

# The Berean Christadelphian Ecclesial News

*A monthly magazine devoted wholly to the Berean Christadelphian Ecclesial welfare, with the object of providing Ecclesial news, exhortations, articles and information of fraternal interest to the Brotherhood. Defending the original, foundation principles upon which the Truth was uncovered from darkness, and upon which the Christadelphian movement was developed.  
Upholding the Truth as Bereans since 1923.*

Vol. XCI No. 12

DECEMBER, 2003

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God Willing, The Berean Christadelphian Ecclesial News will be published monthly as an avenue of providing information of Ecclesial interest to the Brotherhood. Ecclesial news and correspondence, Fraternal Gathering notices, special activities and upbuilding exhortations are encouraged. This is an effort to upbuild and prepare us in heart and mind for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

CHRIST IS COMING SOON AND WILL REIGN ON EARTH

## Ecclesial News

**BRISBANE**, Australia. – Sunday Memorial Meeting, 11:30am; Bible Class Thursday, 7:30pm; Meetings are held at home of Bro. Peter Small, 69 Passage St., Cleveland, Qsld., Bro. Ted Mingham, 8/2 Denison Court Capalaba, Queensland., 4157, Australia, (011)-617-3245-1971

Dear Brethren and Sisters,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ

It is some time since we sent any news. In this area things go along much the same from week to week. Though we must add this year has seen many challenges and much sickness amongst our members and Sunday School Scholars. Several succumbed to the bad virus that affected this portion of the vineyard. Then, sadly, Sis. Eileen Wright, (who is in a nursing home), had a stroke and fall. She was left with the left side paralysed. But with great perseverance she was recovering well, but then suffered another fall badly breaking her ankle, so for now she is confined to bed. We continue to pray that our sister will be helped by our Heavenly Father in this time of need.

It was most pleasing that Bro. Peter Small was able to attend the Detroit Gathering and brought back greetings from many. His return coincided with a visit from Sis. Kaye Yuen of Vancouver, Canada, whom we gladly welcomed. To us it was like a mini-gathering. We numbered 6 for the Memorial Meeting when we remembered our Master's great sacrifice and partook of the Love Feast as He ordained. Afterwards Bro. Peter prepared a feast of good things for the four of us who could remain as well as the children. A very pleasant time was spent for a couple of hours discussing the Word of Truth and hearing about the Gathering and associated activities.

In the early evening we said goodbye to Sis. Kaye, who was on her way to Western Australia (about 3000 miles) distant, to visit her parents who are both ailing due to the infirmities that mortality and age eventually inflict on us all. Despite the briefness of the visit we were all uplifted by Sis. Kaye's visit.

How these occasions of great benefit from such small numbers make us long all the more for the Return of Christ to set up the Glorious Kingdom, at which time may our Master be gracious to each of us to grant us a place therein. Then we will be privileged to serve and praise and give glory to our God as it is His due.

With love begotten of the Truth to all our Brethren and Sisters on behalf of the Brisbane Berean Christadelphian Ecclesia,

Your brother in Christ,  
Ted Mingham

**DETROIT**, Mich. – Memorial, 10am; S.S., 11:30am; Bro. Fred Higham, 20116 McKishnie, Clinton Twp, MI 48035, 586-790-2156

Dear Brothers and Sisters of like precious faith,

Greetings in Our Master's Name,

We were happy to have Bro. John and Sister Mary Phillips come to visit us in February from Canton. We appreciated his Exhortation and we especially enjoyed having them help us with developing the theme of the October Fraternal Gathering held here in Detroit.

In June we were pleased to have Bro. David and Sis. Kelly Sommerville, with their children, James and Katie, here for a visit from Boston. We had a nice time with them and we appreciated Bro. David giving us the Exhortation for our Memorial Meeting.

We held the Northeast Fraternal Gathering here in Detroit, October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, and we were blessed with Brothers and Sisters who attended from the following Ecclesias: Brisbane, Edmonton, Richard, Hengoed, Denver, Boston, Newton, Canton, Holladay, Austin, Houston, Lampasas, San Angelo and Wanaque. We also had guests from Alaska and Virginia. The theme of the Gathering was "Christ Confirming the Words of the Prophets."

We want to thank all the brethren who spoke as they did an excellent job of covering the following Prophets: Micah, Jonah, Isaiah, Moses, David, Zechariah and Joel. We received so much Spiritual food during this Gathering and it encourages us to hold fast to our faith as we witness the last days before Jesus returns. We pray that we will be ready and watching.

It was so wonderful to be with so many brother and sisters and we love you all. We want to thank Bro. Len and Sis. Pam Naglieri and Bro. Don and Sis. Helen Miller for all the help they gave us before and during the Gathering.

Love in the Bond of the Truth,  
Bro. Fred J. Higham

**LAS CRUCES**, New Mexico, Berean Christadelphian Ecclesia, Memorial 10am; Key Lesson Bible Seminar 1pm; Tuesday 7pm Mid-Week Bible Class; Tuesday and Thursday 7:30pm Walk and Conduct Class & Social Time Meeting Hall address: 800A Spruce Street, Las Cruces, NM 88011; Bro. Michael Morrell, 301 North Roadrunner Parkway #309, Las Cruces, NM 88011; morrell@morrellcom.com Web Page <http://lascruces.bereans.org/main>

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We were happy to welcome Brother Wayne Wolfe, Jr. of Lampasas around the table of the Lord on Sunday, November 9th. We have also had

a few strangers visit our classes, 2 of them from the Navajo nation, but no repeat visits.

We are suffering from a shortage of hymn books and will be happy to take one or two off the hands of any group who may have a few extra. We will pay for the books and for shipping and handling. Give us a holler if anyone has any extra ones.

The ecclesia ordered a 6 X 3 wooden and painted sign for outside the hall and Brother Michael feels confident that people will have an easier time finding us now that we have a larger sign. It is in the "New Mexico colors" of bright yellow background and red and black letters which will stand out nicely from the white stucco walls of the building. Our hall is on the corner of a fairly busy street and we hope passers by will stop in to one of our several weekly classes. In conjunction with our new sign, Brother Michael will begin a second advertising campaign this month in the local newspapers with the hopes of attracting visitors.

Brother Michael had a few days off from work on Columbus Day Weekend and the ecclesia members (Sister Leslie and Brother Michael) were able to travel to Austin for three days. We were happy to share fellowship with all the brothers and sisters in Austin and had a nice visit on the Monday holiday with brethren who traveled from Lampasas to spend some time with us. We were very sorry that work caused us to miss the Detroit gathering the following week, and were greatly cheered with the receipt of a program and the many greetings written in it to us.

We are greatly saddened to hear of the falling asleep of our Brother Bill Stephen. Brother Michael and I feel very blessed that we had the opportunity to work and meet regularly with him for several years when we were members in the Boston Ecclesia. Our prayers go out to the brethren in Boston and to his family, who surely suffer from his loss more particularly than do we. When our dear brothers and sisters fall asleep, it serves to remind us all the more of the promises given for those who hold fast during this lifetime. "We shall be like him, oh how great the promise!"

