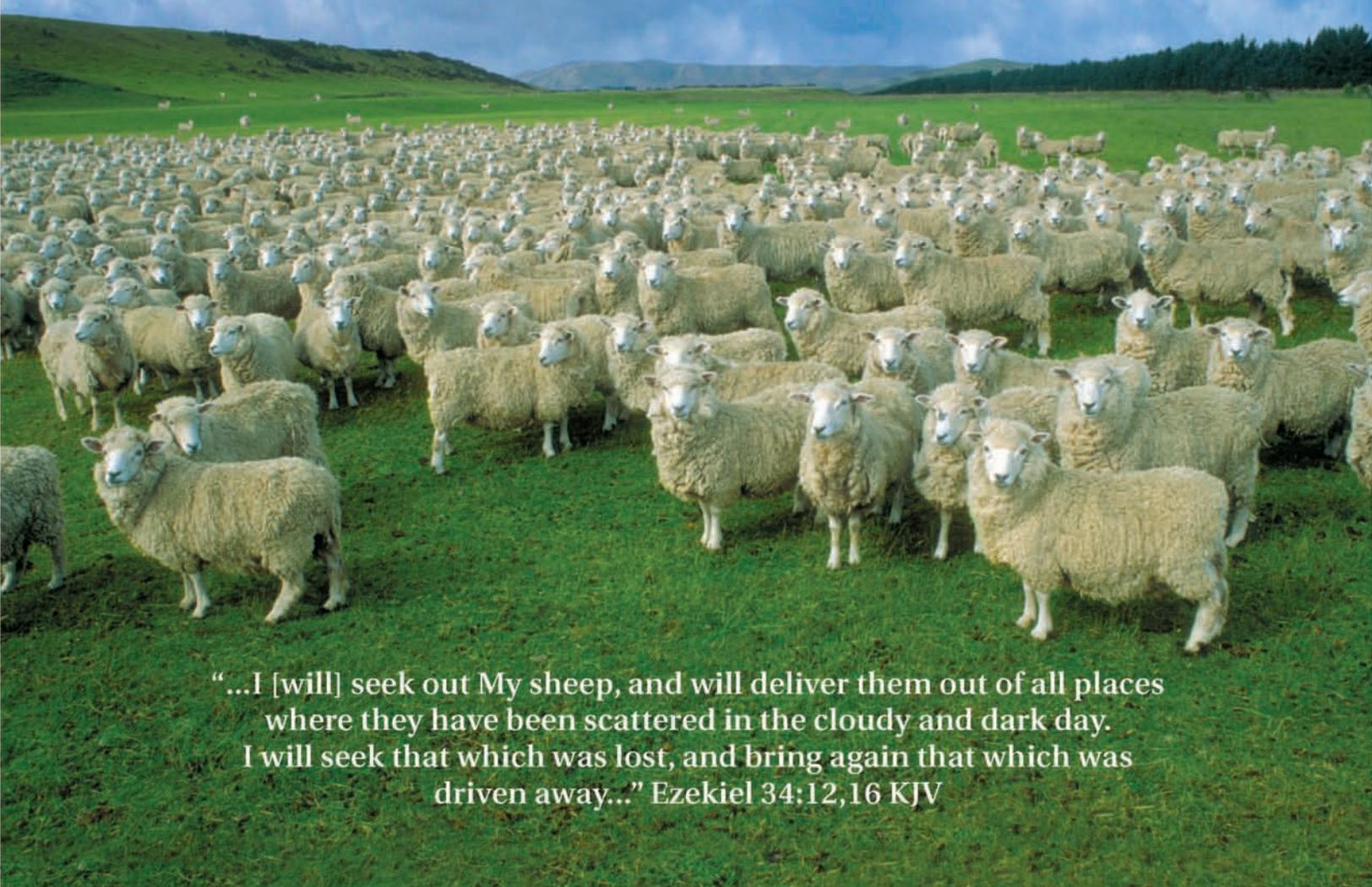


Sep/Oct 2007

# The Philadelphia Remnant



Dedicated to the memory of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and to the FAITHFUL Philadelphia Remnant of The TRUE CHURCH OF GOD Scattered Worldwide



“...I [will] seek out My sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day. I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away...” Ezekiel 34:12,16 KJV

# The Philadelphia Remnant

SEPT/OCT 2007

VOL. 1, NO. 5

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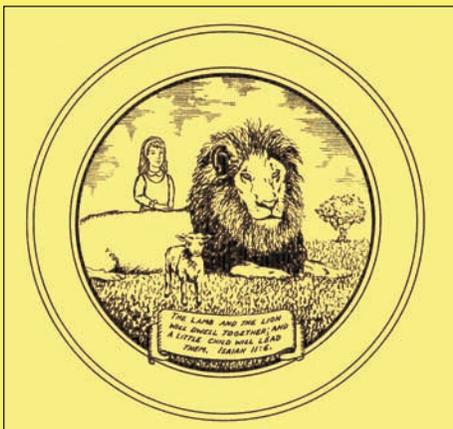
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**Cover:** The flock of sheep pictured on the cover of this magazine represent the scattered brethren of God's True Church. (*Photo courtesy <http://phillip.greenspun.com>*)

The Church of God Faithful Flock, with headquarters in Modesto, California, humbly presents this new magazine – The Philadelphia Remnant, which continues to provide a conduit for the work Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong spearheaded, the work of reaching out to people worldwide with the message of the soon-coming Kingdom of God through the preserved writings,

recorded telecasts, sermons and Bible study messages that Jesus Christ used him to do in his human ministry!

*The Philadelphia Remnant* has no subscription price. This magazine is provided free of charge. It is made possible by the tithes and offerings of the membership of the Church of God Faithful Flock and others. Contributions, however, are welcomed and tax-deductible in the United States. Those who wish to voluntarily aid and support this worldwide work of God are gladly welcomed as co-workers in this effort.



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# Why the Holy Days?

By Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong  
Last Great Day – October 13, 1979

I am speaking now to everybody from down in Florida, up into northern New York, from Seattle, Washington down to Pasadena, California and to at least four or five Feast sites in Canada. Greetings to all you brethren, all over the United States, the South, the North, the Middle West, the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. This is a wonderful thing. Now we are planning something even bigger for next year and perhaps a way to reach Feast sites in other parts of the world by satellite.

The reports I've had is that all of you have been having the best Feast **ever** this year. I'm sure we had the best year for many years last year. This has been even bigger and better this year. You've been literally, through sermons and through sermonettes, **living** through the coming thousand years of peace. The time with Jesus Christ here ruling the whole world and all nations and many of us, hopefully, ruling with Him on His throne. A time without any Satan, a time when the earth will be as full of the knowledge of God as the ocean beds are full of water, and the earth has almost none of the knowledge of God today. What a difference that will be!

But today, after the Feast of Tabernacles we have a different Holy Day. Actually, the Feast of Tabernacles ended at sundown last night. The Feast of Tabernacles is a seven-day festival. Yesterday was the seventh day of the festival, and today is another festival altogether. But as soon as the one ended at sunset last night, the other began. So here we still are. In many ways, we have traditionally regarded this as the Great Day of the Feast.

Now if we try to view the conditions in the world from the point in time of today, where we live today, it is a good deal like going into or rather say, tuning in a movie on your television set. And you tune in when it is about three fourths of the way along. You do not know what has gone before. You do not know what has led up to the place where you are now. And you



MR. HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

are bewildered because it does not make any sense to you. You do not know what they are talking about, unless you know what went before and what led up to it. So, what led up to our day today, to our kind of world today? Now the world is different than it was two thousand years ago in many, many, many ways. In some ways, it is still the same, unfortunately.

Now in John 7, verses 37 and 38, Jesus Christ stood up and said:

***John 7:37 "In the last day, that great day of the feast ..."***

Now, there might be some little problem of discerning, exactly, whether that meant the day that really followed the Feast of Tabernacles. Because they were still all there just like we are today. Or whether that meant the last of the seven days, which would have been yesterday in our time of this Feast this year. Anyway,

***John 7:37-38 "Jesus stood up and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink ..."***

*and (38) out of his [innermost being] shall flow rivers of living water.”*

Unfortunately, I have a red letter Bible. The words of Christ are in red letters, and I can't read them very well without a magnifying glass.

*John 7:38-39 “He that believeth on Me [said Jesus] as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (39) (But this spake He of the Spirit [that is, the Holy Spirit of God], which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Spirit was not yet [that is, at that time 1900 years ago.*

*“Was not yet”...] given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)”*

### **HOLY SPIRIT SHUT OFF FROM MANKIND**

Now there is a point that you should notice. The Holy Spirit had not been given to the church of the Old Testament. In the Old Testament, it is called the congregation of Israel, but congregation is just another English word for church; and in one passage in the New Testament, it's called the “**Church in the wilderness**” in the days of Moses (Acts 7:38). But, they did not have the Holy Spirit. And I may say more about that as we go along. The Holy Spirit had been shut up from mankind, until **Christ was glorified**. Now there is a lot more to it than that, and I am coming to a lot more. So, just bear that in mind, if you will. The Holy Spirit was not yet, at that time, **given**. The Holy Spirit had come, up to that time, only for prophets. Now at that time, even the apostles had not yet received the Holy Spirit. In ancient Israel, only the prophets had the Holy Spirit of God.

Now another scripture I want to read right here in connection with this, just a page or two ahead of it. John 6:44, where Jesus said:

**John 6:44 “No man can come to Me, except the Father which sent Me draw him.”**

Now that is a MOST REMARKABLE statement! He said “**No man CAN.**” Even if he wants to, he is unable, unless God the Father **draws** him. I want you to notice one thing. The **initiative** must be taken by **God**. It isn't up to the average man, the man in the street, the man wherever you find him, out on a farm or in the city to just say, “Well, I want to come to God.” Now no man can come to God except through Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “**I am the way, the light and the truth**” (John 14:6). But Jesus says no man can come to **Him**, unless the **Father** takes the **initiative** and draws him, through the Holy Spirit. But, that doesn't mean he had the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will only be used as an instrument in **drawing** him towards Christ, and the choice has to be God's.

Now, that leads us back to something. That's why I say you cannot understand the conditions with the things that the Bible says of our time, if you don't go back to know what went on way, way before.

Why could only those called come to Christ? Now that has a lot to do with **predestination**. Yes, there's something about predestination in two different chapters in the New Testament. It has nothing to do with whether you are already predestined to be saved or lost, because we must all make our own decision. It has only to do with the time, with who is called and at what time, the time of being called. To understand, we need to see the panorama of events that led up to the time we are in now. If you're tuning in on a motion picture, you're tuning in on today. But we need to know what led up to today, what led up to this condition. Why do we have the conditions in the world we do now?

Now, God Almighty is the Creator. Jesus Christ said, I work and my Father works (John 5:17). They're not lazy, and They're not lying around. They work. Well,



what do They work at? What's Their job? CREATION. Of course, God is creator. God is also Revealer of knowledge and truth. He is also the Ruler of the universe. And, He also is the Giver of life. He has life within Himself and life to give.

## SECOND STAGE OF CREATION

Now God creates in a system, or a process, of **duality**. Two and two seem to go together in almost everything God does. For example the creation of man, it started in a **physical** creation. So there's the physical creation and then a **spiritual** creation. Now the physical creation began about 6,000 years ago in the creation of Adam and Eve, human beings. But the spiritual creation began less than 2,000 years ago in Jesus Christ. That is the second stage of man's ultimate creation. That is the stage that is going on now. And that has a lot to do with why we are here right now. And why you brethren in the other Feast sites, all around over the United States and up in Canada, are where you are right now.

When Adam was created, Satan was right there. He



FEAST OF TABERNACLES, TUCSON, 1982

was here on the earth. Now how did Satan come to be here? Where did he come from? God had created the super archangel whose name was Lucifer, long, long before Adam. Well how long before we don't know, because the time is not given or revealed. Back in Ezekiel 28:15, I want you to notice something about him. Speaking now of this Lucifer, God says: **Ezekiel 28:15 "Thou wast perfect in thy ways [In his ways, in the way he acted and lived, the way he thought] ... perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created until iniquity was found in thee."**

Now iniquity is lawlessness. Actually, before man was created God populated this earth with angels. God set over them this great, super archangel Lucifer, the greatest, most powerful being that God ever did, ever can, create just automatically. Apparently, there are two other archangels of equal power today, but he was next to God in power and ability. He was perfect in his ways from the day God created him. God did not create an evil person. But iniquity was found **in him**. Now, what do you think is the ultimate thing that God is creating? The ultimate thing God is creating is perfect righteous character; and that's something that even God Himself, alone by Himself, **CANNOT create**.

He created man that character can be built within us. But each of us has to make his own decision. And we have our part in it. And if we decide against it, there's nothing God — God has so **willed** that there is nothing He, can do about it.

This Lucifer was instructed in all of the Government of God. He was set on a throne over the angels, governing and ruling with the Government of God. The Government of God was sent here to carry on this process of developing character within those angels. Now Lucifer had been on the very throne of God. He had been instructed at headquarters of the universe. Just like we have instructed future ministers at Ambassador College; and then after their graduation at headquarters, we send them, as we say, "out into the field."

Well, this Lucifer was one that was instructed at headquarters in God's heaven and then sent out into the field, this earth. He had been instructed in the Government of God, and the Government of God is merely the government to lead into the **right way of life**.

## A PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE

Now then again, we get down to a philosophy of life. And as I have said to the leaders of many nations, to kings and emperors, prime ministers — there are **two** ways of life, or if you please, two **philosophies**. Only two general ways, and I have put it in language that a five- or six-year-old child ought to understand. The one way is the way of GIVE, and the other is the way of GET.

Now the way of give is really the way of LOVE because love is not lust. Love means an outgoing love, an outgoing concern for the good and welfare of others. It is the way of wanting to serve and help and cooperate, wanting to share with others, of having in your mind and heart only the good of others. But **getting** is that “I want to get all for me. I don’t care about anybody else. I am looking out for number one. What do I care what happens to anybody else?”

Now, the Government of God is based on a LAW. You don’t know any government anywhere that is not based on a basic law or constitution of some kind.

Right here in the city of Tucson, Arizona, where I am just now, we have a local city government; and it is based on ordinances and laws. The state of Arizona is based on certain state statutes and laws and a state government. And it is supposed to conform, in many ways, to the government of the United States, over all states. And the United States is founded on the Constitution of the United States. And we’re in the process right now of testing whether that constitution, the law of this land, can even stand, and whether Christ is going to be able to lead **His Church**, or whether the politicians can. And as Mr. Rader has been explaining to you, if the state of California can win this battle against the



U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO

Worldwide Church of God, then they will go after other churches. And if the state of California can do it, then other states will begin to do it, until **all** churches will be **wiped out**. They have been in **Russia**. **Don’t SAY it could never happen here**. It is just that serious, as Mr. Rader said. Let nobody be misled or misunderstand that point.

Now this world has really been ruled by Satan, and I am coming to explain that right now; and, of course, the real instigator of it is Satan. But Satan has deceived the entire world, and many people are doing things of which Satan is the real instigator, but they’re unaware of that. They don’t realize that they were really led into that by an evil Satan.

