was home with their father. Joseph told them they must prove to him that they were not spies, by bringing their youngest brother with them the next time. If they did not, he would not receive them again, and therefore, they would be unable to purchase more corn.

Eventually Joseph did reveal himself to his brethren, and said:

“Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.”
Genesis 45:5.

Upon hearing that Joseph’s brothers had come, Pharaoh told them to bring their father and families back to Egypt. Joseph’s brothers did return to Canaan and brought their father and their families back in wagons that Pharaoh had provided. Jacob and all his sons and their families settled in the land of Goshen - which was the best land in Egypt - and they all survived the famine and prospered there.

Let us think back on Joseph at the time of his being sold as a slave. He was only 17 years old! What a fearful and worrisome time it must have been for the young man. Yet it would seem that all the while Joseph kept his faith in God, and must have been strengthened daily by his faith, allowing him to accept his circumstances as they came along. Likewise, consider the grief and sorrow Jacob must have endured, when his sons informed him that Joseph must surely have been killed! These men (father and sons) must have greatly rejoiced and praised God for His mercy which brought them back together in Egypt. Surely it was a relief that all the hardship they had endured while apart was in the overruling plan of God. We cannot fathom what the wisdom of God holds in store for each of

us, but we must take heart that the circumstances in which He puts us are all part of His plan.

As further proof of God's wisdom, consider the similarities between Joseph and the Lord Jesus. Joseph is a type of Jesus, and we can see a shadow of Jesus' life in the life of Joseph. Jesus and Joseph were hated by their brethren. Both were betrayed for pieces of silver - 20 pieces for Joseph and 30 pieces Jesus. Both provided food to those seeking it - Joseph provided physical bread, while Jesus provides spiritual bread - each to the saving of the world. How wonderful and fearful is God's overruling in the affairs of man! God's plan for His creation, and for those who love Him, will not be thwarted.

E.J.M.

A BIBLE CLASS

“...SPEAK EVIL OF NO MAN...”

Titus 3:2

Paul’s letter to his brother outlined Titus’ continuing work with those in Crete:

‘To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:” Titus 1:4-5.

He was reminding Titus of the need to encourage those in Crete in the ways of Christ, and our Bible class consideration is part of that message:

“Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.” Titus 3:1-2.

Paul was exhorting those in fellowship with God and His Son to conduct themselves in a manner befitting His children and specifically to “speak evil of no man”. The word evil means impious, intending to defame, defile or injure. The import of Paul’s message is that speaking evil of another causes harm and is an act of the flesh, whereas the brethren must strive to be Christ-like, acting in a godly manner, harming no one. The same word for speaking evil was used by Peter:

“For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banqueting, and abominable idolatries:

Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:

Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.”

I Peter 4:3-6.

Peter speaks of those who were reproached by fleshly men because they did not share in their carnal excesses - just as the Lord Jesus was reviled by the high priest, offended by His teaching so contrary to theirs. Christ’s assessment of such fleshly behavior is clear:

“O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”

Matthew 12:34-37.

From Jesus’ words there is no question that evil speaking will bring condemnation from God.

Thus Titus was to teach of the spiritual deportment required in those striving to be brethren of Christ and shows us as well the danger of speaking injuriously of another. He was also told by Paul to:

“...let our’s also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.”

Titus 3:14.

What are necessary uses? Witnessing by faithful living that here are a people called by God, but who in times past:

“...were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared.”

Titus 3:3-4.

This calling to be children of God is an opportunity to witness by good works that we endeavor to bring forth fruits of the spirit which precludes speaking evil to cause injury to another. The flesh speaks hurtfully in order to pull down others and consequently make self appear better. Paul told Titus to “put in mind” these thoughts not lecturing in a strident or boastful manner but speaking quietly with care for the feelings of others.

In a similar manner Paul wrote to the Colossians:

“For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:”

Colossians 3: 3-5. 7-10.

Speaking evil is part of the old man of flesh that is to be put away - crucified. To think carefully how we speak is needful, for the flesh is inclined to be impulsive.

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

Without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

II Timothy 3:1-5.

This describes the world's manner of every age and today where many show a form of godliness but deny its power in their living. That power is the restraint to put down the flesh's inclinations and refrain from speaking evil but rather show forth a new man of spirit.

It is interesting to note that Paul was one who originally spoke and did great evil against the people of God:

"As for Saul, (Paul) he made havock of the church, entering into ever house, and haling men and women committed them to prison." Acts 8:3.

"And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem." Acts 9:1-2.

We know in that journey to Damascus he saw a vision and being touched by God's light was converted. Thinking back upon those earlier times he may have thought of himself as sometimes foolish and disobedient".

Also one of the thieves who was crucified with Christ lashed out against Him:

"And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us." Luke 23:39.

This word "railed" is the same as "speak evil"- a characteristic of uncontrolled flesh. Yet it is that control that is the work and duty of every child of Christ. If that struggle for control is not there, the man of spirit is extinguished and the hope of ever overcoming dies.

"Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." Romans 12:17-18.

The work of overcoming is understandably difficult and when one speaks injuriously of another he takes away the peace that is between them.

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,
Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;
Looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;
Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.
These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.” Titus 2:11-15.

These words of Paul are essential for our spiritual well-being as we endeavor to deny such ungodly behaviour as evil speaking and strive to live peaceably in this present world and hope in His salvation to come.

M.C.S.

EMMANUEL - GOD WITH US

The record of the birth of the Lord Jesus shows us the fulfillment of all God's promises to mankind.

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:18-21

Joseph was a just and spiritually observant man, knowing of the prophecy in Isaiah concerning the virgin birth of the Messiah promised of God.