We send our love to all the brothers and sisters around the world and look forward to the day when we can all meet and work together with Christ in the millennial time and in the kingdom to come.

Come and visit us! Perks include free room and board at the home of the Morrell's. Come on down, or over, or up, whatever the case may be! God be with you.

Love in Christ,

Brother Michael and Sister Leslie Morrell

## Books For Kenya

If you have books and material that you can send and would like to help in this effort, please contact Sis. Kaye Yuen at [Syuen33550@aol.com](mailto:Syuen33550@aol.com) or fax (604) 925-0649.

## FRATERNAL GATHERINGS & ACTIVITIES

(To be held God Willing)

### RICHARD STUDY WEEKEND..... Dec 27-28, 2003

Bro. Sid Jones, RR#1, Richard, Sask., S0M 2P0, 306-246-4468, [sc.jones@sk.sympatico.ca](mailto:sc.jones@sk.sympatico.ca)

### HENGOED FRATERNAL GATHERING..... Mar 19 - 22, 2004

It will be held at Buckland Hall - (See web site [www.bucklandhall.co.uk](http://www.bucklandhall.co.uk))  
Bro. Phillip Hughes25 Hoel-Y-Gelli Fforchneol Parc, Godreaman, Aberdare, Mid-Glamorgan, South Wales, U.K., CF44 6LN, phone 011-441-685-870254

### LAMPASAS FRATERNAL GATHERING..... June 10 - 13, 2004

Bro. Curtis Hurst, Rt.1 Box 40, Mullin, TX 76864, 915-985-3868

### HYE FRATERNAL GATHERING..... July 19 - 25, 2004

Bro. Curtis Hurst, Rt.1 Box 40, Mullin, TX 76864, 915-985-3868

**Study Class Topics:** Galatians – **Daily Bible Readings** - Discussion

## Stubbornness and Rebellion a Sin likened to Iniquity and Idolatry

When Israel was oppressed by their enemies, groaning under their burdens and oppressions, God raised them up judges and was with the judges in delivering them out of their enemy's hands. These judges taught them God's laws and statutes but they did not hearken to them and we read in Judges that they went a whoring after other gods and turned from following God's commandments. It is recorded of them that they ceased not from their own doings and from their own **stubborn** ways.

When Saul failed to obey the commandment of God, Samuel told him, *"Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For **rebellion** is as the sin of witchcraft, and **stubbornness** is an iniquity and idolatry"* 1 Samuel 15:22.

Practically all of us have a determination to avoid idolatry and other offenses likened to it which are classed as idolatry, such as murder, adultery, armed robbery or debasing ourselves by giving into the lust of the flesh by engaging in things directly forbidden in God's commandments. Yet we have to bear in mind that **stubbornness and rebellion** are classed as such sins and are tendencies of the flesh. We can

not go our own way and insist on it but, should be like our master who said to his Father *"Not my will but thine be done"*. Luke 22:42

When an Israelite couple had a **stubborn and rebellious** son they were commanded to have him stoned. We read in Deuteronomy. 21:18-21 *"If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them: then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of the city, and unto the gate of his place; and they shall say unto the elders of the city, this our son is **stubborn and rebellious**, he will not obey our voice, he is a glutton and a drunkard. And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die; so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear and fear."*

One wonders if Eli had performed this commandment regarding disobedient sons, instead of merely reproving them, if his status in God's sight might have been preserved and the calamity which befell Israel because of their sins avoided.

There are things we should be persistent about as in determination to do God's will. But when ones own will is maintained for selfish reasons, and he refuses to obey God's laws or submit to the will of others it is simply the way of flesh and leads to dissension. This is fatal to those manifesting it.

It is commendable to maintain religious zeal and godliness as Solomon exhorts us when he said *"My son if sinners entice thee, consent thou not"* (Proverbs 1:10) We can not follow a multitude to do evil nor cast in our lot among them. Instead we are commanded to be followers of God and of that which is good. We can not serve two masters. James tells us that the friendship of the world is enmity with God. Like our master we must be obedient to our heavenly Father. To be **stubborn**, wanting our own way and to be **rebellious**, refusing to obey God's commands makes us His enemy and fit only to be destroyed as briars and thorns.

The Psalmist said in Psalms 78:5-8 *"For he (God) established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children; that the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children. That they might set their hope in God and not forget the works of God but keep his commandments; and might not be as their fathers, **a stubborn and rebellious** generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God."*

These remarks we can apply to ourselves. We the spiritual Israelites, have received instructions from former brethren and sisters. This includes the apostles whose teachings we have in the Holy Scriptures as well as

Christ and all the prophets who thus address us and wrote through God's inspiration things for our instruction, guidance and admonition. Having received these things from our fathers we should do as Israel was commanded, obey their voice and teach the things we have learned to others especially to our children. Moses delivered God's laws to Israel and warned them to preserve them. He said in Deuteronomy 11:18-20 *"Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates."*

Some obeyed these commands but others made a mockery of them by parading the words of the law on their bodies and property while utterly disregarding them in their heart and actions as was the case of the Scribes and Pharisees in Christ's day. But let us learn the lesson and seek to carry God's Word in our hearts, speak of it, instruct our children and train them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

In the early days of Christianity a severe test was placed upon brethren and sisters of Christ who were expected to show their loyalty to the Roman Emperor by performing the pagan practice of worshipping him and his gods. Refusal to do so was considered treason and could and often did cost the Christians their lives. It was an instance where they had to be steadfast for the Truth, for Christ and his commands, and heed Solomon's advice that if sinners entice thee consent thou not. Those willing to worship God only, loved not their lives unto the death seeking a better resurrection than those who saved their present life.

When our priorities are in the right place we will be steadfast for things of God but not for our own selves. Solomon described a harlot who entices men to depart from the ways of righteousness as being loud and stubborn. Such people are set in their ways, not receiving instruction, do not obey orders, or conform to God's law. Such callused people are spoken of as having a heart of stone which cannot be molded into God's way.

Pharaoh at the time of the exodus was such a person. We read of his heart being hardened, of his being disobedient to God's command to free Israel until God's plagues forced him to do so. Israel's heart also at this time was like a stone but we are told that in the future God will give them a heart of flesh turning them to serve Him. This teaches us that we must be pliable, not stubborn or obstinate, but meek like Christ our Lord so we can conform to God's will.

Jesus told us we have to be converted and become as little children to enter the kingdom. He said *"He that humbleth himself shall be exalted."*

Humility is very important in our approach to God. Solomon said, "Pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall." It is not always false doctrine that causes and maintains division in Ecclesias so much as the refusal of brethren to acknowledge a fault or accept someone's rebuke and thus become somewhat submissive to some one else. But we must follow Jesus who humbled himself, taking the attitude and position of a servant, seeking to serve rather than be served by others, being committed to his Father's service at all times. What a noble example he is for us to follow!