Well, iniquity was found in this Lucifer. He led all of his angels into rebellion against the Government of God, and the Government of God no longer was administered on the earth. That is, physical destruction came to the earth as a result of that. In the 104th Psalm in verse 30, it speaks about God “**renewing the face of the earth**” by sending forth His Holy Spirit. And so, you find the Earth in a state of chaos and destruction in the second verse of Genesis 1,

the first chapter of Genesis. And the Spirit of God is there brooding over the watery surface. It was all oceans. There was no land at that time. And it was all dark because the sin of the angels brought darkness. And God is the God of Light and not of darkness. So, the first thing that God did, He said, “**Let there be light**” and so light appeared. Then in six days, He **RENEWED** the face of the Earth **for mankind**. Angels had failed. You read in II Peter, second chapter and the fourth verse in the New Testament, of how the **ANGELS SINNED** and God has not spared them who sinned. And so we are told fear not, lest He will not spare us.

Lucifer had his name changed to Satan, and we know him as Satan today. He has deceived the whole world.

Well, God first created man, and He created a woman from the man. Adam and Eve they were called. Just as God had instructed Lucifer at the headquarters of the

**Continued on Page 19**

# Personal from the Editor

By Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley

## “The War All Around Us”

This was a very recent headline in our local daily newspaper.

*Stockton Record. 7-22-07 Scars of Battle Aren't Always So Easy to See, by Sara Cardine Record/Staff/Writer Page 1.*

**“War is 24/7. There is never a moment to let your guard down – an attack can come at any time, and when it does, you must be prepared. Being constantly awake, aware and ready to respond is what keeps you alive on the battlefield.”**

War is indeed a most terrible and tragic thing just as General MacArthur and other leaders have said! The tragedy is that the war is not contained solely in Iraq or in Afghanistan, for it is all around us in our daily lives in one way or another just as the headline tells us.

Recently it was said by a national personality on television, **“There is no safety anywhere!”** Listen in on any news channel, read any newspaper. We neither read nor hear of any good news.

Instead we read of the acts of suicidal Islamic terror



There will be no generation gap in the World Tomorrow!



*Alton B. (Don) Billingsley*

this country is extremely vulnerable to something very dreadful taking place at any time anywhere!

At the same time we read and hear daily of the continued violence and victims of murder all across this country and in other nations. This also includes the kidnappings, rapes and murders of little children by pedophiles and sometimes by family members. Horrifying and sickening! Each daily newspaper is filled with bad news.

Sometime ago, on CNN, Glenn Beck asked one of his visitors to tell him some good news for a change. He went on to say, “I never hear of any good news. Can you tell me some?” His guest replied that he did not know of any good news.

The problems are so great in this country that one can sometimes hear statements by discerning people to the effect that there is no longer any hope for the survival of this once great nation. The expressions in voice and face convey their resigned hopelessness, giving this nation no more than two to five years before going the way of Rome.

Sadly, there is no good and lasting news to be seen or heard in this evil world that belongs to Satan the devil (Luke 4:5-6; John 12:31; II Corinthians 4:4; Galatians 1:4).

ists taking the lives of many hundreds of people as well as the frightening prospects of terrorists taking the lives of possibly millions of people with small nuclear bombs in this country and in Britain! To add to this fear is the admission of our national leaders that



However, it can be happily and emphatically stated there is very soon coming **Good News** for everyone, and it will last forever.

Before this time, the wars and violence will escalate to a level unparalleled and unequaled in history (Matthew 24:21; Daniel 12:1). Prophecy reveals billions of people will perish due to God permitting **the wrath of Satan** to come down hard on the nations of Israel during the **Great Tribulation and the ensuing Battle of Armageddon!**

**The wrath of God** will fall upon the survivors of mankind in far greater measure at the return of Jesus Christ back to this earth (Revelation 16)!

All of these terrible and tragic events will shortly take place because of mankind's many accelerating sins and rejection of God and His holy and righteous laws!

Jesus Christ will usher in a glorious new age as KING of Kings and LORD of Lords! (Revelation 19:16). Though it will require some few years to subdue all nations and bring them into peaceful alignment with His holy and righteous reign, it will come to pass, for Jesus Christ will firmly establish His rule of law and love over all nations from His Holy Temple in Jerusalem (Zechariah 14:9, 16-19; Isaiah 2:2-4).

Very soon the curtain will come down on the stage of this unhappy age, and when the curtain goes up it will reveal a new and wonderful age that will bring with it

good and lasting news for a thousand years and for all eternity.

With a rod of iron Jesus Christ will bring peace to this war-torn and blood-soaked earth (Psalm 2:1-12; Isaiah 9:6-7). Further, Scripture reveals: "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain (meaning: the restored nations of Israel under one Government; this will expand after a few short years to cover all nations of the earth). For the earth shall [come to] be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11:9).

This will be a most wonderful world, for there will be everlasting peace and happiness with no fear of anything.

Elderly people and children will no longer be in fear of anyone harming them: "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Old men and old women (grandparents) shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each one with his staff in his hand because of great age. The streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets'" (Zechariah 8:1-5).

The Good News of peace, happiness, joy and abundant living, without fear of anyone or anything, is very soon to dawn on this coming glorious new age that will be brought about by the will of our loving, heavenly Father through His beloved Son Jesus Christ. **"To God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen"** (Romans 16:27).



# Where is the True Church Today?

*‘And I also say to you that you are Peter (Greek, petros, a stone loose and movable, John 1:42), and on this ROCK (Greek, Petra, huge unmovable rock like Gibraltar, meaning Himself) I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH, and the gates of Hades (the grave) will NOT prevail against it’*

By Alton B. ‘Don’ Billingsley

In this **third in a series** of writing establishing where the true Church of God is today, it is necessary to **first** re-establish the proof positive fact that Jesus Christ did indeed establish His one and only True Church during His earthly ministry just as He said He would do in this Scripture.

Within the context of the establishment of the Church of God, it also is necessary to make known **WHY** Jesus Christ began building it, its **PURPOSE**. This is made known from the following quoted excerpts extracted from the article, **“Where Is the True Church?” Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, the Plain Truth, July/August, 1984, pages 29-30:**

**“God had allowed this world to be founded by the first (man) Adam. He started the very foundation of God’s world (the Church) through Jesus Christ, the second Adam: Jesus said, “I will BUILD My Church (Matthew 16:18). The Church is the embryonic beginning of God’s new civilization. ... In Ephesians 2:21, the Church is called a building – actually the Spiritual Temple of God. It had a foundation which is Christ along with the apostles and prophets (Ephesians 2:19-22; Matthew 7:24-27). ... We (God’s true people) are begotten within our Spiritual mother, the Church is ‘Jerusalem ... above ... which is the mother of us all (Galatians 4:26) ... Then we are fed spiritually through the mother, the Church, on the spiritual food of the Word of God. ... Symbolically the Church is referred to as the household (or family) of God (Ephesians 2:19-21), and a building that grows into the Holy Temple to which (Jesus) Christ shall come.”**



Government of Gibraltar photo

## THE ROCK OF GIBRALTAR

Amidst the maze of confusion confronting the many Churches of God, with each one claiming that it alone is the true Church that Christ built, this continued writing will enable us to peer through the web of confusion which has enveloped each one, until we then come to recognize beyond a shadow of a doubt as to where the true Church presently exists. The one in which Jesus Christ is currently doing His end-time Work.

In 31 A. D., Jesus Christ established His Church on the Day of Pentecost, just as He had promised to Peter: **“And I also say to you that you are Peter (Greek, petros, a stone loose, movable, John 1:42), and on this ROCK (Greek, Petra, huge unmovable rock like Gibraltar, meaning Himself) I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH, and the gates of Hades (the grave) will NOT prevail against it (Matthew 16:18).”**

To understand the depth and scope of what the Church of God really is, we must remember that the Church is made up of many members who have God’s Holy Spirit dwelling in each one (I Corinthians 12:12-14, 27-29, also, please read chapter 6, Mystery of the Church, beginning with page 198 of the *Mystery of the*

*Ages* by Mr. Armstrong). And as individual members of God's one true Church, this same Greek word, *ekklesia*, also has the meaning of a congregation, an assembly, a gathering, a group (**Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, *Mystery of the Ages*, chapter 6, page 207**).

At the same time one should always remember this same true Church of God was to always be known as a very small flock.



### **A Little, Little Flock**

**“Do not fear, little, little (Greek meaning, a double diminutive) flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the Kingdom” (Luke 12:32).**

There are those who would question the little, little flock size as there were approximately 150,000 members in the Church before the scattering, and 50,000 or more that are numbered in the more than 300 Churches of God today. This question was answered in the first two writings on this subject.

### **A Headquarters with Local Congregations**

When we take into account the meaning of the word *ekklesia*, meaning called-out ones, it also has the meaning of congregations or assemblies in which Jesus Christ has placed His true and faithful ministers, as can be seen in Scripture, to teach, feed and protect His called-out ones (John 21:15-17; I Corinthians 12:27-28; Ephesians 4:1-16).

In view of these Scriptures and the many problems plaguing the Church today with ministers apostatizing and deceiving the members, God's apostle wrote the following:

**“It is the duty of Christ’s TRUE ministers (and how scarce today) to PROTECT the begotten but yet unborn saints from false doctrines, from false ministers” (Mystery of the Ages, The Spiritual Embryo, page 262, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong).**

### *Mystery of the Ages*

Jesus Christ, knowing the end from the beginning of time, led His apostles in that early era to write of the falling away of the tares and the scattering of the true Church members in this end time (see first and second writings on this subject in earlier publications of this magazine). To aid His true people to work their way through this maze of religious confusion that they face today, Jesus Christ led Mr. Armstrong to write the *Mystery of the Ages* within the last year of his life, in which can be found the true doctrinal teachings that



**Mr. Armstrong personally delivered copies of *Mystery of the Ages* to an Ambassador College theology class.**

He used Mr. Armstrong to RE-STORE within His Church.

**NOTE: Please know that edits and the removal of parts were made in subsequent publications of the *Mystery of the Ages* from the original writing by Mr. Armstrong.**

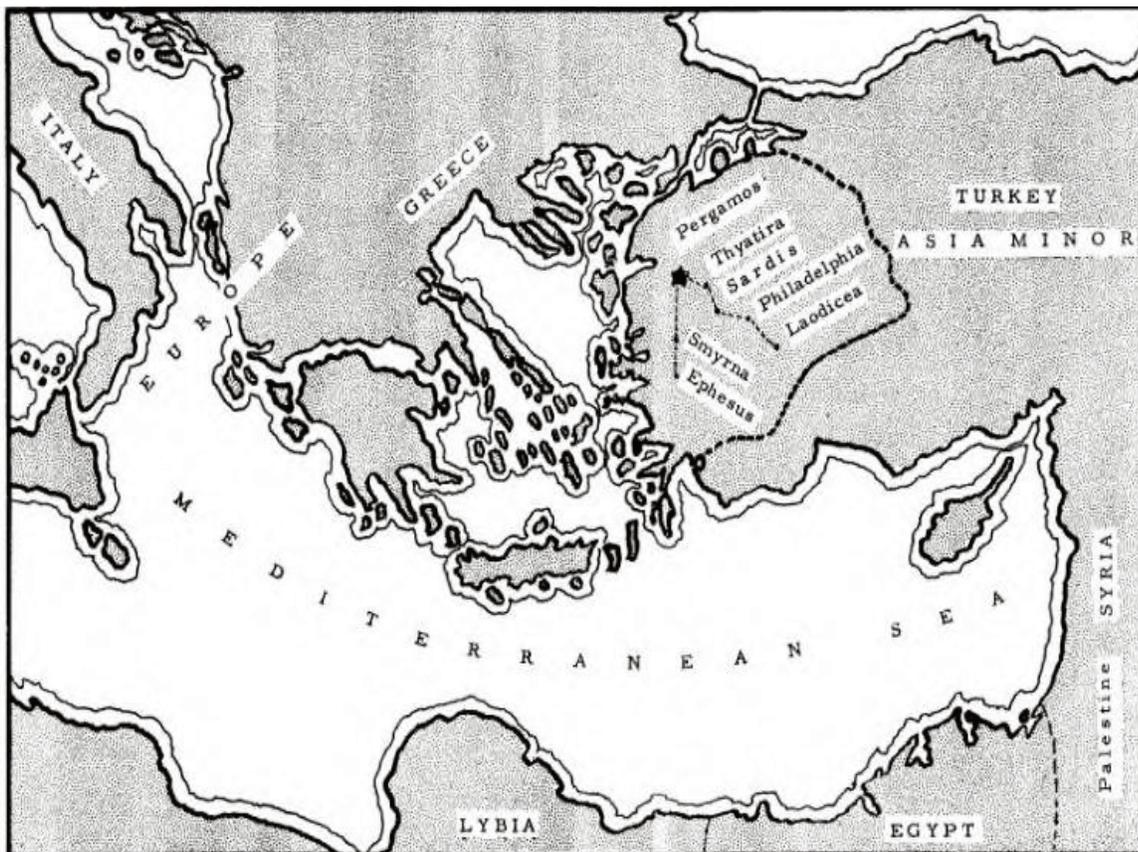
At the same time Christ has raised up at least one Congregation to be used by Him as a *conduit* or *instrument*

in making possible all of the **RECORDED WORKS** of His late apostle and the Elijah of the end time; to both *preach the gospel* and also give a *final warning* to the Church, Israel and the world of the terrors that are very soon to befall all of mankind before He returns to this earth!

By writing this, I am not saying there is no other congregation with a true and faithful pastor that is also being used by Jesus Christ as a conduit or instrument to make all those RECORDED WORKS accessible on their web sites. I just do NOT know of one at this time.

### Where is the True Church in Our Time?

Once again please note this question recently asked of me in writing: **“I was associated with the Worldwide Church of God for many years. I left the Church on [in] 1993 when they fell away from the truth. Now there are many churches all claiming to [be] the one true Church. Mr. Armstrong often stated that Christ would return to one church, not many. What is your stance on this subject? Thank you.”**



Map shows seven churches of Revelation 2-3 in 1959 'True History of True Church' booklet

Realizing the need of this question to be answered for a few thousand other true members who are yet scattered, I have written fourteen articles on this subject of which this is the third.

### The Writing of Dr. Herman L. Hoeh

To aid me in this writing, I encourage everyone to re-read the booklet written by Dr. Herman L. Hoeh: **“A True History of the True Church.”** It is a very good and timely writing and is available on our web site at [www.cog-ff.com](http://www.cog-ff.com).

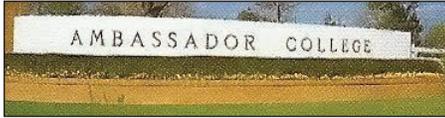
If there is a problem downloading it, please let us know, and we will send it by post office mail to you: Church of God, P.O. Box 8819, Modesto, CA 95357.

The reader should profit greatly from Dr. Hoeh's writing, for it had to do with tracing the history of the True Church from its beginning all the way up to the time of his writing in 1959. At that time, his writing was focused on the true Church making it through the religious confusion of the worldly churches.

Though there were essentially no problems within the

ministry and membership of God's true Church at that time, his writing nevertheless gave an overview of what was to come to pass in our time in relationship to what the Church of God experienced in past ages.

Dr. Hoeh's writing can be very helpful in considering the aftermath of the internal problems brought about by the apostates and their takeover of the Headquarters Church after the death of Mr. Armstrong. History has a



way of repeating itself even within the Church of God.

