2006 Winter Newsletter

Detroit Bible Students

P.O. Box 51, Southfield, MI 48037-0051

"The wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain." Ps. 76:10

The wrath of men shall praise Thee,
The rest shalt Thou restrain.
And out of earth's disasters
Will bring eternal gain.

The purpose of man's evil heart'
Works out Thy sovereign will.
Our God is still upon the throne,
Therefore, believe, be still.

Be still and know that I am God, 'This banishes our fears,

While passing through this scene of strife, Of sorrow and of tears.

The One who rules the heavenly hosts
Holds all within His hand,
And none can say, "What doest Thou?"
Or can His arm withstand.

----Author Unknown----

The Season of Hopefulness

In the months of November and December each year, we celebrate two holidays that draw our minds to God and to the idea of the brotherhood of man. Both holidays in their own way present the concept of peace and good will among men. In the harmonious sharing of a harvest feast between the Pilgrims and their Native American neighbors we see an illustration of the harmony foretold in the angels' pronouncement of "Peace on earth good will toward men."

However, the centuries since that holy night when the hosts of heaven announced the birth of Jesus and the peace he would bring, have been years of barbarism, violence and strife. Will there ever be peace on earth? Is there a solution to terrorism, ethnic and political animosities, nuclear proliferation and the many other concerns of man such as crime, drug abuse, pollution and global warming? Will man destroy himself and the earth?

The Word of God alone explains the basic cause of this frightening state of world affairs and assures us that the outcome will be glorious. The long period of human experience with sickness, sin and death that began with the expulsion of our first parents from Eden, is characterized in the Bible as a time of darkness, a nighttime. The promises of the Bible assure us that this

"night" is to terminate in a morning of joy. The prophet wrote, "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." – Psalm 30:5

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." (John 8:12) and the prophecies reveal that the daytime of divine blessing for mankind will dawn as a result of the second coming of Christ and the establishment of his kingdom, which pictorially is described as the rising of the "Sun of Righteousness." (Malachi 4:2) In this prophecy we are promised that as a result of the rising of this "Sun" the people will be healed of their diseases. What a beautiful and reassuring illustration this is that the long, dark night of suffering is not to last forever, that a "morning cometh."

It was indeed a dark world into which Jesus came. He came to be the "King of kings," but first he must be the "lamb of God" who would be offered in sacrifice to take away the sin of the world. The Bible tells us that he "tasted death for every man" (Hebrews 2:9), and because of this "all who are in their graves will hear his voice and shall come forth." (John 5:28,29) By his faithfulness, he purchased the entire race of mankind out of the prison-house of death. "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." (Romans 5:19) "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." (1 Corinthians 15:22)

We are told that Jesus "went about all Galilee teaching ...and preaching the gospel of the kingdom." (Matthew 4:23). The prospect of the Kingdom was the central point of his earthly ministry, for in this kingdom all mankind will be

blessed and all the enemies of righteousness will be destroyed. (1 Corinthians 15:22-26) The day is coming when "the knowledge of the glory of God will fill the earth as the waters cover the sea," (Habakuk 2:14) and "he shall speak peace unto the heathen." (Zechariah 9:10)

The Book of Psalms has long been treasured for its devotional character, but another significant aspect of the book is its prophetic nature. Within its pages we are given a glimpse of the glorious result of Christ's reign. Here are some of the wonderful conditions that will prevail during the reign of Christ:

In Psalm 2:6-8 all nations are to become the inheritance of God's Son. Psalm 72:8 defines this dominion as reaching "from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth." Psalm 72 further notes that the king will rule in equity and bring justice to the people. "The mountains shall bring peace to the people;" "he shall save the children of the needy and shall break in pieces the oppressor;" "men shall be blessed in him; all nations shall call him blessed."

"He maketh wars to cease unto the ends of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire." – Psalm 46:9

"The meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." Psalm 37:11

"He shall judge the world in righteousness...The LORD also will be

a refuge for the oppressed." Psalm 9:8,9 "Let the nations be glad and sing for joy; for thou shalt judge the people

righteously and govern the nations upon earth...Let all the people praise thee. Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us." – Psalm 67:4-6

A beautiful picture of the Kingdom of our Lord is found in Isaiah 35. "Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not behold your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out and streams in the desert. ... And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

This picture is mirrored in the 21st chapter of Revelation, verse 4. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Then it will come to pass that there will be

Peace on earth and good will to all men

Jesus Christ.

Mahany/Meininger
Senior Community Center
3500 Marias Ave.
Royal Oak, MI 48073
[off 13 Mile Rd. east of Crooks Rd]

Sundays

10:00-11:00 AM Bible Study 11:00-11:30 Intermission & Fellowship 11:30-12:15 Bible Study (1st, 3rd, 4th Sundays) Bible Lecture (2nd Sundays)

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A <u>warm welcome</u> is given to all believers in the ransom sacrifice of