Israel's enemies were proud boasting of their powers, but God humbled many of them. Nebuchadnezzar was made to eat grass as oxen. Sennacherib's army was destroyed by an angel in one night and he was later assassinated by his sons. Herod who accepted the title of God was smitten of worms that he died. We are familiar with the account of God's plagues on the hard hearted Pharaoh of Egypt, of his destruction of Korah, Dathan and Abiram and many others.

In the case of these men they rebelled against the established divine religious and governmental rulers and arrangement for Israel. They were jealous of the leader, Moses, and Aaron, and dissatisfied with God's program of going to the promise land, lacking faith in the gospel of the kingdom to be established there. So they sought to overthrow God's appointed leaders and appoint them a captain - probably Korah - and return to Egypt. Korah and his company of 250 men, princes in the congregation, sought to replace the priesthood with themselves, but when they sought to offer incense the fire of God consumed them. Korah, Dathan and Abiram stubbornly refused to obey God's commands so Dathan and Abiram with their families were consumed alive by the earth opening up and swallowing them alive. Their stubbornness and rebellion brought on their destruction.

Likewise those whom Moses ordered to go up and conquer the land of Canaan refused and were sentenced to wander 40 years in the wilderness. After receiving the sentence they willed to go up, not at God's command but of their own will and when told not to go they presumed to go up. This was stubbornness and rebellion, so God permitted their enemies to prevail against them and they were driven back and made to wander in the wilderness as God had decreed. Such people are classed as being stiff-necked and as a backsliding heifer which refuses to pull a load but backs away from it.

The apostle Paul said *"these things are our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted"*. (1 Corinthians 10:6) We are not called to fight an enemy with physical force, nor to wander 40 years in a wilderness on a march to the promise land. But we are given the promise of the land and orders to overcome all opposition to the things that

stand in our way to obtain it. This requires us to overcome pride, stubbornness and any thoughts of rebellion or opposition to God's will. It sounds easy on the surface but so many fail because of various reasons. One will say I can't live the Truth so I won't try. Another will say I can't forgive this or that party for some offense. Others will set their hearts on things in the world which like the tares choke the Word of life. And many for practically no reason at all shelve the work of the Truth until it's more convenient or they slothfully disregard their responsibilities in the matter; seeming not to realize the terrible Tragedy of appearing at the judgment seat of Christ without having served the master or perhaps having lost faith in his words. We should include the matter of pride and self esteem in the list of things to overcome for many will not humble themselves and admit they are wrong or to let someone else dictate to them. Stubbornness becomes their downfall.

I read in a magazine an incident which illustrates the folly of stubbornness. A Brother records the matter as follows: "The naval institute Magazine published an interesting story about two battleships that were at sea on maneuvers in heavy weather. The visibility was poor with patchy fog, so the captain remained on the bridge keeping one eye on all activities.

Shortly after dark, the lookout on the wing of the bridge reported "light, bearing on the starboard bow." Is it steady or moving astern? Asked the captain. "Steady, captain", came the reply, which meant they were on a dangerous collision course with the ship. The captain ordered "signal that ship: we are on a collision course, advise you change course 20 degrees!" Back came the signal, "advise for you to change course 20 degrees. "the captain said, "send I am a captain, change course 20 degrees!" "I am a seaman second class, came the reply, you had better change course 20 degrees. By this time the captain was furious. He angrily ordered, "Send: I am a battleship, change course 20 degrees". Back came the flashing light, "I am a lighthouse."

This incident points out that Christ gives us light and we must determine our course from him rather than stubbornly going our own way. Many have made shipwreck of their lives for that reason.

God, we are told sent His messengers to Israel rising up betimes, that is early or quickly, and sending them because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place. But in spite of this effort to save them the nation of Israel in the time of the Assyrians and Babylonians were too hard hearted, too stubborn and rebellious to listen so God allowed the foreign powers to carry them away captive. We read of their reaction to God's care in 2 Chronicles 36:16, "*But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.*"

Thus Israel was punished for insisting on having its own way but in God's mercy He has promised to bring them back through the future works of Christ at which time they will repent and turn to Him. Those who humble themselves as a little child and agonize to follow the commands and examples of our Lord will survive and obtain the crown of life. They are classed as sheep who follow their master withersoever he goeth.

Refusal to submit to Christ will cause nations to be destroyed at his coming. Israel in its journey towards the Promised Land was told to first proclaim peace to the nation they approached, but if they refused their peace then they were to conquer them. Christ has proclaimed peace to the world to all who will accept it but how few have! Because of the stubbornness of the nations to submit to him, his wrath will be poured out upon them on the day of judgments until they submit. Then all nations will live in peace and submission to him and acknowledge and worship God through him. He will reconcile all nations to God and bring peace, righteousness and immortality to all who have faithfully served him.

Let us remember as we partake of these emblems before us, that our master has set a perfect example of yielding to the Father's will, always being obedient, serving Him in humility with reverence and Love. Let us strive to emulate him.

*Bro. David L. Sommerville*

## **I Peter Chapter 1**

Our study for Hye 2003 involved the topic of "The Rock." This is a title of Deity, and a symbol of faith. And it is only fitting that it involve the man whose words we studied in the morning classes.

This man is Simon Bar-jona the fisherman, also known as Simon Peter. Simon was introduced to the Messiah, Jesus (or Yehoshua, as the Hebrew renders it) of Nazareth, by his brother Andrew. He was given the name Cephas (or Peter, as it appears in Greek), which means "a stone." Not a large stone by any means, but one nonetheless.

Peter is one of three disciples who were privy to many scenes in Jesus' life that the others were not. The other two were the brothers, James and John, whom Jesus lovingly referred to as "Boanerges"—the Sons of Thunder, for their brash and zealous personalities. These three would witness the transfiguration, the raising of Jairus' daughter, and they alone accompanied Jesus as he prayed earnestly in Gethsemane, though sleep overtook them.

Peter's faith is best demonstrated in Matthew 16: "*When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the*

*prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."*

Peter may have been a small stone, but his confession is a mighty rock that distills the essence of Jesus' mission into one statement. The Law of Moses in its strictness made it necessary to require a Savior for mankind, and Simon knew that the very Son of God before him was the Messiah, who would be that Savior.

But was all perfect for Peter? Not at all.

Proving to be as brash as James and John, he rebuked Jesus for even saying that his crucifixion would be necessary...and received a stinging rebuke himself, as Jesus labeled him "a satan"!

When Jesus' time to die drew near, he warned the disciples that they would be offended—or stumble—because of Him. Peter boldly thought otherwise, and said so. When Jesus mentioned that Peter would deny him three times before the cockcrow, Peter protested vehemently that he'd rather die.