The reader should be able to see the problems that affected the Church through past centuries and understand the real struggle the true members endured to remain alive and viable, while not only experiencing fierce persecution, but also dwelling in the midst of the continued religious confusion surrounding it.

As such, it parallels the continued struggles of the Church today. By studying the eras of the Churches of God (Revelation 2 and 3), one can readily see the true ministry and membership always have experienced internal problems by false ministers who secretly came in among their midst (Jude 4; II Peter 2:1-3).

The same problems exist at this present time, for just as the true ministry and membership of past ages have had to recognize those who falsely represented themselves as being part of them, so it is today (Revelation 2:2).

In very recent years, more than 450 corporate Churches of God have developed after having branched off from the parent Worldwide Church of God with varying beliefs and teachings apart from the restored teachings by Jesus Christ through His late apostle. This has been, and continues to be, a real struggle for the true members to look past these well known and respected ministers of former times and view them in light of the true teachings of God. Some members have been able to do this while others are still having difficulty recognizing them as to who they really are. As either being virtually dead Churches, as is the Sardis era, or not of God at all by viewing their fruits (beliefs and teachings, Matthew 7:15-20; I John 2:19). Sadly there are the many members who are still

in a state of bewilderment and confusion not knowing which one is the right one. The wonderful blessing that yet exists is the fact that true to the promise of Jesus Christ His Church would always exist (Matthew 16:18)!

With this in mind, one can know with all surety that among all of these Churches of God there yet exists at least one true Congregation of the true Church that is holding fast to all of the true doctrinal teachings. And true to what Jesus said it would remain a little, little, flock.

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**In the early 1970s, Mr. Dean Blackwell wrote his thesis on the history of the True Church tracing it from its very beginning. In more recent years, Mr. Ronald Kelly also traced its history and taught it in a class to students in Ambassador College in Pasadena, California. Though both ministers remained in the apostate Church of God, both the writings and what was taught in those classes were on track.**

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Though Dr. Hoeh's booklet only highlighted the history of the True Church, those two men traced it in greater detail through the midst of all the worldly churches and made it recognizable by its beliefs, teachings, practices and fruits (Matthew 7:15-29). The true Church of God can be recognized today just as it was in past ages in the very same manner even though it is surrounded by the 450-plus Corporate Churches of God of today; Churches that were once altogether under the one parent Church of God.

The reader will profit more from Dr. Hoeh's writing by bringing it up to date and considering it in the context of the religious confusion that abounds today. Please think of it in this manner. In so doing, we should be able to also see through his writing where the one true Church of the living God yet exists today.

God willing, in my next writing my plan is to further enable one to know where the Church is in which Christ is actively working today as the following Scripture makes known: **“Look among the nations and watch – be utterly astounded! For I will work A WORK in your days which you would NOT believe, though it were told you”**  (Habakkuk 1:5).

# ‘My Lord Delays His Coming’

*Jesus Christ predicted that most people would not expect His Second Coming despite plain signs showing it was ‘near, at the very doors.’ He warned even when the Kingdom of God was imminent, many of God’s own people would deny it and put it off in the distance. Dire consequences come with such an apathetic attitude and could even jeopardize their very salvation!*

By Mark Mendiola

How many of God’s people actually believe that Jesus Christ’s return and the Kingdom of God are near? How many think they still have plenty of time to work out their own salvation and, as a result, lose any sense of urgency or alarm?

How many are preparing themselves for the blowing of the Seventh Trumpet that will dramatically herald Christ’s Second Coming and the establishment of God’s Government on earth? During this Fall Festival Season, we need to pointedly ask ourselves these questions.

Many false ministers are lulling God’s people into a dangerous sleep by predicting Christ’s return is at least seven or eight years off or setting dates such as 2017 for when to expect Him to come back to this planet. Some even claim that Christ will not return for another 25 or even 100 years! Consequently, God’s people are totally unprepared for the sudden destruction and cataclysmic events that Christ, the prophets and apostles repeatedly warned would precede the Messiah’s arrival!

God’s true ministers, however, are told to “Cry aloud,



Time keeps ticking away as we get closer to the Great Tribulation and Christ’s Second Coming.

spare not; Lift up your voice **like a trumpet**; Tell My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins” (Isaiah 58:1). Most people, conversely, tell God’s true ministry, “Do not prophesy to us right things; Speak to us **smooth things**, prophesy deceits” (Isaiah 30:10).

## Sudden destruction

What is God’s response to rebellious people who will not hear God’s law (Isaiah 58:9) and do not want to be corrected about their sins and transgressions? “Therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach ready to fall, A bulge in a high wall, Whose breaking comes **suddenly, in an instant**” (v.13). The Apostle Paul also warns, “For you yourselves know perfectly that the

day of the Lord so comes as a **thief in the night**. For when they say, ‘Peace and safety!’ then **sudden destruction** comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And **they shall not escape**” (1 Thesalonians 5:2-3).

Christ warns His people against falsely believing that He is **postponing** His return or that the Kingdom of God is **far off in the distance**. Let’s honestly ask ourselves – is this the way we feel? Is this our attitude? Are we slacking off like we have all the time in the world to waste? The very signs Christ warned would be indications of His coming and the end of the age **rapidly are intensifying** in magnitude and impact – religious deception, wars and rumors of wars, famines, disease epidemics and earthquakes in diverse places.

“Now learn this parable from the **fig tree**: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is **near**. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is **near**, at the very doors. ... **But of that day and hour no one knows**, no, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. ... **Watch** therefore, for **you do not know what hour your Lord is coming** ... Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming **at an hour when you do not expect Him**” (Matthew 24:32-33, 36, 42, 44).

**Christ urges us to be watching and in a heightened state of readiness** as world conditions deteriorate, showing that the Kingdom of God is near. Yet, the dominant, prevailing attitude of God’s people at large right now is that there’s plenty of time left and no need to worry. Most are in denial as the Great Tribulation looms more ominously ahead of us. Meanwhile, the

corporate Church of God groups continue to feud and fuss among themselves, losing sight of the major events unfolding on the world scene.

“But if that evil servant says in his heart, ‘**My master is delaying his coming,**’ and begins to **beat his fellow servants**, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, the master of that servant will come **on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of**” (Matthew 24:48-50).

Far too many of God’s people also are indulging in the false doctrines of the world’s churches, abandoning the precious truths God put into His Church via Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, **getting drunk on religious deception** that causes them to lose focus and ultimately blinds them to stark reality. Most people will be so oblivious to the disasters coming that the Great

Tribulation will abruptly snap shut on them, **trapping them in a horrendous nightmare!**

“And He spoke to them a parable: ‘**Look** at the **fig tree**, and all the trees. When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now **near**. So you, likewise, when you see these things happening, **know that the Kingdom of God is near**. ... But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and

that Day come on you **unexpectedly**. For it will come **as a snare** on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. **Watch** therefore, and **pray always** that you may be counted worthy to **escape** all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man’ ” (Luke 21:29-31, 34-36).

### **Putting far off the day of doom**

The prolonged war in Iraq has drained the United States of America militarily, economically and politi-



A FIG TREE

FreeStockPhotos.com photo

cally, **breaking the pride of the most powerful nation on earth**, costing the United States billions of dollars each month as the total U.S. national debt swells to \$9 trillion! The U.S. dollar is sliding, and the U.S. trade deficit is out of control. Extreme widespread drought and flooding threaten to cause food shortages and fuel inflation. Yet, most people could care less as they engage in a mindless pursuit of pleasure and entertainment and are distracted by the mundane cares of this life.

The prophet Amos powerfully warns against this “take-it-easy,” nonchalant attitude toward the curses modern Joseph is bringing on himself by breaking God’s commandments with impunity. The vast majority deny the imminency of the unprecedented “**time of Jacob’s**



**trouble**” (Jeremiah 30:7). As Mr. Armstrong used to explain, Zion can refer prophetically to God’s Church.

“Woe to you who are at ease in Zion ... **Woe to you who put far off the day of doom ... But are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph**” (Amos 6:1, 3, 6). Just as Christ warns, Amos condemns modern society’s emphasis on wanton pleasure, gluttony and drunkenness (v. 4-6). The end result of this godless hedonism will be national captivity and slavery!

“Therefore they shall now go captive as the first of the captives, And those who recline at banquets shall be removed. The Lord GOD has sworn by Himself, The LORD God of hosts says: ‘**I abhor the pride of Jacob**’ ” (v. 7-8).

The prophet Zephaniah shows that God will “**punish the men who are settled in complacency ... The great day of the LORD is near; It is near and hastens quickly ...** That day is a day of wrath, A day of trouble and distress, A day of devastation and desolation, A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of

clouds and thick darkness, **A day of trumpet and alarm**” (Zephaniah 1:12, 14-16).

Many people believe there will be no end to the wealth and prosperity they are now enjoying. “Tomorrow will be as today, and much more abundant” is their attitude (Isaiah 56:12). Scoffers in the last days will deny that Christ’s return is near, saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation” (II Peter 3:4).

How does God respond? “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But **the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night**” (v. 9-10).

As the United States and other modern Israelitish nations depart more and more from their Judeo-Christian heritage and plunge into complete secularism that denies God’s existence, mocks the divine inspiration of the Holy Bible and rejects God’s righteous laws, a defiant cynicism and mockery toward the warnings contained in God’s Word prevail throughout our lands. Many, if not most, in the birthright nations scoff at Bible prophecies warning of their demise if they don’t repent.

“And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, what is this proverb that you people have about the land of Israel, which says, ‘**The days are prolonged, and every vision fails**’? Tell them therefore ... ‘I will lay this proverb to rest, and they shall no more use it as a proverb in Israel.’ But say to them, ‘**The days are at hand**, and the fulfillment of every vision. For no more shall there be any **false vision** or flattering divination within the house of Israel. For I am the LORD. I speak, and **the word which I speak will come to pass; it will no more be postponed**; for in your days, O rebellious house, **I will say the word and perform it**,’ says the Lord GOD.’ Again the word

of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, look, the house of Israel is saying, ‘The vision that he sees is for **many days from now**, and he prophesies of **times far off**.’ Therefore say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘**None of My words will be postponed any more, but the word which I speak will be done,**’ says the Lord GOD” (Ezekiel 12:21-28).

### It’s high time to wake up!

One of these days, God Almighty will say, “Enough is enough!” and swiftly bring to pass the fulfillment of His prophesied warnings. When that happens, **the entire world will be astounded at the dramatic, traumatic upheavals that will hit like a sledgehammer!**

“Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, **wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry**” (Habakkuk 2:2-3).

Christ makes it plain we must be prepared, watching and involved in doing His Work to be considered faithful and wise stewards who will be **given rulership in the Kingdom of God**. “Let your waist be girded and **your lamps burning** ... that when he comes and knocks they may open to him **immediately**.

Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, **will find watching**. ... Therefore **you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect**” (Luke 12:35-37, 40).

He adds, “Blessed is that servant whom his master will find **so doing** when he comes. Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has. But if that servant says in his heart, ‘**My master is delaying his coming,**’ and begins to beat his menservants and his

maidservants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, **the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware**, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. And that servant who knew his master’s will, and **did not prepare himself** or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes” (vs. 12:43-47).

Yes, most of God’s people will not be ready for Christ’s return at the Seventh Trumpet blast when “He will send His angels with **a great sound of a trumpet**, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other” (Matthew 24:31). **They also will be totally unprepared for the Great Tribulation** in which they will suffer extreme punishment along with unbelievers. Let’s make sure we are not in that category!

**False ministers have lulled thousands into a deep slumber**, deceiving them into believing world condi-

tions are not as bad as they really are, that there is no need to warn or witness, that Christ postpones His coming.

We dare not be like the 10 virgins who all slumbered and slept, but were jolted awake at midnight in a **rude awakening** when the cry **suddenly** went out to meet the bridegroom at his coming.

Half of them let their

**lanterns** get so dangerously low that their lights were barely flickering, and they were almost completely in the dark! Christ concluded that parable by stressing, “**Watch** therefore, for **you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.**”

(Matthew 25:1-13). Brethren, please burn into your memory the Apostle Paul’s urgent admonition: “And do this, knowing the time, that **now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed**” (Romans 13:11)! 



# Prepare to Rule with Christ

*'Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years' (Revelation 20:6)*

By Ron Wilcoxson

**W**e know that God has a purpose for everything He does, and that He does declare the end from the beginning; saying, "**My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure ...**" (Isaiah 46:9-10).

We have been so blessed to be called NOW by the Father and given God's Spirit, which guides and directs us to His real purpose for all of mankind, as pictured through His wonderful Holy Days.

But the ultimate purpose of God is to reproduce Himself (I John 3:2). He is starting with the physical and producing (or building) something spiritual, a temple, if you will (I Corinthians 15:22, 45; 3:16; 6:19).

We also know that those called and chosen in the first harvest are to be the firstfruits of God's creation (Romans 8:23; James 1:18; Revelation 14:4). Scripture also makes known we are to be made kings and priests to rule with Christ at His coming. "**And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth**" (Revelation 5:10).

And this is to occur at the sounding of the Seventh Trumpet (Revelation 11:15). The potential of God's firstfruits is so awesome that it is vital to understand that as future leaders in the soon coming wonderful World Tomorrow, pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles, we are to aid our Savior Jesus Christ in beginning to fulfill the hope of all mankind.

Do we realize that the prophecy in Obadiah, verse 21,

is referring to those who are called now? If we are part of those firstfruits then we also are to *literally* become saviors.

But we must prepare for this huge responsibility. To help us in preparing for God's Kingdom and qualifying for our individual roles, this article will present seven attributes of Godly leadership:

## 1) A Godly Leader Must Have Godly Knowledge

We should meditate on the significant words carved in stone and placed over the west doorway of Ambassador Hall in 1962, "THE WORD OF GOD IS THE FOUNDATION OF KNOWLEDGE." A Godly leader must be well educated, well informed and have a solid foundation.

That person must have a very good understanding of who God is, who man is, and have comprehension of God's overall purpose for His creation.

We must be grounded in the truth (Ephesians 3:17; I Timothy 3:15)! Many biblical leaders exhibited knowledge and skill given to them from God. Daniel not only understood the language, knowledge and literature of the Chaldeans, but also the knowledge of God's laws and of understanding prophecy (Daniel 1:4, 8, 17, 20).

Ezra was used by God to re-educate Judah and Jerusalem well after the 70-year captivity in Babylon. He was sent back to teach those who had lost God's



Truth. Mr. Armstrong, our modern day Apostle and Elijah, was trained by Christ in the written Word of God.

If we are to become leaders in the new world, then we must be taught by and live by every Word of God as well (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4). We are now in training for our future responsibilities and offices.

## 2) A Godly Leader Sets the Example

The Apostle Paul understood he and the ministers with him had to set a Godly example for a pattern that Christians could follow. Paul wrote, "**Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so**

financial hardships, hunger, and many trials and tests. But they overcame them by the trust and faith of Christ Himself (Galatians 2:20).

Like them, to be qualified to work with the whole world in the future, we must come to think like Christ now.

And to do this we need to have more of the fullness of the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5). Therefore, it is imperative for us to follow His own example (I Peter 2: 21-25; John 13:13-17).

## 3) A Godly Leader is Creative

God's very purpose for us is to reproduce Himself through mankind by a change from physical to spiritual. God created us in His image, first physically, and then eventually to become full spirit-born Sons of God (Genesis 1:26, 27; John 3:3-8).