"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Isaiah 7:14

The title "Immanuel" means, "God with us" and appears only three times in the scriptures. From the beginning, God was with man but only One throughout the ages has ever followed His word perfectly - His Son the Lord Jesus, of whom Isaiah prophesied, many years before His birth.

Joseph was told to call Mary's first-born son Jesus and being a faithful man, stirred to obedience by the knowledge given him by the angel..

"Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

And knew her not till she had brought forth her first-born son: and he called his name JESUS."

Matthew 18:24-25

He understood what this child would become - the Messiah and Savior looked for from the beginning of time. He was to be the

light of the world, to separate the light of truth and salvation from the darkness and error of the world as was recorded in Genesis:

“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided
the light from the darkness.” Genesis 1:3-4

God was with the man that He had created, for Adam was created in the image and likeness of God - a revealing of His person along with the knowledge given to him of what He expected:

“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our
likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the
sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and
over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that
creepeth upon the earth.
So God created man in his own image, in the image of God
created he him; male and female created he them.”
Genesis 1:26-27

We know that man, though given the knowledge of how to please God, did not obey, and ate of the forbidden tree - the only one he was commanded to abstain from. Yet God in mercy, although punishment was meted out for sin, provided a means for the man and woman to escape the sentence of death. God proving once again that he was “with” man, even though he had failed.

That word has been difficult to keep perfectly, for the eyes and intent of man being flesh, wants what it sees and desires. David was one who because of his faithful devotion was called, “a man after God’s own heart” yet failed greatly, falling susceptible to his own flesh nature. He fell short of what was expected of him, but redeemed himself because he was quick to repent in humility. In the first Psalm we read of his faithful intent:

“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.”
Psalm 1:1-2

Undoubtedly after their failure, Adam and Eve would meditate and pray, thinking of their disobedience, which revealed their flesh for what it was - shameful before God.

“And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.” Genesis 3:7

They tried to cover the nakedness of their flesh by their own devices, but had to learn that only God’s covering, pointing forward to the sacrifice and shedding of blood of the Savior promised, would truly cover their sin and make repentance possible.

“Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.” Genesis 3:21

Going back to the record in Matthew of the Lord Jesus’ birth, we read of the wise men from the east, who knowing of the prophecy of the Messiah’s birth from the words of the prophet Micah, had followed his star to Jerusalem, and inquired of Herod king of Judaea, where they might find the child:

“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.” Micah 5:2

They were then directed by Herod to Bethlehem, after he had consulted the chief priests and scribes of where it was written that the Messiah would be born.

When the wise men had found the young child in Bethlehem, they were instructed by Herod to notify him, so he could come and worship also. Not knowing Herod’s evil intents, they were warned by God in a dream to say nothing and return to their own country by a different route. Therefore, was God with them to protect both them and His Son from the cruel and jealous hand of Herod. Herod’s was not a quest for knowledge to lead him to salvation through the promised Messiah, but with a fleshly goal in mind, to rule alone.

How often throughout the scriptures do we learn of God being with those who reverence Him - to shelter and protect them from the evils of this world and to encourage them in their walk of faith. These are passers through - who look forward in hope to the return of their King, the Lord Jesus when they hope to be judged acceptable, in His mercy, and dwell in His kingdom for eternity. With the flesh removed, will they be as God and His Son - spirit creatures truly at one in the spirit of Emmanuel - God with us.

M.C.S.

SIGNS OF HIS COMING AND OF THE END OF THE WORLD

“Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days.

... and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia:”
Daniel 10:14 & 20

The words cited above came to Daniel in vision approximately 2550 years ago and spoke of a time to come when Persia (modern day Iran), would be visited by the great Prince Michael (Christ) at:

“a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time:”
(Daniel 12:1)

Daniel was further told that “at that time thy people (spiritual Israel) shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book,” (Daniel 12:1) speaking of the judgment by the Lord Jesus of all those found acceptable to God from the time of Adam.

Such a time of potential trouble as prophesied, was forced upon our attention by Israel’s Defense Minister, Ehud Barak, who in speaking before the Foreign Press Association on April 30, 2012 said:

“I believe it is well understood in Washington, D.C. as well as in Jerusalem that as long as there is an existing threat to our people, all options to prevent Iran from getting nuclear weapons should remain on the table”.

Iran in the past has threatened the annihilation of Israel and has supported anti-Israeli factions in Gaza and Lebanon to use violence against them.

Such blatant threats have caused both Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Ehud Barak to suggest the possibility of a military assault upon Iran’s nuclear facilities.

Barak further commented, “I have enough experience to know that a military option is not a simple one. It would be complicated

with certain associated risks. But a radical Islamic Republic of Iran with nuclear weapons would be far more dangerous both for the region and, indeed for the world."

It is difficult to imagine "a time of trouble such as never was", foreshadowing the outbreak of nuclear war in the Middle East and beyond. The many days of Daniel's vision are now much closer than ever, and such rhetoric between Israel and Iran should make us prepare for the return of our great Prince - the Lord Jesus Christ.

"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people:" Daniel 12:1

M.C.S.

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR JULY 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

How grateful we are for the counsel we are permitted to share with our brethren in Manchester. The singleness of heart and mind within the brotherhood is a true blessing, directing and guiding us as we wait for the return of the Lord Jesus. It is in the grace of God that we are strengthened in the struggle to overcome, rejoicing in the wisdom and comfort that God's Holy Word gives to us all.

M.C.S.

MANCHESTER

Sunday: Breaking of Bread 11:30 am
Thursday: Bible Class 2:00 pm

The Ecclesial work continues. For this we need our Heavenly Father's guiding help. We pray for this to Him as we continue to receive His overruling guidance. Oh, how good is the Heavenly response, helping us when difficult circumstances arise and how comforting as we discuss with each other and share the counsel of our brethren and sisters.

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

www.remnantofchristsecclesia.com