But human fear betrayed Peter. Confronted by maidservants and onlookers in the high priest's home, he did deny Jesus. And he was so overwrought that he delivered the last denial with cursing and swearing.

All this was a learning experience for Peter. And after Jesus' resurrection, he offered Peter a chance for reconciliation, asking him three times if he loved him. Peter, in his grief, knew it was concerning the denials, and thus insisted that he indeed loved him.

For this, he was given the charge: "*Feed my sheep.*" After Jesus ascended to his Father's right hand, Simon would indeed become a chief caretaker among the followers.

His learning experience, however, was not yet over. Simon was chiefly the teacher of the Gospel to the Hebrews and Gentile proselytes, but the Gentiles who were unaware of Yahweh and the Faith were neglected. By means of a vision, God convinced Peter to go to a Roman soldier named Cornelius and preach the Gospel to him. Thus, Peter made the first contact with the Gentiles. And many others, such as Paul, would continue this task.

But when many followers insisted that the elements of the Law of Moses, especially that of circumcision, be imposed upon the Gentile believers, Peter was caught in the middle. When the Jewish believers came

to him, he began to distance himself from the Gentile brethren. For this, Paul met with Peter and rebuked him. Peter graciously accepted Paul's words, and withstood the Jewish brethren, warning them against "*put(ting) a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear.*" And years later, to show that there was no ill will, he referred to Paul as "*our beloved brother,*" acknowledging the work that Paul did to make the believers understand the Law's true purpose.

This brings us to the study of Peter's words. By the time he wrote his epistles, he was an old man. It is suggested that the first one was written a considerable amount of time after the end of the Acts, when persecution of the followers by the Roman government began to grow. Since the first epistle is written to the "*strangers scattered,*" it would make sense that it was indeed a time of persecution. So, with Silvanus as his scribe, Peter delivered the words recorded in the book of 1 Peter.

Verses 3 and 4 speak of the resurrection of Jesus bringing a "*lively hope*" and an "*inheritance incorruptible.*" A lively hope is indeed necessary for us, as our current state is, by all measures, hopeless. Paul himself pointed this out in Romans chapter 7: "*For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me...O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."*

And to the Corinthians, Paul showed how this desperate condition could be cured in the 15th chapter of his second epistle: "*Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."*

THIS is the lively hope and inheritance incorruptible we strive for.

Verses 6 through 9 speak of the hard road towards salvation, filled with persecutions and tribulations. James speaks of the merits of enduring persecution in the first chapter of his epistle: *“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting. 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.”*

Paul also speaks of this. In the eleventh chapter of his second epistle to the Corinthians, he speaks of the NUMEROUS tribulations he endured. And in the next chapter, he says this: *“And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.”*

These verses also commend their faith in the Messiah, although many of the believers had never personally seen Jesus. And concerning faith, the writer to the Hebrews is most clear in the well-known eleventh chapter, not only describing faith, but those who were faithful: *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear...But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him...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. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.”*

Verses 10 through 12 speak of prophecy, and how the prophets of old confirmed Jesus' mission and ministry. Isaiah 53 as a whole is a good example. There's also Daniel 7:13-14, speaking of *“one like the Son of Man”* who would receive *“dominion, glory, and a kingdom...which shall not pass away.”* And there are many more.

They also speak of the *“things the angels desire to look into.”* Though these prophets spoke of Jesus, they were not shown the complete and clear picture of Yahweh's plans for the earth. Daniel himself, seeing such wondrous visions as he recorded, asked *“How long?”* And the final prophecy of the Bible, the book of Revelation, records the following in chapter 5:1-5: *“And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.”*

Though John and the angels would desire to see the end of these things, it would only be through Jesus fulfilling his first work upon earth that it would be revealed. Then Yahweh gave him the Revelation, which we have today.

Verses 13-17 speak of the soberness and holiness one must possess if they wish for the chance of salvation. Obedience must also be present. A parent teaches a child the most basic elements of right and wrong. However, the Words of God go much deeper than this. Note Hebrews 4:12-13: *“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. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”*

Such a strict means of instruction is necessary, for our natural human impulses are strong. In his first epistle, John warns his readers in chapter 2:16, *“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”* This was evident from the beginning, when one asks oneself, *“How did Eve sin?”* She saw the tree of knowledge was *“good for food (lust of the flesh), pleasant to the eyes (lust of the eyes), and a tree desired to make one wise (pride of life).”* This one downfall led to ALL downfall.

As to the necessity of holiness, we must first investigate the word *“holiness”* itself. When the brethren in Wales hosted their 2002 Gathering, the topic was *“Worshipping Yahweh in the Beauty of Holiness,”* at which time the concept was discussed at length. It is not the *“sparkling, pious essence”* that churches proclaim today. At its very core, it means *“set apart.”* That's all—*“set apart.”* Yahweh is set apart from us; otherwise, His power and glory would kill us! Thus, we must also follow our own paths

of "set-apartness" where the world is concerned. Yahweh's cry to Israel was, *"Come out from among them!"* Come out of this world, which is no small factor in kindling the lusts within you. *"And be ye SEPARATE...touch not the unclean thing!"* You can translate verse 16 as *"Be ye set apart, for I am set apart."*

Verses 18-25 speak of the redemption offered by Jesus the Messiah. This redemption is not by money or any other perishable wealth. The world may think otherwise, as we observe in the multibillion-dollar corporations and the stock markets. The problem with this is that those who control these institutions have so much love of the wealth-gathering that it CONSUMES them. Well-spoken is this word from Paul to Timothy in the first epistle, chapter 6:10: *"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."*

This is why Peter himself did not grant a cripple's request for alms: *"Silver and gold have I none."* But he gave him something so much greater: *"In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!"* He FREED the crippled man from such a pitiful existence. It is said that money can't buy happiness, and money can't buy love. As well, money cannot buy forgiveness, although churches in the past have prescribed indulgences for that very purpose!

Money will not redeem us either. No, the redemption is through Jesus' blood. He is the precious lamb without blemish or spot, required by the Passover. His sacrifice was necessary due to his nature; it was JUST LIKE OURS. Hebrews 2:14-16 testifies: *"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham."*

He died due to the flesh he possessed, but he did not sin himself. THAT is why he was raised.

As he did such a loving thing on our behalf, we must show ourselves worthy of this redemption through our love for each other. This is the *"unfeigned love"* spoken of in verse 22. John speaks MUCH of this in his first epistle; here are several examples—

2:9-11 – *"He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes."*

3:11-16, 23 – *"For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that*

*wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. Hereby perceive we the love (NOTE: the words "of God" do NOT belong; they are italicized since they are ADDED by those professing the trinity), because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren...And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment."*

In conclusion, we can see that the scribes and Pharisees of Peter's era were quite mistaken about him; for an *"unlearned and ignorant"* fisherman, his words are quite powerful! Just from this one chapter, we've learned that we have hope through Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection. But we have much to endure, and much need for spiritual growth, along the way. Seeing that we cannot deny Jesus' existence, due to the prophecies that speak of him, we must believe, humble ourselves, and accept God's ways through His Son, setting ourselves apart from this world. Jesus redeemed us with his blood—an act of great love. This is a love we must pass on to each other.

