

PREFACE

*“I remembered pastor telling the brethren who were going overseas to study or work the three things they must do daily: firstly, to read the Bible; secondly, to sing the psalms; and thirdly, to read The Jerusalem Times. Today, pastor furnished the scriptural substantiations from Esther 9 to make the reading of The Jerusalem Times an integral part of our lives. He drew a parallel from the times of Esther to ours: the eschatological undertones of the times we are living in, the global nature of our ministry and thirdly, the ferocity of the battles of the final apostasy that we are in. In our time, there is the conspiracy and confederacy against the church. How then do we survive? The Jerusalem Times is part of the survival kit. There is a recurring theme in Esther to gather together for fellowship and prayer. Pastor showed us that The Jerusalem Times provides a forum for this purpose. Through The Jerusalem Times we can express our solidarity in this Christian fraternity by our condolences and prayers for our brethren like when we bereaved over Jonifer Flores, extended our condolences in the demise of Jethro Wu, and updated ourselves when pastor was caught in Frankenstorm in USA. It was through The Jerusalem Times that we knew what had happened to them. Through this means we were updated as to how our brethren had fared when they went through hard times and the counsel dispensed by the man of God. Pastor also showed us though God was silent in Esther, yet His ways could be discerned through His providential dealings. Likewise we are to trace the hand of God by the events that transpired in the lives of His people. To my shame, I confess that I did not treasure The Jerusalem Times in the past, especially when pastor was with us and I could hear pastor’s preaching directly. I must say The Jerusalem Times has been a source of blessing in nourishing me spiritually through the brethren’s responses to pastor’s preaching. Pastor has been travelling more frequently. I cannot complain that I cannot hear pastor’s preaching directly. I have to learn to glean from The Jerusalem Times to obtain nourishment for the profit and benefit of my soul. The Jerusalem Times has also afforded me pastoral understanding of the doctrines taught by the man of God as the brethren described their struggles and counsels were given by pastor. The Jerusalem Times were made dearer to me when I was on the mission trip. However, it was hard to read and meditate upon it on my mobile phone. I would have preferred a hardcopy but it was hard to find internet café to download and print it. Through The Jerusalem Times, pastor also proclaims the works of God. Like the psalmist in Psalm 111:2, pastor often seeks out the works of God, speaks of them and declares His glory again and again. That should be my spirit. I felt indicted that I do not have such a spirit; instead, I have consumed God’s blessings upon my own lusts. As I behold the works of God done in our midst, I affirm that God is with us. Pastor also showed us that through The Jerusalem Times we can come to know his calling, God’s mandate for him and our niche. May my vision of my niche in pastor’s ministry be sharpened as I employ The Jerusalem Times for my spiritual nourishment. **The Jerusalem Times is a quality production. First, it is vetted by the editorial team, then it is vetted by pastor. My lackadaisical attitude towards The Jerusalem Times belies my lack of affection towards Jerusalem. I desire to repent. May I be like Mordecai, waiting at the gates for news of the welfare of Jerusalem.**”* Zechariah Tan’s response to ‘The Value Of The Jerusalem Times’, Cameron Highlands, Pahang, Malaysia; 19 December AD 2013