God's spiritual nature is creative. God the Father and the Word, who became Jesus Christ, are creators, planners, designers. When we are born sons and daughters of God, we will have taken on the very nature of our Father (Psalm 17:15; I John 3:2). What an exciting future for all of mankind but especially for those so wonderfully blessed to be called at this time.

God created mankind with free moral agency – to think, imagine, plan, create and choose for ourselves. His desire was that mankind would come to have a spirit-led mind that would think creatively in a way that would benefit all of mankind, both now and in the future.

As God's elect we need to realize the wonderful and awesome blessing that is to become ours one day, to have an active role in creating, planning and designing in the new age.

We should see the necessity to seriously begin planning for the future now and learn to do things God's way.



Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong did God's Work virtually alone at first

**walk, as you have us for a pattern. For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame – who set their mind on earthly things"** (Philippians 3:17-19).

He also told them to follow or imitate him just as he imitated Christ (I Corinthians 11:1). Christ is our ultimate example.

Mr. & Mrs. Armstrong stood virtually alone when first called by God, submitting themselves to persecution,

#### 4) A Godly Leader MUST Have Vision

Scripture makes known that **"Where there is no vision the people perish, but happy (blessed) is he that keeps the law"** (Proverbs 29:18). All of the heroes of the Bible had vision.

**"But they all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth"** (Hebrews 11:13).

Think of the example of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. He was a man of great vision and through him God re-established His Church, re-vitalized His Work and established three colleges.

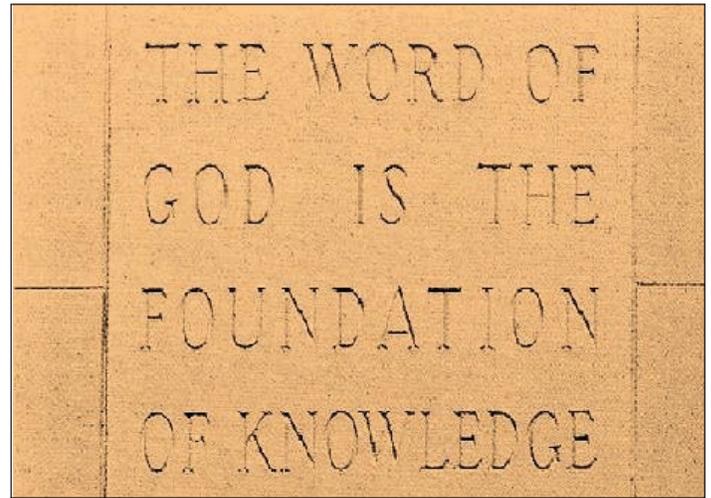
We must try to paint a portrait of God's future Kingdom in our minds so we can make it believable and ready to become a reality. Christ did! He continually thought and talked about it; it was always uppermost in His mind.

Notice the parables He taught: They were in one way or another related to the Kingdom (Luke 19:12-19, Matthew 25:14-23). Imagine being ruler over a city or five cities or 10! How will we do away with poverty in our city? What might be the best design and street layout? What about schools and education in the Kingdom of God? All of society will need to be re-educated. How will this best be carried out?

This present way of doing things must be completely torn down and a whole new Godly system rebuilt. Mr. Armstrong taught us through God's Word that Christ would not build on Satan's foundation, but on the foundation of Jesus Christ. VISUALIZE IT ALL!

Picture the countryside, the cities, clean water and air systems, non-polluting power and transportation sources, and more. The books of Isaiah, Zechariah and almost all the other Minor Prophets as well as other prophetic books in the Bible are literally full of Scriptures about the coming Kingdom.

THINK ABOUT IT ALL, especially since the Feast of Tabernacles is a time to really focus in on the Kingdom of God.



TALK ABOUT IT! Exchange thoughts with our brethren in Christ about this wonderful Government on the earth and begin to really picture it in our mind's eye. We should be able to visualize that future new world now and be considering solid solutions for all of mankind's problems and woes.

#### 5) A Godly Leader Will Be Full of Zeal

The word zeal comes from the Hebrew word gana, which means to provoke to jealousy. David used this word in the following scripture: **"Because zeal for your house has eaten me up ..."** (Psalm 69:9). He cried out to God for help and intervention when the ungodly were all around him and his enemies hated God's truth. He was jealous for God's truth! Christ, our example, was intensely jealous for God's way of life. Jesus Christ zealously cleaned the merchants out of His Father's House (John 2:13-17).

Scripture makes known that we as the people of God must also manifest this same kind of zeal for our promised part in His soon-coming Kingdom: **"And from the days of John the Baptist until the present time the kingdom of heaven has endured violent assault, and violent men seize it by force"** (Matthew 11:12).

The Amplified Bible clarifies this Scripture to mean **"... [as a precious prize] – a share in the heavenly kingdom is with most ardent zeal and intense exertion."** This is the kind of zeal that both Christ and David had, and we must have as well as future Godly leaders.



## 6) A Godly Leader Must Be Able to Teach

Once the influence of Satan has been stopped, as pictured by the Day of Atonement, the knowledge of God will begin to flow out from Jerusalem. Eventually the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, "... **As the waters cover the sea**" (Habakkuk 2:14; Isaiah 11:9). One of our jobs as kings and priests will be to teach the Truth of God, His laws, statutes and the benefits from obedience to all those who have been blinded by Satan in our present world (Psalm 103:1-8). We are being trained at this present time in the Church of God to become teachers in the very near future (*Mystery of the Ages*, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, pages 228-237). The Apostle Paul reveals how important a true teacher of God is and the harm false teachers can do (Romans 2:17-24, 29). He recognized his responsibilities as a teacher (I Timothy 2:7; II Tim. 1:11). Paul knew that one of the qualifications of an overseer was to be able to teach (I Timothy 3:2). Jesus Christ is returning to this earth as KING of Kings and LORD of Lords! He is the greatest teacher of all and will further teach us in our new roles (Deuteronomy 33:1-3). As we should know, He taught and trained His disciples for 3½ years as students, and afterwards they also became teachers. Even the Pharisees recognized him as an instructor (John 3:2).

As kings and priests, we will become teachers of the survivors of the time of Armageddon. They will be more than eager to accept righteous authority in that new Millennium. **"And though the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore, but your eyes shall see your teachers. Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way,**



QUEEN VICTORIA OF GREAT BRITAIN

**walk in it,' whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left"** (Isaiah 30:20-21). What a special and wonderful time just ahead of us to aid Jesus Christ in teaching mankind how to truly live!

## 7) A Godly Leader Must Be Just

In the new age to come, a Godly leader will not play favorites for wealth or fame as seen in the political realm of today's world. He will not pervert justice in any way (Leviticus 19:15; Deuteronomy 16:19-20; James 2:1-9; I Peter 1:17-19). In showing what is good and required of us, God reveals that an integral part of justice is to be full of mercy upon seeing a repentant attitude, and to walk in a humble spirit before God and His people (Micah 6:8). To truly be just leaders, we would have to be exhibiting ALL of the fruits of God's Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22).

The ancient King David, a man after God's own heart, will soon be resurrected to be king again over all 12 tribes of Israel (Ezekiel 37:24-25; Jeremiah 30:9). In David's last words before his death, he stressed, **"He who rules over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God"** (II Samuel 23:1-3). 

# Why the Holy Days?

Continued from Page 4

universe, Lucifer was on the very THRONE of God before He sent him out. So God **first**, instructed Adam, and He talked with Adam the very first Sabbath day. God did not allow Satan to have any contact with Adam until God had thoroughly instructed Him about the **Government of God**, about the coming **Kingdom** of God, which is the family of God ruling with the Government of God (a different thing than the Government of God).

And He had shown him that God's way, God's government, is based on LOVE — on the way of GIVE and not on the way of GET, just to use my own phraseology for it. Now Adam had an opportunity to qualify to replace the former Lucifer on the throne of the world and to administer the Government of God. Now God was determined to RESTORE the Government of God to this earth when He intended to do it through man. Now the first man, Adam, was given a chance. But, just as Lucifer had rejected and rebelled, so now did the first man rebel.

## THE TWO TREES

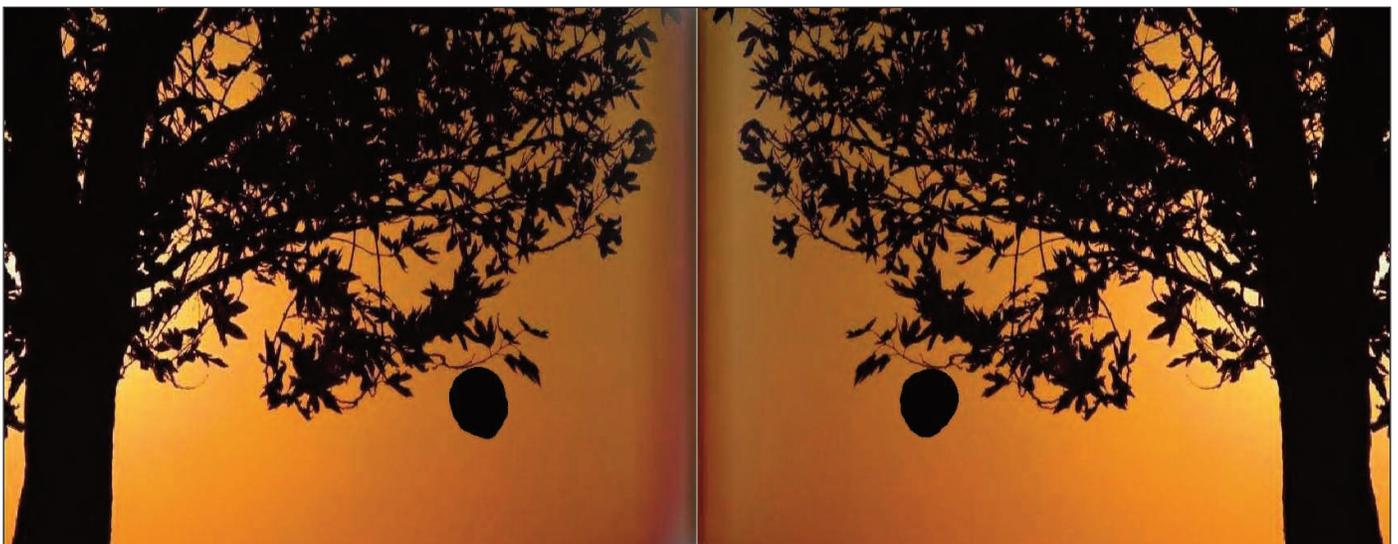
There were the two trees in the Garden of Eden. One was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. That was taking to **yourself** the decision of what you think is right and what you think is wrong. The way of man that God says is never right and leads to death. Then

there was the **tree of life**, which represented the Holy Spirit and the gift of eternal life, which God was willing to give Adam free. He did not have to repent. He had never done any sinning yet, at the time God spoke to him. But Adam had to qualify by **rejecting Satan and Satan's way**, the get way; and by accepting God as his ruler, as the revealer of knowledge and truth, and as Savior. So, he had to also not only reject Satan and Satan's way but obey God and accept God's way. As I say, this was symbolized by the two trees.

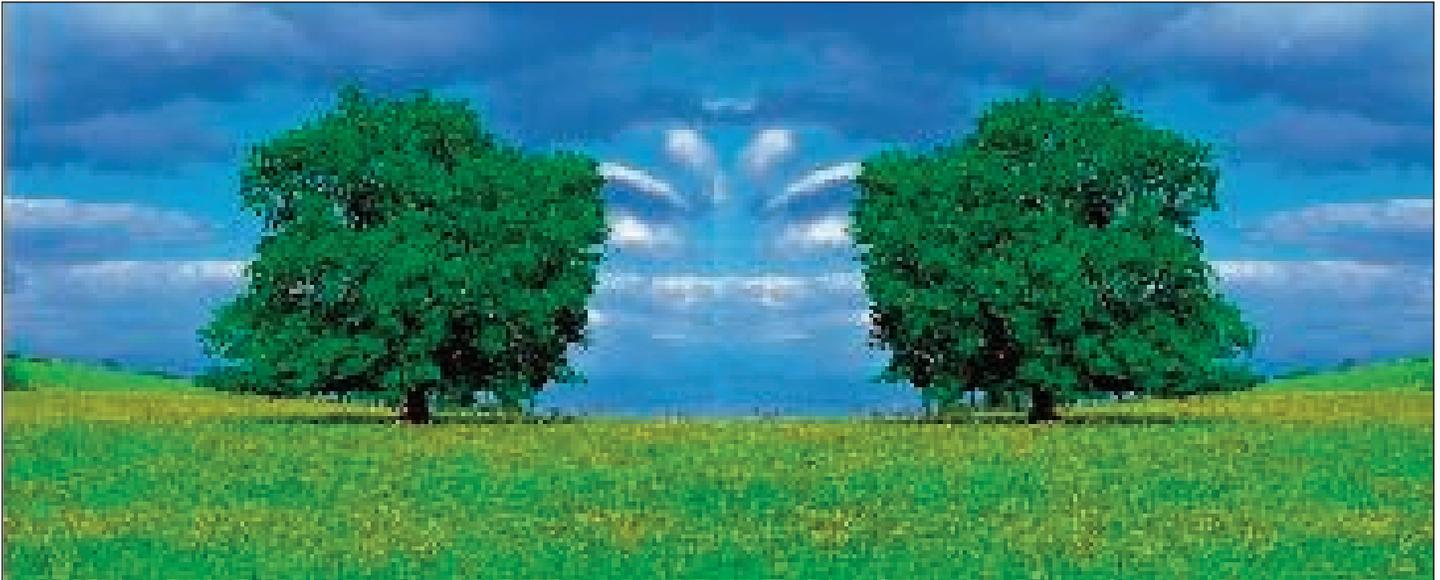
Now Satan, when he was allowed to, Satan got through to Adam by way of his wife; and Satan's gotten through to many men through their wives. Let that be a warning to you husbands and you wives. Eve finally tried the first scientific experiment in this world. I wonder if you realize the tools of science – of modern science:

1. The rejection of revelation from God as the source of knowledge. They will not receive knowledge from God.
2. Observation and measurement.
3. Experiment.
4. Human reason.

So, Eve rejected what God had said — that she would surely die if she took of that tree. She looked at it and had observation and reason. It looked desirable, good for food. It was beautiful. She couldn't see anything



TWO TREES



wrong with it, and she was not about to believe God when He said it was wrong. She was going to determine that for herself.

So, she used human reason, and then she decided to make an experiment. She TOOK of the tree to see what would happen. RESULT OF THAT FIRST SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENT – SHE AND HER HUSBAND **DIED**, and they’re not living today. That was the first scientific experiment.

Now then, let’s go back to Genesis the third chapter, at the very end of the third chapter.

**Genesis 3:22 “And the [Eternal] God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil.”**

That is, he took to himself the knowledge of good and evil, instead of letting God give it to him. God is the revealer of knowledge; and if you shut off revelation, you shut off the real source of knowledge.