Peter's faith and conviction were firm. He sought to reach out to those fellow brethren of his and strengthen their resolve. Let us heed his words in this study, and likewise build our houses—our own faith—on the rock.

*Bro. Seth Brown*

## DANIEL - THE MULTITUDINOUS SON OF MAN

*"There was a long lapse of time to be accounted for in the history of Judah.....from the destruction of the Holy City and suppression of the Daily unto the breaking of the Little Horn of the Goat without help to save it, and consequent deliverance of Judah by their great commander and prince in" the latter days" of the seven times of the kingdom of men....Daniel's desire to understand had at length become so acute, that he mourned for its gratification during three whole weeks. At the end of that period, while near the Tigris, a man appeared to him whose appearance was representative of the perfect Prince Royal in glory. He saw him whom he styles "a certain man", in the third year of Cyrus, the year of his decease (Daniel1:21; 10:1-5). That "certain man" represented to him, was what Paul styles in Eph.4:4; 1:22-23, the "One Body, the Ecclesia", of which Christ is "the Head." (Exposition of Daniel – pg 45)*

It has been remarked that the vision that Nebuchadnezzar beheld (as recorded in Daniel chapter 2) was of a lifeless image. The inanimate metals made up a human form and fitly represented the Kingdom of men



in its various phases. The head of gold for example symbolised the great wealth and splendour of ancient Babylon as it boasted in its achievements. The power of Rome was aptly depicted by one of the strongest of metals, that of iron. However, they were all lifeless, and in this sense stood for the generations of mankind who comprised these metals, but who were as devoid of true life as the dry bones that Ezekiel beheld in chapter 37 of his prophecy. They may have possessed this world's riches, and had the power of the sword to maintain their evil rule, but in the sight of the Deity they had no qualities that could commend themselves to Him. No possession that they could offer Him that would be pleasing to Him. No characters that he could estimate highly in His sight, and that would put the possessor thereof in good standing before Him. They were lifeless, and ultimately useless for eternal purposes.

Not so the vision that Daniel beholds by "*the great river, which is Hiddekel*", or the Tigris (Daniel 10:4). This was a vision of life. An "image" that was vibrant with spirit energy, fearful to behold, and glorious to contemplate. Daniel beheld this "*certain man*" in association with lightning and fire, and adorned with garments suggesting the qualities and characteristics of those who had served Yahweh in "spirit and in truth". This was indeed a symbol of the multitude of the Redeemed in the glory that awaits them.

The Scriptures are full of the visions that point to the day when Yahweh's servants will be rewarded and comprise that great multitude that no man can number. Daniel heard his voice as "*the voice of a multitude*" (Daniel 10, verse 6). The Apostle John when beholding the Son of Man in "*the midst of the seven Lampstands*" hears his voice as "*the sound of many waters*" (Apoc.1:15). Ezekiel in his prophecy saw "*the glory of the Elohim of Israel (coming) from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory.*" (Ezekiel 43:2)

Once again we are stirred up with the Words of the Deity as the recorded visions that Daniel saw exhort us "*to give diligence to make our calling and election sure*". They have been recorded for our learning "*that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope*" (Rom.15:4). They are designed to strengthen and stimulate our faith, and how we need that in these dark and evil days. Do we want to be part of that glorious community? Then let us strive to please Him whose good pleasure it is to "*give us the kingdom,*" filling our mind with these word pictures, that we may keep the vision ever before our mind.

The alternative of failing to become a part of that community of these 'splendid ones' is too dreadful to contemplate. One way or the other we are going to be associated with this community. We are either going to be a part of the rejoicing redeemed, in immortality and incorruptibility; or be the recipients of the fiery judgements that this community will have the

honour of executing. Daniel saw the Ancient of Days, and said that his throne was like "*the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousands stood before him: the judgement was set, and the books were opened,*" (Daniel 7:9-10). It is true that the visions Daniel reveals to us represent the saints executing the judgments upon the nations, but we need to ensure that we have not been cast out into the outer darkness of these nations that will suffer at the hand of those who have proved themselves faithful.

Before we remark on the details of the vision of the "certain man" it is worth considering the place where the vision was given. As referred to previously, Daniel saw this vision when he was beside the great river Hiddekel. This is no doubt significant as no words are wasted in the Scriptures. Bro. Thomas makes an interesting point in Eureka volume 1 and page 169. There he says:

*"The description Daniel gives of this symbol, or SPIRIT-FORM is, that 'He was clothed in linen, and his loins girded with fine gold of Uphaz. His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude,' He saw this in Eden, by 'the third' of its rivers, 'the Hiddekel,' where 'the Cherubim and devouring fire' were originally located (Genesis 2:14; 3:24). The reason why the locality of the vision is specified, is to acquaint the reader with the region of the earth where the glory of the Spirit Man is to be revealed."*

This is a very interesting thought. The Redeemed are often referred to in the Scriptures by the symbol of the Cherubim, which is first introduced to our attention in Genesis chapter 3, verse 24 preserving the way to the tree of life (compare Apoc.2:7). Eden too reminds us of the Kingdom, as the 300,000 square miles Bro Thomas refers to in Elpis Israel, (that is destined to become "*the first dominion*" (Micah 4:8) will have Eden within its confines. How appropriate then that Daniel sees this vision in this place.

The details given of this "certain man" are also appropriate for our consideration and exhortation. Each aspect can be considered in great detail, and only basic ideas are presented in this article (for further personal development if desired).

"Clothed in linen." This was the first thing that Daniel refers to. John beheld a similar vision of the Multitudinous Son of Man in the first chapter of the Apocalypse, and it would be beneficial to contrast and compare the details in each account. Clothing in Scripture is a very interesting study, and is introduced to our notice as far back as Genesis chapter 3 when Yahweh clothed Adam and Eve to cover their nakedness, which, because

of their transgression they had become aware of. Yahweh substituted the inadequate fig leaves that Adam and Eve had made, with coats of skin, teaching us right from the beginning that (1) it is God who provides the covering in His way (Genesis 4:7), and (2) without the shedding of blood there can be no covering – that is, remission of sin (Hebrews 9:22). Adam had to be clothed with a garment of Yahweh's appointment. Aaron and his sons wore garment of linen "to cover their nakedness" when they ministered in the holy places. Thus as Bro. Thomas says, "nakedness" and "iniquity" are convertible terms in scripture, and clothing relates to forgiveness and covering, as it is written "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered" or clothed. Many other references could be quoted on this subject with great profit, but the principles can be clearly seen. Developing these thoughts the words of Apoc. 19:14 are appropriate as they describe the victorious saints "clothed in fine linen" which is the righteousness of the saints. Bro. Thomas states:

*"The linen clothing of these symbols indicates the persons, their character, office and nature, of which they are representatives. A glorious body of people prepared to execute righteous judgment upon the nations, and to govern them in righteousness when subdued – the Son of Man in glory and great power." (Eureka 1 page 170)*

"Loins girded with fine gold of Uphaz." We are familiar with the words of the Apostle Paul when he exhorted the household of faith to "stand, having your loins girt about with truth" (Ephesians 6:14). The figure comes from the practice of gathering up the long garments worn in the east around the waist, to give freedom of movement when running or working (See also 1 Pet. 1:13). The lesson is clear. We must let nothing impede our progress in the work of the Truth, or in the race for eternal life. Here in Daniel we are projected into the future when the Lord Jesus Christ exercises power and dominion over the nations. Isaiah indicates that "righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins" (Isa. 11:5). Gold of Uphaz speaks of the best quality gold, a symbol of a tried and precious faith that was seen in perfection in the Master, and which must be developed in his brethren and sisters.

"His body was like the beryl." This was one of the stones in the High Priest's breastplate. It was the tenth stone and represented Dan in that particular order. Dan means Judgement, and points to the judgement that the saints will have the honour of executing (see Psalm 149). The word has the meaning "to break" or "to subdue" which would be fitting in this context. It is apparently green, pointing forward to the wonderful gift of immortality. (See also Ezekiel chapter 1:16 which is an excellent study on these themes).

"His face as the appearance of lightning." Lightning is one of the most impressive displays of Yahweh's omnipotence as it is displayed during a

violent storm, and especially at night. The amount of power stored up in a single flash is phenomenal. It is terrifying and potentially destructive as it lightens up the blackness of the night. We cannot fail to be impressed by it. Man refers to all such displays as part of the "wonders of nature." But who is the creator of nature? Who has set in motion the various wonders that we behold on every hand?

In the symbolism before us, we are being shown the glorious power of the Deity as it will be belligerently manifested in the Day of His anger. This power will be invested in the saints. At the resurrection, the countenance of the angel who rolled back the stone was "like lightning" (Matthew 28:3). With such power they will go forth to tread down the nations. As the Psalmist records in a Psalm commemorating the victory of David over Goliath:

*"Bow thy heavens O Yahweh, and come down: touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth lightning, and scatter them: shoot out thine arrows, and destroy them." (Psalm 144:5-6) (See also Ezekiel chapter 1:13).*

*"His eyes as lamps of fire."* There are many beautiful lessons associated with the eye in Scripture. We can only make brief reference to them. The eye is a receiver of impressions; it reacts and functions only in light; it is able to see things at a distance, as well as close up. It is able to print pictures on the mind that become permanent, and is also capable of reflecting love, joy, hope, grief, anger etc. Bro. Thomas makes the following comments in Eureka:

"The eye is the symbol of intelligence, for "the light of the body is the eye." The nature of the intelligence in predominant activity is expressed by the character of the symbol; hence an eye as a flame of fire, indicates intelligence in wrathful activity. The word for "eye" in the Hebrew also signifies "fountain;" because tears are welled up from the eye as water from a fountain or spring. Hence the eyes of the Man of multitude are fountains of flaming fire; they pour out flame as "a fiery stream," and he becomes "a consuming fire." (Eureka 1 page 173)

Again see Ezekiel chapter 1 and verse 18 for further references.

"Arms and feet like in colour to polished brass." Arms and feet represent working and walking in the Truth. This is true in our days of probation, and in immortality in the Age to come, providing a sobering exhortation. If we desire to be engaged in the work of the saints in the Kingdom, then we will be actively engaged in the work of the Truth now. So how much effort do we expend in the work of the Truth? There will be a day of reckoning.

Brass in the Scriptures symbolises the flesh. Polished brass would represent flesh purified by the fire of adversity and trial (Compare Acts 14:22).

This was the vision that Daniel saw. Those who were with him did not see the vision, but felt its effects. *“A great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves”* (Daniel 10:7) This types the effect of the judgements of God as they will (shortly) fall upon the nations. They will not see the Multitudinous Son of Man, but will feel the effects of the judgements he will execute, and fear greatly. Isaiah records:

*“And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of Yahweh, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.”* (chapter 2 verse 19)

Daniel too was affected by what he saw. He says *“I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength.”* (Verse 8) In remarkable detail the prophet enacts his death and resurrection, which we hope to consider in the next article (God Willing).

*Bro. Phillip Hughes*

## Signs and Events

**“Esteem Them Very Highly In Love For Their Works Sake.”**  
**1Thessalonians 5:13**

Brother Thomas once observed that the truth goes through a four stage cycle, that starts with its discovery and ends with its collapse.

During my childhood years, I was surrounded in the Ecclesia by brethren who were constantly stressing the importance of highly esteeming the works of the pioneer brethren, with advice to read and re-read works such as Eureka and Elpis Israel. More and more brethren and sisters in Christadelphian circles seem to be ‘leaning to their own understanding’ instead of sticking to the ‘old paths’. This lack of reading and respect for the pioneer’s knowledge and values has led to the near collapse of the brotherhood today. It must be one of the greatest signs of the times, for the third phase in the cycle of truth from establishment to falling away is “apathy”. Apathy can be defined in many different ways and many different illustrations used, but certainly in the case of the brotherhood, the lack of study in the pioneer writings is a part of this phase. We are glad to have this opportunity to quote from Bro. Growcott and Bro. Roberts, both for whom this writer has tremendous respect.

Bro. Growcott writes on this subject: - “There are two kinds of Christadelphians: those who recognize and appreciate the value and soundness and stability afforded by the writings and labours of Brethren

Thomas and Roberts-and those who do not. Not much can be done to help the latter kind. They are on their way back to the old Apostasy. Resuscitations of the Gospel Truth have run this pattern over and over: a period of soundness; then a drifting of the majority back to main orthodox stream.

“Brother Thomas assembled the total Truth. Admittedly, others had disjointed parts, some this, some that. He revealed a beautiful, harmonious, living whole. His critics and scorners owe what knowledge they have of it to him, squirm as they may under this embarrassing fact. Intelligent men will recognize their debt and dependency, and will be humbly thankful. Intelligent, mature believers will not feel they have to devise anti-brother Thomas theories, to demonstrate their independence, but will be anxious to stand with the sound Truth as he revealed it-and that includes a true conception of the book of Revelation.

**(GVG, Search Me O God)**

We whole-heartedly agree with Brother Growcott’s sentiments. Many would rather depend on their own philosophy and reasoning, rather than brother Thomas’ sound exposition of the Scriptures. The Truth that he rediscovered, through the vigorous and zealous study of the Scriptures, is the apostolic foundation of what we as Christadelphians believe, and it is the basis of our faith, ultimately resulting in our salvation. The man was not infallible, but providentially chosen for this work of re-establishing the Truth in these latter days.