**Genesis 3:22-24 “... and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life [which he had not taken yet] ... and live forever: [Because that represented the Holy Spirit, the Tree of Life; and lest he do that.] (23) Therefore the [Eternal] God sent him forth from the Garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. (24) So He drove out the man; and He placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of**

**life.”** God then shut mankind off from the Holy Spirit. And God, in effect, said to Adam, to put it in modern language, my own language, He said, “Adam, you have made the decision. You have had the chance to make a great decision, not only for yourself but for all that would be born from you, which would be the entire world of humanity. You have decided for yourself and all of them. Therefore, **I sentence you and your progeny, mankind, to 6,000 years of being completely cut off from Me. All** except the few that I shall **specialy** and draw to Me for special service or activity, preparing for the Kingdom of God, when I will re-establish the Government of God on this Earth; and with the Kingdom of God.”

### **RE-ESTABLISHING GOD’S GOVERNMENT**

The Government of God: You know, the only place on earth today where the Government of God is being administered **IS IN THIS CHURCH** – The Worldwide Church of God. Now our present world headquarters are in Pasadena, California. At least they have been. And right now, I sort of moved them with myself over here to Tucson, Arizona, as I think most all of you know.

And so, the largest state in the union has decided to attack and to try to do away with the Government of God. The men there don’t know that. They have been moved by Satan. But Satan is the great deceiver, and they do not know what led them. They are looking at it from a human political point of view. But the whole object is to destroy the Government of God. But fortu-

nately, God previously moved me over here into Tucson, Arizona. Had He not done that, number one, when I had complete total heart failure (Let's see. I guess that's over two years ago now), I probably would never have come back because I was utterly dead for a certain, small, short length of time. It might have been 30 seconds. It might have been a minute or half or more, because no one was clocking it at the time to be sure.

Anyway, my heart had completely stopped. There was no heartbeat. There was no blood pressure. There was no pulse. There was no breath. I was not breathing, and my fingernails turned to whatever they do turn to under those conditions. My face was, I think, all blanched and everything of the kind, but by mouth to mouth resuscitation, they brought me back.

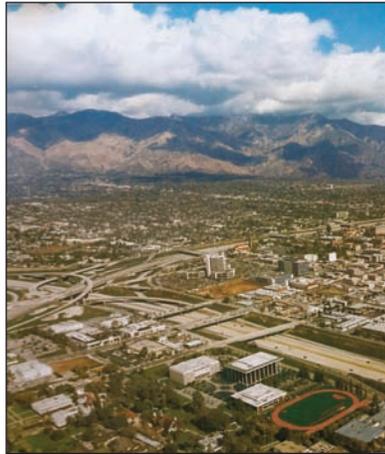
Secondly, if I had been in California on January 3rd of this year, I don't know whether the state's attack might have succeeded or not. Fortunately, I was here, and I was able to send letters to **all** of you brethren all over the United States. The first letter I had mailed from Pasadena, and the state's agent stopped it at the post office from going out. They weren't even going to let me communicate **with you**. So, I sent another letter, and it wasn't mailed in Pasadena. And the response was overwhelming.

And so now, you send the tithes and offerings to me **personally here**, but I am incorporated in the **corporation sole** as custodian for the Church of God. So in a sense, that makes the headquarters here, doesn't it now. But of course, our properties are still in California, and we are going to protect them. You can believe that. The state wants some eighty million dollars worth of beautiful property, the most beautiful campus in the United States or in the world; and they want to **stamp out** the Church. The cost to run it would be ridiculous. They wouldn't know how. They would not know the first thing about it.

### MAN CUT OFF

Now, God had cut man off. He said, "Go form your own governments." He said, "Go form your own reli-

gions. You rejected Me as your God." All right, look at all the different **religions** formed under the **sway of Satan**. God said, "You go form your own fund of knowledge, since you reject knowledge from Me." So, man has done that. In man's store of knowledge, he has built his institutions of learning; and our educational system is all what man has done **UNDER THE SUPERVISION AND GUIDANCE OF SATAN THE**



Ambassador College overview

**DEVIL!** And mankind doesn't even know that. And I say to you today, that **the most ignorant men we have in this world are the most highly educated**. Because they have been educated in so many **fables** and so many **non-truths** that they're going to have to unlearn those before they can ever begin to learn real truth. So, man has gone off to form his own institutions, his own governments, his own churches, his own knowledge, his own civilization. Now, for 6,000 years, man has been cut off from God in a way man does not realize.

Again, as Jesus Christ said, **no man could come to Him unless the Father would draw him**. God must take the initiative. No man was able to do that. **BUT MAN HAS NOT BEEN CUT OFF FROM SATAN**. I want to emphasize that point. Now for 5,700 years, man had stumbled along, about the same old keel in this sense. So far as what human beings called "progress," there has been very little progress in 5,700 years of man's development on earth. For example, in travel, men originally had to walk, go horseback or muleback, or row boat or sail boat. That is why most cities were built on a harbor on the seashore, on the seacoast.

It is only in the recent years that man has begun to come out of it and make what humans call "progress." Now I have to put quotes around that word "progress." However, the modern progress, so-called, started with the invention of the printing press. Let's see, what is that, about 400 years ago. But it took some time after the invention of the printing press before knowledge could be, man's knowledge could be, disseminated and spread. First, they had to teach teachers before they had teachers to teach others. And so, the so-called progress was slow even at that for a long time, but it gained momentum as it went along. Now, most so-called progress has come in this century since I have

been here. Now this thing that man calls progress, it's dual. Or, what God would call progress are two kinds. One is physical or material progress, and the other is spiritual. Now, the physical progress that man has made, much of that is very good and some of it is very bad.

Spiritual progress has been in reverse, going backward. Not progress at all, but backsliding. Physical progress ... well, when I was born, before the beginning of this century, we had in the cities horse-drawn little dinky streetcars, with a team of horses pulling them. And the first kind of streetcar I can remember was when I was about 5 years old; and they had what we called the little dinkies, the first little tiny electric cars with a trolley on an electric line.

No one ever thought of flying in the air until I was 11 years old — when I believe it was Orville Wright who made the first flight about as far as across this auditorium right here, and not out of the sight of anybody, when I was 11 years old. Telephone was still in its infancy. Communication and transportation were still elementary in every way.

In the United States, we were primarily an agricultural country at that time with the overwhelming majority of our population living on farms or in smaller towns. Today it is just the reverse. But, at that time, agriculture was not mechanized. In other words, they had horse-drawn plows.

And my, how I have seen that, and farmers plowing out by the roadsides in the country in Iowa, **singing** at the top of their lungs as they worked all day. **THEY WERE HAPPY THEN.** Not any more.

I have seen developed:

- **The machine age.**
- **The age of science and technology.**
- **The automobile age, rapid transportation.**
- **The air age.**
- **The nuclear age.**
- **And now the space age.**

Now today, the number one question in the world is the question of human **survival** because now science and technology have developed the weapons of mass destruction that can erase all human life from off this earth. And if God doesn't intervene, it would be done. But God will intervene before that happens, and it won't be done.



Now that's the physical progress. Let's look at the spiritual progress or retrogression. Anything like spiritual progress has been going **backward** in almost exactly the ratio that the physical progress has been going forward. As science and technology have developed and advanced, morals and spiritual progress have **waned** and gone **backward just as rapidly**. Did you ever think of that before?

When I was a boy, we didn't have any such problems as divorce and remarriage. I never thought about divorce. There had never been a divorce in any of my



Civilization's foundation is the family unit.

family, none of my aunts, uncles or cousins or anybody that I knew in the family. Marriage was FOR LIFE! And when I married, it was for life; and it lasted 50 years, until my wife died. Now God has provided me with another wife, and that's according to God's own plan.

Now the very foundation of human civilization is **the family unit**. The family unit has been broken. Families are breaking up today. Divorce now is rampant. About every third marriage ends in divorce, and in some places even more than that. Morals have been on a toboggan slide. Crime and violence have just increased and been rampant. Wars were increasing with greater means of mass destruction, until now the next war, if it is a nuclear war, can erase all humanity from this earth. And that is the number one problem on earth today. In other words, what we have had is human DEGENERATION. Now measure that against the advancements of science and technology. All of the benefits of science and technology are no good with degeneration. There is no benefit to us whatsoever. And yet, science and technology have brought us the weapons that will finally destroy us — in cosmocide.

We have come to the place where only Jesus Christ

can save this world alive. And, of course, we know He is going to do it. And the first thousand years of His reigning on the earth as the King of kings and the Lord of lords is what we have been celebrating here the last seven days, and what all of you brethren all over the United States have been celebrating in your various places.

### **GOD HAS BEEN CALLING SOME**

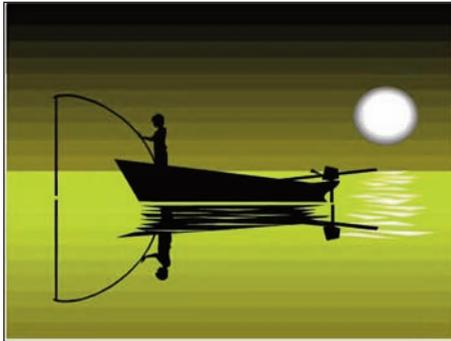
Now in the meantime, God has been calling some. And He has **called**

**only** those that He was going to use in the development of the restoration of His government on earth and the formation of the Kingdom of God, which **IS THE BORN FAMILY OF GOD** administering the Government of God. God called them to reveal the knowledge to them, to make them His government, and see if they would obey Him and His government. Now He gave them statutes and judgments to be the national laws of their government. He gave them His great overall Spiritual Law of love, which is defined down into the Ten Commandments. It is love toward God and love toward neighbor. Then in addition, He gave them a ritualistic law. Now that is a physical law, not a spiritual law. It was a law of physical rituals to do morning, noon and night, to teach them the habit of obedience because He did not give them the Holy Spirit. He gave them this physical ritual law as a substitute until the Holy Spirit came. But a substitute didn't do the job, a physical law. And He also gave them a law of animal sacrifices because Christ had not yet come. Now the sacrifices could not forgive sin, animal sacrifices, but they were a reminder of sin.

Now then, we come down to our time now. Christ came and preached the good news of the Kingdom of God, restoration of the Government of God on this earth. That's the most important thing to God right now, in a sense. Because that is the basis of develop-

ing character and for God's ultimate overall purpose for the whole universe, which very few know or understand. And, I read to you how Christ said, "**Let him who is athirst come ... to Me and drink**" (Revelation 22:17) that the Holy Spirit would come to them. But the Holy Spirit had not yet, at that time, been given yet. Because Christ had not yet been glorified. Now that's why ancient Israel had animal sacrifices as a substitute, to remind them that Christ would come. Although, their animal sacrifices didn't forgive their sins.

Now, God had called some. The Father did call some to Christ. Jesus said that **no man could come to Him unless the Father drew them.**



And God did begin to draw some. Only 120 had been drawn for the whole 3½ years of Jesus Christ's ministry. And, on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came and entered into that 120. But there were many others there from all the nations around the earth. And Peter preached a sermon. They were convicted because they realized, especially those who had been in Judea at the time, that they were the ones who had killed the very Savior, Jesus Christ — or had caused it. They said, "**What shall we DO?**" Peter said, "**Repent and be baptized ... and you SHALL receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**" So about 3,000 were converted (Acts 2:37-41). Now **they** were those that God had **drawn**. But the other people in other places outside had not been drawn and were not converted then.

There was one time that God wanted the apostle Paul to go to a certain place; for He said, I have many people there (Acts 18:9-10). In other words, God was going to draw many people **there**. Jesus said to Peter and others of the apostles, "**Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men**" (Matthew 4:19) because they were fishermen, fishing in the Sea of Galilee. I have been all around it. I have not tried to walk on the water as Peter did yet, and I think I won't do that right away. But Jesus said, "**I will make you fishers of men.**"

Now when you go fishing, you may let your fishing

rod or the fishhook down in the water; and maybe you can stand there all day and never get a fish. At another time or another place, you will let it down; and you will get fish one after another, just as fast as you pull them out. Because they run in schools and you never know where the fish are, and you don't know what fish you are going to get. You can't pick out and say, "I want to get that one" and think that one will take the hook, and you are going to pull him out. Well, that's the way it is with men. I know, when I was first con-



'I will make you fishers of men.'

verted, I wanted to see all my family and relatives converted. So, I tried to talk them into it. They just thought I was crazy. Have any of you had that experience? **NO MAN CAN COME TO CHRIST UNLESS THE SPIRIT OF THE FATHER DRAWS HIM.** And God the Father had not drawn those people. I could not help that. That was not my doing.

Now let me tell you something else, begin to explain something else a little farther: Over here in I Peter

**I Peter 4:17 "For the time has come that judgment must begin at the house of God."**

In other words, WE ARE the house of God, brethren, just as the church that was first started and converted on that day of Pentecost in 31 AD. Judgment was on them. They were then being judged. We're part of that same church today in our generation, and WE ARE BEING JUDGED.

Now here is the point I want you to get: **no man can come to Christ.** God has cut others off from Him. People think that it's man that has cut God off. Oh no.

God has cut man off. Now does that seem fair? A lot of people say, "That's not fair then." God did not give them any chance of conversion. That is true, He didn't. He didn't give them any chance of salvation. Well now, the human reason would say, "Then God is not fair. Why does He give some a chance and others not?"

There is no partiality with God, brethren. Let me tell you that. The reason God has drawn some, I've said that He only draws those He is going to have a part in preparing for the Kingdom of God. He is not drawing them just to get them saved. EVERYONE is going to be drawn to salvation in the end. Well what about all these millions and billions that have lived and died, and have never been drawn, and they were **CUT OFF FROM GOD; AND GOD CUT THEM OFF, AND THEY NEVER HAD A CHANCE?** Oh, well God's going to take care of that, too. That's what I am here to explain to you right now. That's what **THIS DAY** is all about, and the world doesn't understand it.

Now let's go on from there. "**Judgment**" is on us. But we are only the **FIRSTFRUITS**. We are represented by the Day of Pentecost in our annual Holy Days, just the first harvest. But we who are called now have to overcome this world, ourselves and Satan. Now let me tell you something. The others that God has not called, He just hasn't called them **YET**. And when He does call them, they won't have to overcome any Satan. They won't have to. We've got a lot tougher time than they will have.

On the other hand, we are going to be rewarded according to our works; and those of us that do overcome Satan are going to rule with Christ in His throne. Jesus had to **QUALIFY** to sit on that throne. He had to overcome Satan who had been set on that throne when he was the archangel Lucifer. Jesus had to overcome Satan. He had to reject Satan's way, and He did. If we're to sit with Him on His throne, do you think we can get on there **without qualifying also?** Well, you better think again. If we're going to rule with Christ, we have to overcome Satan same as He did.

**Now, those that God has not called, He has not called YET.** But when He **does**, there won't be any Satan around; and they'll have so much an easier time of it. There is no impartiality with God, absolutely not.

But we can have a greater reward, although we have a tougher time getting to it.

Now, those that have been cut off from God, that could not come to Him unless God would draw them, have **NOT YET BEEN JUDGED**. Now their works have been recorded. Whatever they have done, they are still going to be judged for it; but they're also going to be given a chance to repent and be forgiven for it, when their time of judgment comes. There are a number of judgments mentioned in the Bible. I don't have time to go into all of those just now.