In many instances Bro. Roberts exhibited the same opinion of Bro. Thomas. We would like to quote one example from **“Seasons of Comfort” Vol. 2, pg. 347:**

“If we have attained to the enviable position of understanding the most wonderful and most precious book under the sun, it is the result of circumstances with the ordering of which we had nothing to do. If God had not raised up in this century such a man as Dr. Thomas, our generation would have been stumbling on in the inherited fogs, which have entirely hidden the teaching of the Bible from view, while glorifying the Bible itself in a certain sentimental way. It does not appear that the understanding of the Bible has been attained in any other channel. There is a great deal of writing about the Bible, and a deal of smattering in connection with separate and scattered points involved in Bible things; but where, outside of his work in our day, is to be found that complete mastery of the whole Scriptures, from Genesis to Revelation, which renders the work of God through Israel from the beginning a consistent, connected, and progressive thing, which not only does not require the help of human philosophy, but which cannot endure the admixture of it without being spoiled? We know not it’s like in any current system or movement, or in

any library treasures, ancient or modern, or in the hands of any teacher or institution of modern life anywhere.” {end of quote}

I have personally witnessed some Christadelphians who have rejected the pioneers and as a result have completely fallen away from the Truth. We know that there will be few who are found faithful at Christ’s return. Let us make sure we make up part of that small number of Christ’s beloved friends and brethren, who will be found studying the Scriptures with the aids that Yahweh has mercifully provided for us, in the writings of the Pioneers. Let us read and re-read and re-read them. To fall short in this study and reading is to put our own salvation at risk!

**“For the powers of heaven shall be shaken.” Luke 21:26**

Once again the European Constitution is dominating the news headlines in the UK. Prime Minister Tony Blair continues to contend that no referendum (direct decision by general vote of the public) is needed, while the conservatives demand the public be allowed to take a vote. Also, we have seen a new Conservative leader put in place, Michael Howard, who is out rightly against the UK joining the EU (he is also reportedly a Jew). How quickly things could change in the political heavens if the Conservatives were to be voted in next election!

We would like to quote from a recent correspondent who has written to us on this subject: -

**EUROPE**

As we write, European leaders are gathered in Rome to discuss the new European Constitution. This will remove the right of veto for any nation, abolish majority voting (i.e. no one can opt out of a policy agreed by the (un-elected) commissioners and their President), and assert the primacy of European law over national law. Also it will allow taxation to be set by Europe (Brussels) and bring national armies under European control. This would mean that any independent action in international affairs (such as British forces going to Iraq) would be impossible. All foreign policy would also be decided at European level. The British judiciary would become instruments of European law (which they are now to a large extent) and the once proud and independent state of Great Britain would be reduced to a vassal province of a greater Europe (which is not a position which prophecy predicts). It is significant that the current talks are being held in buildings constructed by Mussolini as part of his fascist Empire. He also had dreams of a fascist Empire of Europe.

Every attempt is made by the Labour government to play down the true intent of the European Union. Since there is no mechanism for withdrawal, for a member state to secede would be interpreted as an act of rebellion to be suppressed by armed force to bring compliance.

The latest news, which is also being played down, is that the Queen is concerned about the constitutional implications of Britain signing up, since it would reduce her to a vassal status under European law, no longer constitutional head of state. She has the power constitutionally to act to prevent any threat to the nations constitutional sovereign status, and could dissolve Parliament and hold Mr. Blair and Mr. Straw guilty of treachery and treason against the state by connivance with foreign powers.

What we say is watch this space, because an enormous conflict is brewing, with America and NATO also involved.

Mr. Blair should be mindful that it was taxation under Charles I that sparked off the English Civil War, and the British attempt to impose taxation on the American colonies that sparked off the declaration of Independence and the American Revolution 1776. The cry was then ‘no taxation without representation’, i.e. no foreign power has the right to impose taxation on a free people. The Roman Empire thought quite differently as did the Holy Roman Empire and Hitler’s fascist Empire in modern times, and now the European Union.

**For behold I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered nor come into mind.” (Isaiah 65:17).**

The new heavens and the new earth, which God will create, are new political, social, and religious orders on earth “in which will dwell righteousness.” We long for this time as we continue to witness man’s cruelty and wickedness. The further that man moves away from God’s word (as we know will continue to happen until Christ’s return), the more base and gruesome a beast he becomes. We cringe when reading such new articles as the one recently reported by the BBC:

**Four Rwanda Ministers Go on Trial for Genocide**

FOUR former Rwandan ministers have gone on trial charged with playing key roles in the slaughter of 800,000 people.

The UN tribunal in the northern Tanzanian city of Arusha is keen to show progress in trying former top officials to counter Rwandan government criticism that it has been slow to bring the masterminds of the massacres to justice.

“The prosecutor will show that from April 9th, 1994 wherever the ministers went on their campaigns, they were soon followed by blood-letting and displacement of Tutsi population,” said prosecution lawyer Paul Ng’Arua.

“They blazed throughout Rwanda a path which the prosecutor describes as the path of hell.

“They took affirmative actions to encourage the killings, as well as to conceal, mischaracterize or rationalise the killings of Tutsis.”

Video footage was shown of the accused being sworn in as interim ministers in 1994, interspersed with grisly images of mass slaughter, piles of corpses and machete-wielding militias.

The ministers belonged to an interim government that took power in April 1994 after a plane carrying President Juvenal Habyarimana was shot down just before the massacres began.

Three months later they were ousted by Tutsi-led rebels, but by then government-sponsored Hutu militants had killed an estimated 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

Prosecutors have said that as early as April 9, two days after the massacres began, Mugenzi, a 54-year-old former businessman, openly expressed his satisfaction that many Tutsis had already been killed.

**“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.”**

In that day, Jerusalem will be called “the throne of the Lord” (Jeremiah 3:17), the nations will ascend there for worship (Zechariah 14:16), and the conditions that will then be established on earth will reflect to the glory of the Father (Isaiah 61:11). The King of Kings will rule as a righteous judge, and man will no longer be left to his own animalistic impulses. O how we long to see the Son of God return to the earth!

The question is, as always, “are you ready”?

Bro. Stephen Male

## **The Deep Things of God: ORDER OF THINGS TO COME**

The following enumeration, we would suggest, is in harmony with the testimony of the Prophets as rightly divided by our Brother John Thomas in his three major prophetic works: Eureka, Anatolia, and Elpis Israel. May we be numbered among those who are blessed to behold these glorious days ahead.

1. Judah dwells confidently, though in unbelief of the Messiahship of Jesus (Ezekiel 38:8,11,14; cf. 39:26).
2. Jesus Christ returns to the earth (Acts 1:11).
3. Resurrection of the enlightened, just and unjust, and the gathering of such who are alive at Christ's coming (Daniel 12:2; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Psalm 50:3-5; Romans 2:12, 16, cf. Acts 17:30-31).
4. Judgment Seat of Christ established in the Sinai region (2 Corinthians 5:10; Deuteronomy 33:2-3; Habakkuk 3:3-4).
5. Rewards and rejections commence (Galatians 6:8).
6. Russia, having confederated most of Europe, takes Turkey including Constantinople (Ezekiel 38:6; Daniel 11:40).

7. Russia becomes the civil and military power, and ecclesiastical overlord of both East and West as typified by the Roman Emperor, Justinian (Daniel 7:15-23; 8:23; cf. 11:36-39; Apocalypse 13:4).

8. Russia invades the glorious land, commencing her subjugation of the Persian realm (from Ethiopia to India) and driving her antagonists (Tarshish, i.e., Britain, U.S. and allies) to the land of southern Edom, Moab and Ammon, where they escape the onslaught (Daniel 11:41; Ezekiel 38:1-6,13).

9. Tarshish antagonists to Gog become the protector of Jewish outcasts who have fled into southern Edom, Moab, and Ammon to escape the Russian advance (Isaiah 16:4).

10. Russia invades Egypt, enslaving Jews who have sought refuge there (Daniel 11:42; Isaiah 19:4, 20).

11. Southern Arabs (House of Esau) are subjected to the Multitudinous Christ, and the southern portion of the Abrahamic land grant is annexed (Obadiah 18-21; Habakkuk 3:3-7; Isaiah 21:13-15).

12. Tidings out of the east and north incites Russia to move north from Egypt into Israel and besiege Jerusalem (Daniel 11:44-45; Ezekiel 38:11; Micah 5:5; Zechariah 14:1-2; Joel 2:1-20).

13. Russia triumphant: The Great Assyro-Babylonian Image of Nebuchadnezzar stands in full confederated manifestation (Daniel 2; 4; 7; 8:23-25).

14. Elijah's work of the restoration of all Israel commences (Malachi 1:1; 4:5-6; Matthew 17:11).

15. Multitudinous Christ enters Egypt, destroying the Russian occupying force and freeing Jewish captives (Isaiah 19:20-22; Habakkuk 3:8, 15).

16. Leaving Egypt, the Multitudinous Christ leads the Jews out as a trembling bird over the tongue of the Egyptian Sea, after Moses' example (Hosea 11:11; Isaiah 11:15; Psalm 68:22-23; Exodus 14:13-31).

17. The front of the Russian forces is encountered at Bozrah and is destroyed (Isaiah 34:1-8; 63:1-6).

18. From Bozrah, Christ and the saints advance to the plains of Moab, swing around the Dead Sea, and cross the Jordan River into the plains of Jericho – this in accordance with Joshua's crossing of the river after Moses' death (Deuteronomy 2; Joshua 4).

19. From the Valley of Achor near Jericho the march moves westward toward Jerusalem where Christ will stand upon the Mount of Olives which shall cleave in its midst (Hosea 2:15; Zechariah 14:4-5).

20. There, the Multitudinous Christ defeats the massed Russian confederacy in the Valley of Judgment, styled Armageddon. The site is

between the Mount of Olives which is before Jerusalem on the east, and Mount Moriah, and through which flows the Kidron. The Feet of the Assyro-Babylonian Image are smitten and the Image commences to crumble (Isaiah 63:6; Daniel 8:24-25; 11:45; Micah 5:5-6; Habakkuk 3:13; Ezekiel 38:13-23; 39:11; Joel 2:20; 3:1-15; Apocalypse 16:16; Daniel 2:34).

21. Christ and the saints approach the city gates of Jerusalem from the way of the east, and Christ makes himself known to his kinsmen (Ezekiel 43:2; Psalm 24:7-10; Zechariah 13:6; 12:10).

22. The Davidic Throne is established in Jerusalem (Jeremiah 3:17).

23. Seven months are allotted to burying the dead after the great conflict (Ezekiel 39:11-16).

24. Judah, now freed from Russian domination, constitutes God's battle ax. Under the direction of the Christ-Body, they invade the land of Assyria. The dominion of Daniel's first three beasts is taken away. The northern Abrahamic grant is conquered all the way to the Euphrates River (Jeremiah 51:19-23; Daniel 7:12; Isaiah 19:23-25).

25. The Lamb stands victorious upon Mount Zion and proclaims the mid-heaven Gospel (Apocalypse 14:1-7).

26. The Western Beast-Nations and the False Prophet of Rome reject the ultimatum (Apocalypse 17:12-14).

27. Judgments and war ensue upon the False Prophet of Rome and the Western Beast-Nations. The broken Image becomes as the chaff (Apocalypse 17; 18; 19; Daniel 7:18, 26; 2:35).

28. Second Exodus of all Israel completed (Isaiah 11:11-13; Jeremiah 16:14-18; Ezekiel 39:28).

29. All Israel (purged of rebels) established in the bond of the Covenant (Ezekiel 20:33-42; 37:22-28; Romans 11:26).

30. The nations are made subject to Zion's King (Apocalypse 14:19-20; Psalm 20).

31. House of Prayer for all nations. (Zechariah 6:12-15; Ezekiel 40-48).

32. Universal rule – Millennium begins (Apocalypse 20:1-6).

33. Christ and the saints rule with a rod of iron, teaching and converting the receptive mortals (Apocalypse 2:26-27; Zechariah 14:16-21; Isaiah 2:1-4; Jeremiah 23:5-6).

34. Post-Millennial Revolt, resurrection and judgment (Apocalypse 20:7-15).

35. Eighth Day New Heavens and New Earth: the Deity all in all, and the earth filled with the glory of the Lord to the total exclusion of mortal flesh and blood (Apocalypse 21:1; I Corinthians 15:28; Habakkuk 2:14).

*Bro. Bob Widding*

## What Does That Mean?

*“By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son.”* (Hebrews 11:17)

Why is Isaac called “his only begotten son” when we know Abraham had previously fathered Ishmael, and had an additional six sons later by Keturah? (1 Chronicles 1:32)

Although “only begotten” is a correct translation of the word “monogene” it can also be translated as “single of its kind” giving the idea that Isaac was a “unique” son and not necessarily the only son.

This is a very accurate interpretation, for Isaac was “unique” and alone in kind. First he was born not only of a barren woman, but a barren woman that was ninety years old and with whom “it had ceased to be after the manner of women!” But Isaac was unique and alone in kind, being the only son of promise. God was showing to Abraham that his promised seed (Christ) was not to be born by the will of man. His birth was to be outside the scope of natural procreation, it was to be by divine intervention.

The fact that Abraham did not doubt God in this was counted to him for righteousness. Paul says: *“He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead because he was about a hundred years old, or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was 'reckoned to him as righteousness.'”* (Romans 4:19-22 RSV) He saw in the unique circumstances surrounding Isaac a foreshadowing of Christ.

And so he exhorts us in Galatians: *“Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman. So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free. Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free.”*

*Bro. Jim Sommerville*