## GOD'S MASTER PLAN

I tell you that there is only one Church on earth today that understands God's Master Plan. His Master Plan is unfolded and given to us through these seven annual Holy Days and the seven annual festivals. And this is the only Church on earth that observes them. God re-



vealed that to me 52½ years ago, and at that time, my wife and I began observing these annual Holy Days. We didn't yet understand all of the festivals. We didn't understand "why." We just knew God said to do it; and we found it was binding forever, and that it was also observed by Christ and by the Church in the begin-

ning, the New Testament Church. Now I preached it to others that were supposed to be even the Church of God. They laughed me to scorn. They would not accept it. For **seven years**, my wife and I had to keep these Holy Days alone by ourselves. Then the beginning of **this Church** was raised up in autumn 1933. They were my own converts. I taught them these annual Holy Days, and they began to keep them, starting with 19 members. And that is the way this Church, now scattered all over the world, and that is when we started. Now for seven years, we kept these annual Holy Days, or Sabbath Days; and we didn't really understand why we were doing it. But all the brethren and the Church started to grow, and the radio broad-

cast was going, the Plain Truth was being published, starting very small. Just growing gradually, little by little, and yet it was growing 30 percent a year on the average. Then after seven years of that, now 14 years from the time that we had begun, God revealed to me WHY we are to observe these days and festivals; and

**alone, AND WE DID IT.** I've been keeping these days a lot longer than you have, as I'm sure you all know.

Now, as you know, the Passover is to picture to us the sacrifice of Christ, the Lamb of God **slain** for paying the price of our sins. The Feast of Unleavened Bread



**BELKNAP SPRINGS**

that they pictured God's great master plan for the redemption of human kind. I saw that we should get out and keep the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days as a type of the Kingdom of God, to get away from the world as a whole. So then, I went out and found a fine little place in Belknap Springs up in Oregon.

Well, you know, even my own Church members that had been my own converts, most of them would not observe anything more than just the Annual Sabbaths. They weren't going to accept anything new they didn't already have.

But from then on all new converts DID, and that's the way it is. Why is it so many will go just so far and they will not go any farther? They can't receive any new knowledge. Well, look how many we have now keeping the Feast of Tabernacles. Almost 100,000 of you listening to me right now all over the United States and Canada.

It's a marvelous thing, and I don't know of any other body on earth that is doing it. But God revealed it to me; and it had to start **with my wife and myself**

for seven days pictures our coming out of sin or putting leaven out of our homes, the putting of sin out of our lives. The Feast of Firstfruits or Pentecost is to picture to us that we are only the **FIRSTFRUITS**, that God is **NOT TRYING TO SAVE THE WHOLE WORLD NOW. THIS IS NOT THE TIME THAT GOD IS TRYING TO SAVE THE WORLD. THIS IS**

**THE TIME GOD HAS CUT THE WORLD OFF, AND THEY CAN'T BE SAVED. Now I say, does that mean injustice with God? NO. It is God's responsibility and HE WILL SEE TO IT.** And they're going to have a better chance than we. It is just a case of deciding when the time comes.

The first of the Fall Festivals, beginning the first day of God's sacred seventh month, the Feast of Trumpets picturing the Second Coming of Christ. We're looking forward to that now. That can't come within one or two years because other things have to happen. But it could come within, oh say, five, six, seven years. It could. I don't say it will. Then the Day of Atonement, the 10th day of the seventh month, primarily that pictures putting our sins that Christ has taken and paid the price for us. But Christ is not paying the price for Satan; and the **REAL AUTHOR OF OUR SINS IS SATAN**, and Satan is going to have to bear that himself. Christ is going to put it on him, and then he is going to be taken away.

Then we come to the Feast of Tabernacles, the sixth festival, which ended last night. That pictures the Millennium. The thousand years reign with Christ. Now

then, you have been learning all through the last seven days that then all, who are left alive on earth, will be ruled under Christ and under those of us that are converted. I am afraid that many who profess to be will find that the door is shut; and they can rap on the door, but Christ will say, “**I never knew you.**” You had better read the 25th chapter of Matthew beginning with verse one again, about the 10 virgins.

You know some say that, “I believe in being an individual Christian and just worshiping Christ on my own.” But Christ formed a Church, and He formed a Church with a job to do and a body. And if I had to leave that body, I wouldn’t give you a plug nickel for my chance of salvation. However, I haven’t time to explain all of that now. But all, who are still living when Christ comes, are then going to be called and drawn to Christ by Almighty God the Father.

Now that’s when He begins to save the world. **But Satan will be taken away.** There won’t be any Satan around. The Kingdom of God will be ruling. Those of us who have been converted and who have the Holy Spirit and are being led by the Holy Spirit of God, if we have died between now and then, we will be resurrected. Not as human beings, but **immortal**, and we will rise to meet Christ in the air. We will then be AS GOD, composed of spirit (not flesh and blood any longer), immortal, not mortal.

Those of us who are living at that time — and I still say I could be, if God so wills — will then be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, and rise with them in the air to meet Christ as He’s coming back to earth. He is not coming to meet us as we take off for heaven. We’re going up to meet Him in the clouds as He’s coming back here, and He is going to be here. His feet are going to stand that very same day on the Mount of Olives. Where He is, we are going to be also with Him. Now a lot of churches get that mixed up.

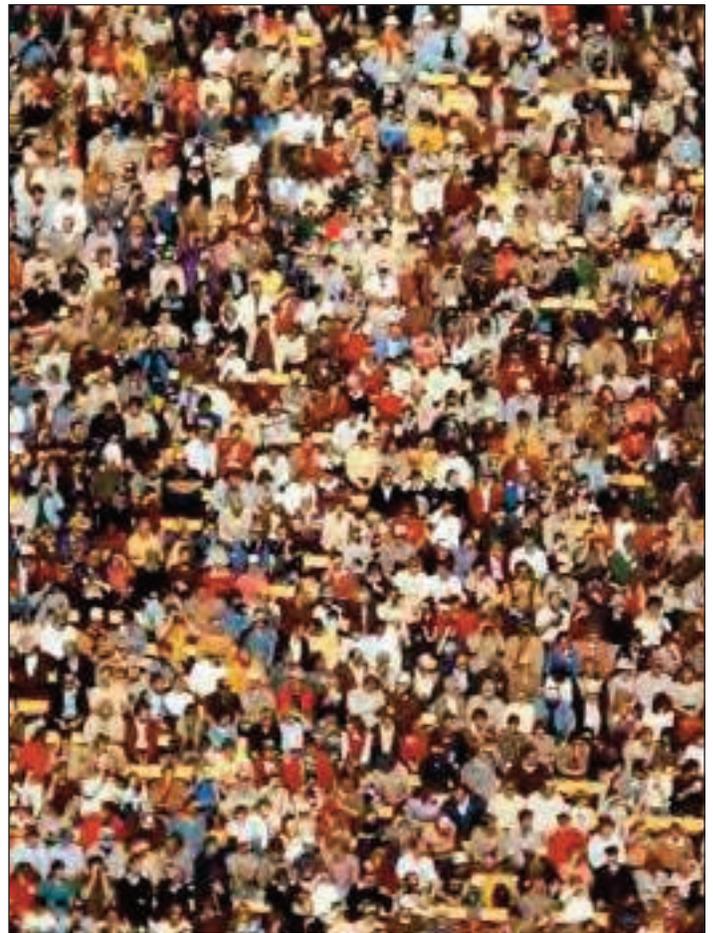
### WHAT ABOUT THE BILLIONS?

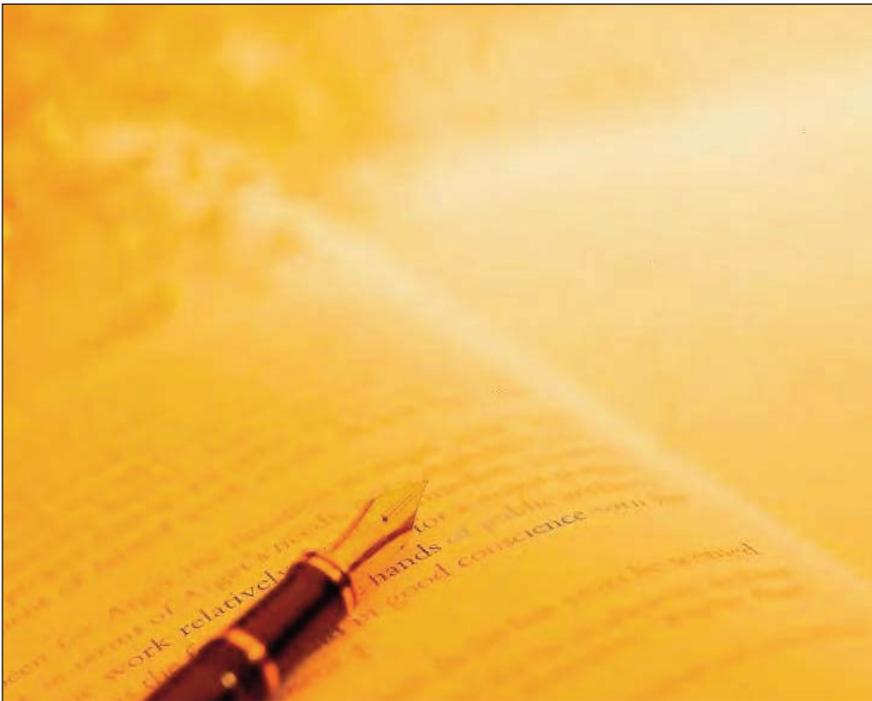
Now then, what about the billions and billions of people that could not come to Christ, could not come to God? They were cut off from God, no chance of salvation at all — from the time of Adam, on. What about all of them? God’s responsible for them. That’s God’s responsibility, and there can be no unfairness with

God. Some people would say, “Well, it doesn’t look like God is fair. He lets us be called now, and not a lot of others.” No, that’s poppycock. God is fair with everybody.

Let’s go to the 20th chapter of Revelation and beginning with verse 11. Now you find in the beginning how Satan is taken away, and then is the first resurrection, and the people reigning with Christ 1,000 years. We have been observing that and have had sermons about it for the last seven days, but now let’s begin with verse 11.

Revelation 20:11-12 “**And I saw a great white throne** [Now this is after the thousand years is over and John in his vision saw a great white throne.], **and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. (12) And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged out of those things that were written in the books, according to their works.**”





Now there was the book of life. That shows that many are going to be saved, and there will be no devil around at that time. The devil will appear just briefly after the thousand years, and then he'll be put away again before this happens. Now, ancient Israel had no salvation, except the prophets. I mean spiritual salvation. Let's turn now, if you will, back to Ezekiel 37. I will read the whole first 14 verses. This is about ancient Israel, who was not given the Holy Spirit of God.

Ezekiel 37:1-5 *"The hand of the LORD was upon me [that's the prophet Ezekiel], and carried me (out) in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, (2) And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. (3) And He said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? [Now, they are dead. They are skeletons. They are bones. Can a skeleton live?] And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. [At least he knew God knew.] (4) Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. (5) Thus saith the Lord [Eternal] unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall LIVE"* [these skeletons, these bones].

Now these bones are, I will show you later, **the whole house of Israel**. Now I heard a sermon preached on

this by a very famous woman evangelist one time, and she said "These dry bones are all the other churches in the world, but we're not the dry bones. We have got life in us." Well, if she had just read it right here, it tells who the dry bones are.

Ezekiel 37:6 *"And I will lay sinews upon you [these bones], and I will bring flesh on you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you [Now that breath is what we have to have for physical life. In immortal life, spirit life, we won't need any breath. So, this is speaking of bringing people back to human life, just like they are now. It's not speaking of an immortal, of a resurrection to immortality], and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD [the Eternal]."*

Ezekiel 37:7-11 *"And I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. (8) And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them. [So naturally, this is talking human life. They still didn't have life in them]. (9) Then said He unto me, Prophecy unto the wind [or air], prophesy, son of man, and say unto the wind, Thus saith the Lord [Eternal]; Come from the four winds O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. (10) So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. (11) Then He said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel [They are not the church of the lady preacher. These bones are the whole house of Israel. That is, the ancient Israel prior to the time of Christ.]: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off from our parts."*

Because they **never received the Holy Spirit** and, they never received **salvation** and they did not understand that they could still receive it. Now here is a **resurrection** at the end of the **thousand years**.

Ezekiel 37: 12-13 **"Therefore prophesy and say unto**



Relief from a palace in Nimrud shows King Ashurbanipal of Nineveh hunting lions.

them, Thus saith the Lord [Eternal]; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves [now this is Israel], and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. (13) And ye shall know that I am the [Eternal], when I have opened your graves, O my people ...”

You see they never did really understand it. They committed adultery. They were supposed to be married to Christ. Well, we know it was the one who became Christ, but to God; and they never really knew He was the LORD, or the Eternal.

Ezekiel 37:13-14 “...and [I] brought you up out of your graves ... (14) And shall put my spirit in you ...” Now when He brings them up, get this point, first He puts breath in them and now they are going to come, after they have that breath, to KNOW God. Now, God is going to draw them to Him.

Ezekiel 37:14 “And shall put my SPIRIT IN YOU [Now that is when they will receive the Holy Spirit], and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land: then shall you know that I the [Eternal] have spoken it, and performed it, saith the [Eternal].”

Isn't that a wonderful teaching? Isn't that wonderful, the ways of God? Not only Israel, but **all** nations are going to come into such a resurrection. Let's turn now to Matthew 12 beginning with verse 41. Jesus is

speaking, and He said: Matthew 12:41 “*The men of Nineveh shall rise up in judgment.*”

Now it's speaking about a judgment, the great white throne judgment after the Millennium.

Matthew 12:41-42 “*The men of Nineveh shall rise up, [that's a resurrection from the dead], in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.*” [He was talking to the scribes and Pharisees, and He is much greater than Jonah, but they would not believe Him. He says now...] (42) “*The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it [and that's a gentile nation]: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.*”

So, they're going to be in this judgment, too, in the resurrection. Now then, another very important one is Luke 11:31-32; and again, it's Jesus speaking.

Luke 11:31-32 “*The queen of the south shall rise up in judgment [speaking of the Great White Throne Judgment, in the resurrection] ... and condemn them: for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here. (32) The men of Nineveh shall rise up in judgment with this generation, and shall*

*condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here."*

Now, wait a minute. Also, He spoke about how it will be in this judgment. I guess I did not get that scripture down. But the men of Sodom and Gomorrah will fare better in that judgment than these that were rejecting the very Christ Himself when He was on Earth 1900 years ago. And it shows that there will be a resurrection of all of those that God had cut off from Him.

**Brethren, can you get this into your mind? We have always assumed that God is trying to save the whole world! All Protestants believe that, and I suppose all Catholics in their way. God has *CUT THE WORLD OFF*, except those that the Father calls. But there is this judgment coming; and they're going to have it easier than we do, when their time comes. Let's understand that. All shall have been called. It is only the Church and the prophets that have to overcome Satan, and we shall rule with Christ. We have a chance at a greater reward, but we pay a bigger price to get it, too. Let me tell you.**

Now then, in closing finally, will you turn to Romans 11:33-36 "*O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments ...*"[These judgments of His that I have been telling you, judgment is on us now. It will be on those who are alive in the Millennium. It'll be on everybody else that never had been judged before after that, in the Great White Throne Judgment]. (34) "*For who has known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?*" (35) "*Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?*" (36) "*For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.*"

And with that, brethren, we come to the end of this eight day Festival. It's been here in Tucson, Arizona, the most wonderful Festival that I know of. From reports of other Feast sites, I think it has been there, too. And, I hope that all of you listening have had the most wonderful Festival ever. We are beginning greater plans for the Festival next year immediately. There are some who will be working all year on it. So, we can come back to a still greater Feast next year. And we are looking forward now to the great time in the Millennium when there will be no Satan; and then after that, when all that have been cut off by God and from God will then be called, and they won't have any



**The riches of the wisdom of God!**

Satan to confront them. What a wonderful time that will be.

So now, carry this thought of the wonders of God as you go home. And I hope and pray that God will send angels along to see that you have no automobile accidents of any kind. Drive carefully. Keep your eye on the ball, and that's right ahead on the road where you are going, on both sides at intersections. I hope you all get home safe and sound. I hope to see you next year, and I hope to see all of you.

Now some of you have not had the picture this time. Most of you have. Next year, we hope that we can have it so that you can all see the Festival from here, just the same as most of you have this year. So, with that, I'll say goodbye to all of you from now until next year.



*Transcribed by KK - edited by JF - May 27, 2005*

# ‘The Last Day, That GREAT Day’ ... Their Future Awaits!

‘On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, *‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.’*’ (John 7:37)

By Gary Liebold

January 13, 1977.

While that date may not mean a whole lot to those who are reading this article, for me as the writer of it, it’s a date I have never forgotten. On that winter day (now more than 30 years ago), after losing a very painful battle with cancer, my mother died. She died not having any real understanding of God’s plan, except, maybe a tiny amount she may have

gleaned from her family (those already “called” [John 6:44, 65]). But, it wasn’t her “time” for God to begin working with her yet.

My mother has never been forgotten by me, and even more importantly, it’s especially comforting to know that my mom has never been forgotten by God, either. Right now, as she’s “sleeping” in the grave (I Thessalonians 4:13), God shows us Biblically, that she will **not remain** in that grave forever (Revelation 20:12). She will be given her very first opportunity someday to really begin understanding God’s plan. God has an *inspiring* step-by-step “blueprint,” that not only includes her, but multiple billions of people just like her, who also are in their graves “waiting.”

The day that so beautifully lies ahead (for my mother and multiple billions of others) is pictured by what the Bible calls “**The Last Day, That GREAT Day**” (John 7:37). **Their future awaits!**



## The Master Plan of God

God’s plan of salvation for mankind is truly awe-inspiring to think about. The apostle Paul in writing to the Church of God at Ephesus, wrote “**For He [God] has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of His will, according to His purpose which He set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth**” (Ephesians 1:9-10 RSV).

Through the pages of the Bible, we’re actually given “**insight**” into the mind of God about the “**mystery of His will, according to His purpose.**” What God has planned for human kind (His “master plan”) is being brought ever closer to the days of its “fulfulness.” King David asked the Eternal (prayerfully), this question, as shown in the book of Psalms (and also quoted again in the book of Hebrews) “**What is man that You are**

**mindful of him?"** (Psalm 8:4, Hebrews 2:6). God is indeed very "mindful" of man (mankind), who was created in God's own likeness (Genesis 1:26-27), with an "**incredible human potential.**" God's ultimate **plan** is for man to actually become part of the God Family as spirit beings, for all eternity. (I Corinthians 2:9-10; Romans 8:15-19, 29; John 3:3, 6; I John 3:2, 19; Revelation 1:5-6; Daniel 12:3).

### The 'Firstfruits'

God, in His **perfect** love and mercy toward **all** of humanity, has begun His plan of salvation by offering it to a small few at first, calling them the "firstfruits" (Romans 8:23; James 1:18; Revelation 14:4). The "firstfruits" picture the **beginning** spiritual "harvest of souls" [lives] to be part of the soon-coming Kingdom of God. Christ will return to this earth with His saints, ushering in the Millennium (Zechariah 14:5; I Thessalonians 4:14-18; 3:13, Revelation 20:4) and restoring the Government of God to this earth (Isaiah 9:6-7). This is the glorious future He promises to those who are "called, chosen and faithful" (Revelation 17:14).

The "firstfruits" as spirit beings alongside Christ, will first begin to TEACH physical Israel (Romans 8:17; Isaiah 30:20-21; Isaiah 2:3) during this Millennial period as God's way of life then begins to spread throughout the entirety of the earth. All who are living during this time will be given their **own first starting point** spiritually to understand the **one-and-only** way that leads to salvation (just as the "firstfruits" once did). They, too, will be taught the step-by-step "blueprint" for achieving their "**incredible human potential.**" After *truly* repenting of their sins and accepting Jesus Christ in real faith as their Savior (Romans 5:8-11), upon baptism and the laying on of hands, they will be given God's Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). They must grow in Godly character to a point of being made ready to be **born** as spirit. God offers each of them a wonderful eternity ahead, as well!

### 'The Last Day, That GREAT Day ...'

But, what about all of the billions of people like my mother who have died prior to Christ's return without understanding God's "master plan"? What is their hope? Do they have a future, too? YES, they do!!!

God's plan of salvation is intended for everyone! Every human being who has ever lived, who is living today or who has yet to be born are ALL given an opportunity for salvation (I Timothy 2:4).

God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). In the book of II Peter, we see that God does not want ANY-ONE to (forever) perish. "**The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance**" (II Peter 3:9). That's God's TRUE desire, for **ALL**, to come to repentance, so that they too may inherit eternal life. The many people who have died throughout all of man's existence on this earth will have their *first* opportunity for salvation.

Each of God's Holy Days, as outlined in Leviticus 23, point to a specific part of His plan. Immediately following the Feast the Tabernacles, (the sixth annual festival, picturing the Millennium) is the "eighth day" or "the last day, that great day." (Leviticus 23:36; John 7:37). This pictures a time at the **very end** of the Millennium for all of the billions (perhaps more than 50 billion) who once lived to be resurrected in a second resurrection. In Revelation 20:5, we see God's future plan for these people, as they begin to learn and to understand the TRUTH of God for the first time. "**But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished.**" (Revelation 20:5). Other scriptures fill in more of the picture God has of a time set aside just for them (at the end of the Millennium). They are now "*waiting*" in their graves to be resurrected on this "Last Great Day" as physical human beings (Revelation 20:11-13; Isaiah 65:20; Ezekiel 37:1-14). They **also** will be given the step-by-step "blueprint" that shows the only way to eternal salvation.

When this day comes about for my mother, as she's resurrected and raised from her grave, it will be absolutely inspiring. I truly look forward to saying to her in that day, "Hello, Mom. It's so good to see you again. I'm your son. Do you remember that Church I was a part of ... the 'Church of God'? Well, it really was the right one. Here, take my hand, I have so much to tell you about. I love you, Mom." What a great plan that God has for everyone. **Their future awaits!** 

# The Vital Importance of Godly Family Values

*'Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies. The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil all the days of her life. ... Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all. Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, But a woman who FEARS the LORD, she shall be praised. ...'*  
(Proverbs 31:10-12, 29-30).

By Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley

The ideal young woman is so pictured by these quoted Scriptures and all godly parents truly appreciate the blessing of having a young daughter who patterns her life after their teachings and become examples to the godless society that is in evidence today.

It is sad that it is very hard to find this kind of young woman or even a young man in this present society! The young virtuous women are even less than a minority. Illicit sex and vile language are to be found on virtually every television channel by both the younger and older adults! To clearly see how this society has degenerated from just a few short years ago to the present pit of shame and slime, please note the recent writing of the son of the late president, Ronald Reagan:

## A Culture War of Words

By Michael Reagan  
NewsMax.com, July 13, 2007

"If anybody doubts America is engaged in a culture war and losing it, they need only to take a look at the series of concerts promoting Al Gore's global warming hoax last weekend. They would have learned that the war is being waged in the sewers.

"America is facing an army of foul-mouthed, tattooed guttersnipes who have the gall to proclaim they want to save the planet by putting on performances laced with some of the foulest language ever heard from a stage.



Rock concerts are laced with obscenities

"As those who made the mistake of watching any of these concerts here or abroad discovered, the enemies of culture are unable to complete a sentence without using the "F" word at least once, along with liberal sprinklings of the "S" word.

"And their foul-mouthed rhetoric was not the least of it: The audiences ate it up, and the performers knew that when they spewed their obscene filth they were giving their decadent fans exactly what they wanted.

"That fact has not escaped the people who run the nation's TV networks; nowadays it's hard to find a TV drama that does not seed the dialogue with "F" words. If you have watched hit series such as "Deadwood," you quickly learned that the "F" word was among the milder epithets. That series introduced terms never before heard outside of men's locker rooms or prison cells.



Television programs glamorize sexual immorality

“I went to a lot of concerts years ago. I never heard Frank Sinatra or any other performer use a single obscenity during their performances. Moreover, if any of them had uttered anything as foul as the "F" word, they would have been driven off the stage.

“If you think I'm making too big a thing about the incredible degradation of language, keep in mind it represents the decline in the level of civility since the culture warriors declared war on decency. The widespread use of the "F" word is a symptom of the disease. ...

“Comedians vie with each other to use the most extreme obscenities and sexual innuendos. What was once called "street language" is now considered normal discourse. Things once considered sacred are now seen as commonplace.

“Sex is no longer an expression of love between a man and a woman – today it's seen as recreation, like a game of golf, to be portrayed on stage and screen without restraint. In any civilization that desires to survive, simple decency and courtesy are crucial elements.

“In a society headed for the sewer, anything goes. And when anything goes — when the most extreme forms of language and behavior come to be seen as normal — civilization is transformed into barbarism.

“That's what's at stake in the culture wars. A society bereft of standards that demand civilized behavior among its people is a society where the individual is deemed worthless as being anything but a consumer for the degraded wares of the smut peddlers and a source of income to pay for the schemes of those who sell Marxist snake oil such as global warming as a means of subjugating the populace.

“And the more addicted to slime that populace becomes, the easier it is to subjugate them.”

## The Same Problems Exist in England

The problem is just as great in England and due to similar reasons as here in this country

### The girl of 18 who has had SIX abortions

By Daniel Martin

Worrying: A total of 18,619 under 18-year-olds have had an abortion despite a Government campaign to reduce the numbers. As many as one in 22 teenage girls in some parts of the country had an abortion last year, according to official figures.

In total, a record 18,619 under-18s had terminations — despite a multimillion-pound Government campaign to bring down the numbers.

One 18-year-old had her sixth abortion in 2006. Another 135 girls under 14 terminated their pregnancies. The statistics — released by the Department of Health after a freedom of information request — show the number of teenage abortions has increased by more than 2,500 each year since Labour came to power. Critics say they prove the Government's strategy, which focuses on sex education and easy access to morning after pills, is failing.

The rise in abortions mirrors the increase in the teenage pregnancy rate, the highest in Western Europe.

Pregnancies among under-18s rose in 2005 to 39,683 – up from 39,593 in 2004 and the 35,400 recorded in 1995.

The number of underage pregnancies is also rising. No fewer than 21 girls aged 13 to 15 become pregnant every day in England and Wales. A spokesman for anti-abortion charity Alive and Kicking said: "These figures are the result of the modern attitude to sexuality – that sex is just a recreational activity.

"The Government never addresses the problem at its roots; it just has the sticking plaster attitude of making abortions easy. Its sex education classes are clearly not encouraging responsibility."

### **The Destructive Realm of Satan the Devil**

Reading such articles as these make it well known that the family is facing unprecedented and virtually impossible odds to not only rear their children with godly virtues but to try and protect them from this evil world of Satan who is seeking to take their minds, hearts and bodies into its destructive realm and untimely deaths.

There is a need to emphasize this is Satan the devil's world (Matthew 4:8-9; II Corinthians 4:4). As such, his destructive purpose is to destroy our youth as well as all of mankind! And he is using the same tactic as he did with mother Eve (Genesis 3:1-6).

He is not only enticing our youth by the glitter and glamor of his world but also bombarding them with free and easy sex appeal through the movies produced in Hollywood and in other countries on screen along with music lyrics!

This all out attack by Satan on the whole society of this country and other nations of Israel through his human instruments by their evil and promiscuous teachings – made possible by the law-making bodies and upheld by the judicial system – is making it extremely difficult for teens and young adults to resist its charm, attractiveness and appeal along with the desire not

to appear to be different and then rejected because of it (Ephesians 6:10-12). It is very difficult for a virtuous young person to walk alone among such people.

Satan is using all of his deceptive powers through yielded human beings to kidnap and destroy our young people in the very soon coming Great Tribulation. To aid understanding to the grave danger young women, and young men, are now subjected to please consider the following writing:

### **Researcher: Girls think sex a normal part of being a teen**

By Scott Travis

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Troubled girls are inundated with so many explicit messages from Hollywood, their friends and even their parents that they believe casual sex is just a normal part of being a teenager, a Florida Atlanta University researcher has concluded.

Josie Weiss, an assistant professor of nursing on FAU's Treasure Coast campus, interviewed 20 girls ages 14 to 18 incarcerated at VisionQuest, an Okeechobee-based intervention program for at-risk teens. They said movies, television shows and music lyrics all make sex seem common place. Their friends engaged in sex and, in some cases, their parents were living with someone outside of marriage, they said.



**Movies are filled with sex, violence and profanity**

The teens all had been sexually active, and many had unplanned and unprotected sex. While they said their parents and teachers encouraged them to make responsible sexual choices, the sexually explicit messages were more powerful in shaping their attitudes.

“It’s contrary to what many adults think. We don’t think sex is normal for teens,” Weiss said. While Weiss focused on a small group of teens with criminal pasts, she believes the observations are widespread among high-risk populations.

“I think there are high-risk kids everywhere in every community in every school,” she said. “If this group feels this way, other kids probably feel this way.”

Weiss hopes that the study will encourage parents to talk more with their children about sex, as a way of counteracting the negative messages they receive.

“Her point of making this a wake-up call for parents is a good one,” said Cindy Arenberg Seltzer, president and CEO of the Children’s Services Council of Broward County. “We need to understand what images these children are being bombarded with.”

## **An Exceptional Letter**

In view of those writings the following letter makes very plain the need to remain on safe ground by maintaining good morals and therefore courageously different from all of these promiscuous young people. Though it was written approximately 15 years ago it is timeless in its content and is well worth reading by all young people:

### **NO SUCH THING AS FREE LOVE OR FREE SEX**

*A proud columnist shares her  
college-age daughter’s candid views*

**By Carol Clemans**

(“The following essay was written by my daughter Joe’L for her English 1A class at Delta College [Stockton, California]. I am proud that she has godly morals and is willing to share her convictions with others.” Carol Clemans)

“Premarital sex gave me fear as a gift ... and shame to wear as a garment. It stole my peace of mind and robbed me of hope in a bright future. Sex smashed my concentration in class to smithereens. My desire for church activities was ground to a pulp. It made crumbs of the trust I had known in Christ ... and in men and women. Sex gave me a jagged tear in my heart that even now, seven years later, is still healing.”



This anonymous quote was taken from the book “*Why Wait?*” by Josh McDowell. It is one of 7,000 personal experiences that the author of this book received after sponsoring a national essay that proves that so-called “free love” — sex that is free of commitment or obligation has a high price tag — physically, emotionally, psychologically and spiritually. There is no such thing as

free love or free sex. Someone always pays for promiscuity — and it is not always the primary participants who pay the most.

This year there will be 1.2 million pregnant teenagers. Do you know that it costs federal and state governments an average of \$100,000 in medical and welfare costs for every single teen who has a child? That’s not free sex. That’s expensive sex. And we’re paying for it. In our society even unborn human beings frequently pay for their parents’ “free” sex by dying as the result of abortion. No sexual encounter is free if others have to pay for it.

The rapid and widespread growth of sexually transmitted diseases, with all their terrible suffering, is another of the prices we pay for promiscuity. If everyone practiced monogamy, STDs would soon be nonexistent. Dr. Michael Coplen warns that “AIDS is the greatest human threat since nuclear war.” Since first reported in the United States in 1981, AIDS has each year doubled its numbers of new victims. It is estimated that 1.5 million Americans are currently infected with the virus.

True sexual freedom provides the option of saying no to these consequences. It says, “We are human beings

with procreative powers capable of mature love and rational choice.” Millions of young people are waking up to the reality that “free” sex has not only demanded a very high price of them physically but is costing them psychologically and emotionally, too. Waiting until marriage for sex produces many benefits. Emotional freedom is one important one. Refraining from premarital sex prevents the potential effects of guilt, fear and self-deprecation.

For example, the Sorenson report, the most complete sociological study of teenage sexuality available, discovered that girls who had had their first intercourse before marriage chose words like “afraid,” “guilty,” “worried” and “embarrassed” to describe their reaction to that experience.

Sexual intercourse has a psychologically binding effect, particularly for females. The act itself increases the feeling of closeness. In uncommitted and temporary relationships where sexual intimacy, with its psychological bonding effect, is shared, there is considerable risk of hurt. Nearly always, one partner has become more deeply involved than the other. And there is no recognized religious or social influence to hold a temporary “mate” or “friend” to the other.

All that these temporary partners share is the dangerous freedom of “for as long as it feels good.” Either partner is always vulnerable to rejection, which happens more often than not in such relationships, and the break is very hard for one or both.

The media plays a major role in our society and how we view sex. When was the last time you saw anybody on television say no to sex? A research study estimates that the average person views approximately 9,230 sex acts, or implied sex acts, a year on television. Of that sexual activity, 81 percent is outside the commitment of marriage.

Now try to remember if you have ever seen anybody on television contract a sexually transmitted disease? Everyday 33,000 American become infected with a sexually transmitted disease. That’s reality. No one on television pays the price of illicit sex. You only do that in real life. For years now, we have allowed the media to misrepresent casual sex and free love. We have



shown that the cure for everything is to jump in bed.

Not only does premarital sex cloud the issue of true love, it tends to thwart the communication process. Most of us by nature gravitate toward what comes easily and is pleasurable. Therefore, sex offers an easy out to those who have never learned to communicate intimacy apart from the physical. Many people think that sex produces intimacy, but as William McCready of the School of Social Work at the University of Chicago says, “Sexual activity only celebrates what’s there. Sex cannot deliver what doesn’t already exist.” Almost every one of us has two fears. First, the fear we’ll never be loved, and second, the fear we’ll never be able to love. Every one of us searches for that unconditional love somewhere.

Learning to love is not something that happens automatically. We don’t just grow up, reach puberty and find that all of a sudden we know how to love. I’m not talking about sex. I’m talking about caring, transparency, vulnerability and intimacy. If this kind of unconditional love is not found at home, then sex often becomes a cheap substitute for love.

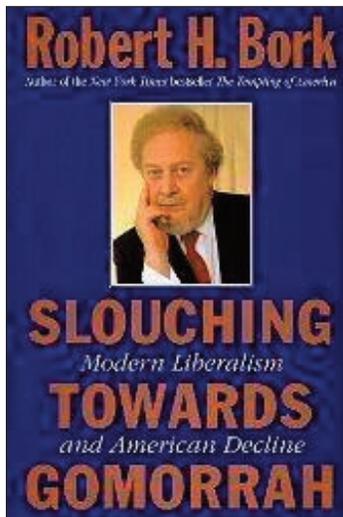
But what about those who consider the cost and proceed anyway? My God doesn’t force us to live a certain way, He just tells us what’s best. But when we make a choice, we choose the consequences also.

Something has happened to the moral fiber of our nation. At every turn, today’s society is telling us, “If it feels good, do it,” and “Life comes around only once; live it to the fullest, now!” Seventy-eight percent of all young people ages 18 to 29 believe there is nothing wrong with having sex before marriage as long as both

people are emotionally ready. As a consequence, we are paying the price for the recent sexual revolution which promised “joy, liberation and good health,” but in fact delivered “misery, disease and even death.”

## Slouching Toward Gomorrah

Former Appeals Justice Robert Bork, a nominee for the Supreme Court of the United States some few years ago, was denied that high office by the very liberal senators of the Judicial Committee because of his conservative beliefs. He wrote the book, *Slouching Towards Gomorrah*. It should be a must read for it makes very clear the problems in our culture that is leading to its destruction just as Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by God for their shameful evil ways. Please note two comments extracted from those who made written comments about his book after their reading. They are well worth noting:



“America will ignore Robert Bork’s call for courage and repentance at its own peril.” – Earnest Lefever, Books and Culture.

“A must-read for anyone who cares about the future of American society. Presents a provocative, critical and convincing picture of a culture careening out of control, a culture that must change its ways or face destruction.” – Senator Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa).

No truer words could be spoken! This culture has further careened out of control since that writing so far there is virtually no hope for any meaningful change. It just goes from bad to worse! The only real hope for young women and men are to live by the teachings and laws of God while avoiding the sinful ways of a decadent society and nation.

## A New Age Soon to Dawn

Soon there will be a new age dawning, a new culture, young people, and all others who will live by godly standards due to right education by godly teachers. It will come to be a wonderfully happy and joyous society.

In that new age, young godly men will be seeking young godly women for their wives to begin sharing their lives together in marriage as a godly family. Their marriages and children will be richly blessed in every way by our loving Savior Jesus Christ.

The youth of today who are living by God’s standards have the promise of living over into that new age that will be filled with glowing and wonderful promise. It will be well worth the wait. And when we look at the trends of society based on Bible prophecy, the wait will not be all that much longer!

The joyous Feast of Tabernacles pictures this coming new age. A thousand years of happiness and joy that will have never been equaled in the almost fully passed 6,000 years of human history.

**“YOU DON’T HAVE TO BELIEVE IT! It will happen, regardless. It is sure – the world’s only sure hope. This advance good news of tomorrow is as certain as the rising of tomorrow’s sun. Humanity won’t bring it about – it is going to be done to us. Humanity is going to be forced to be happy – to enjoy world peace – to see universal abundance and joy fill the earth” (Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, Tomorrow . . . What It Will Be Like, Page 1).**

During the beginning of this glorious millennial period of time, a man will truly be blessed to have a woman at his side in marriage to share his life in pioneering this new age as described in the following Scripture:

**“Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all. Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who FEARS the LORD, she shall be praised ...” (Proverbs 31:29-30).**





# Grooming Christ's Bride in Humility

*'Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in white linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, 'Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!''(Revelation 19:7-8 NKJV)*

**By Tom Cooper**

**W**hen young Lady Diana Spencer was courted prior to her marriage to Prince Charles, she was tutored for her future position as princess and possible ascension to be Queen of England. To carry out her duties, she needed instruction. As Christ's bride, we also need instruction. God's Church (our spiritual mother) serves in that important capacity, instructing us so we will be able to carry out our future duties. Only those who are teachable will be part of the bride. To be teachable indicates a willingness in a person's



character to make changes as needed. Thus, correction can be an asset when applied to any important endeavor. Repentance should be at the top of our list as a positive essential element for each Christian. Without a positive attitude about repentance, we will fail!

There is an important characteristic that will be prevalent in Christ's bride, and it runs counter to everything this world teaches. That characteristic is humility. Pride, humility's opposite, has played a very large part in this world's tragic

value system. Thus, God's Word and the Church's teachings have a great deal to show us on this subject. Due to the satanic influences that have so distorted right values in both men and women at the close of this age, marriage as an institution and wholesome nuclear families have become almost extinct. You might say that family is God's classroom for instilling right values in us as we grow up.

Nuclear families are shrinking as a percentage of the U.S. population. At this time, the world's value system – “the way of get” – has rubbed off on every member of God's Church and has robbed many of happy home lives.

Consider: Is humility just for women? Men, as the head of families, are to be in leadership roles in a marriage, yet be humble. Consider how God viewed one family man, who also was a great leader: **‘Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth’** (Numbers 12:3 KJV).

Looking in Strong's concordance (#6035), we find that the word meek also means humble or lowly. How does God view humility? Psalms 149:4, last part, “... **he will beautify the meek** (margin; humble) **with salvation.**” A true Christian will be humble. That education should start in the family. Humility is learned, and human nature resists it!

Have you ever considered why God placed the man as head of a family? Ephesians 5:22 states, **“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.”** Is submission a punishment from God? No! Consider that science now knows there are distinct differences between men's and women's brains. Women can cook, watch over children and be on the phone at the same time, yet men tend to have one-track minds. Men see a single subject in depth due to how they were made by God. Women can multi-task well because of how they were made by God.

Together, a husband and wife form a team designed by a loving Creator. Society bombards us with a message that discourages humility and jeopardizes families. To be received by Christ, His bride must be submissive and have humility (Matthew 5:5).

Pride is the opposite of humility. One well-known saying comes to mind when thinking about pride. **“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall”** (Proverbs 16:18). To be accepted by

Christ, it is vitally important to remember, as Scripture makes known: **“Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished** (Proverbs 16:5).



A good example of the difference between a proud person and a humble one is found in the account of Abigail stopping David from killing a large group of men. In I Samuel 25:2-35, we find the story of a harsh and evil man, Nabal (“fool”), whose wife Abigail was of “good understanding.” Her quick thinking saved many lives because she approached David in a most humble way. David, humble himself, quickly accepted her explanation about her offensive husband. Notice that after Nabal was told about what almost occurred he did nothing. Because of his pride and foolishness, he died then and there! Abigail’s quick thinking and David's humility saved many lives. This is a lesson for all ages.

Recapturing true values was an established goal at Ambassador College during all the years that Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong lived. In the late 1970s, a major change occurred in Spokesman Club evaluations. Now, evaluators were to show what was wrong, but also show where the speech should or could be improved with the emphasis on helping the speaker. This critique was a positive influence – “the give way” in action.

How we approach offenses makes a big difference in the outcome. This “true value” is something we each need as part of our character. Humility is at the heart of good character.

Another perspective in grasping the significance of our personal conduct is in remembering how Mr. Armstrong took the gospel to national leaders. He always spoke of the “give way of life” versus “the get way”! He didn't get in their “face” with words like “repent, you sinners!” Because of his humility, he approached

people without condemning them. Ask yourself. Is pride associated with gentleness, kindness, forgiveness, charity or any other positive virtue? Then ask are violence, hatred, cheating, immorality or any negative virtue associated with humility? How about justice and honesty? It follows, then, that Christ's bride will abstain from and abhor pride. Implementing humility into our daily lives is following "the give way"!

The example we personally set for our co-workers, neighbors, mates, family, friends and especially children influences the now and the future. Pride has played a very large role in degrading our nation. One very visible fruit is in our children.

Proverbs 20:11 states, **"Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right."** What do we see in various nations around the world now? There are more respectful children in Third World countries than in affluent western nations! Humility is linked to respect, just as pride is linked to disrespect. Israelite nations are now reaping a bitter harvest of many social ills linked to the "get" way.

God shows us in Isaiah 2:12, **"For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low."** This is for everyone, including those who have decided for themselves which "doctrines" to accept after God restored His truths to His own church. There is a time of woe coming that will be especially hard for those who were taught the truth and didn't love it enough (II Thessalonians 2:10). Does pride come before a fall? The first step in overcoming is admitting a fault or misstep and then correcting it so you can get back on the path leading to life AND helping others – "the give way"! Choosing what **you** want to do is pride, and the **"get" way** follows. This arrogance leads to death!

God has been testing and sifting wheat from tares. A bright light isn't always comfortable, but if it saves lives it's an act of loving compassion. Test the fruit. Do members at a Feast site have unity? Is there con-

cern, compassion and real love shown by all brethren one toward another? Is that love expressed by the entire ministry when discussing the man God used to restore truth to His own church in this past century? Or, is that leader you follow causing you to forget specific truths? Speaking of our time now, Jeremiah 23:27 refers to those **"which think to cause my people to forget my name by their dreams which they tell."** God is close to the door, and the clock is ticking! The tribulation is not to be scoffed at! God hears the humble.



Recapturing true values always has to do with changing to revealed truth that brings blessings. That is the knowledge that transforms our attitude about correction or repentance. Humility makes this process so positive and can bring one back from the very brink of death.

Ezekiel 33:11: **"Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"** God has more encouragement about positive change in II Peter 3:18, **"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ ...."** and in II Peter 1:5-7, we're advised to add to our character: virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity. Those who approach God's Word with humility will become kings and priests and will reign with Christ!

How we will get along in the place of safety has been a topic within God's Church for decades. God shows us the proud and arrogant will not be there. Christ also left us with a perfect example to follow in Philippians 2:8. God's Word also shows examples of people *who humbled themselves* so that we all are without excuse for not learning this important lesson. To repent is humility. An entire group of repentant, humbled, loving, compassionate Christians will be led as a little, little flock of sheep to a place prepared for them by a loving Savior. It's not far off. Will you be there as a humble fiancée of Jesus Christ, preparing for a wedding?





# Our web sites

*Below are web sites made available by the Church of God Faithful Flock as Bible resource tools.*

**Church of God Faithful Flock**  
[www.cog-ff.com](http://www.cog-ff.com)

**Pagan Holidays or God's Holy Days?**  
[www.holy-days.org](http://www.holy-days.org)

**World News Bulletin**  
[www.worldnewsbulletin.com](http://www.worldnewsbulletin.com)

**Lost 10 Tribes of Israel**  
[www.losttribes.org](http://www.losttribes.org)

**The Ten Commandments**  
[www.10commandments.ws](http://www.10commandments.ws)

**Prophetic Events**  
[www.propheticevents.us](http://www.propheticevents.us)

**What Do You Mean Born Again?**  
[www.begotten.net](http://www.begotten.net)

**Restored Truths of God**  
[www.restoredtruths.net](http://www.restoredtruths.net)

**Watchman for House of Israel**  
[www.ezekielwatchman.org](http://www.ezekielwatchman.org)

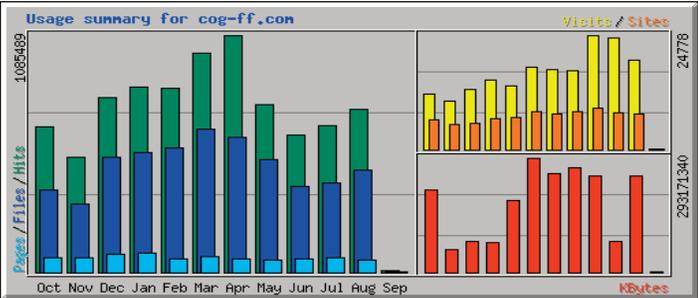
**Which Day is the Christian Sabbath?**  
[www.sabbathcentral.com](http://www.sabbathcentral.com)

**Herbert W. Armstrong – Apostle of God**  
[www.herbertarmstrong.net](http://www.herbertarmstrong.net)

**COGFF – Home School Association**  
[www.coghomeschool.org](http://www.coghomeschool.org)

**Herbert W. Armstrong – His Life & Work**  
[www.herbertwarmstrong.info](http://www.herbertwarmstrong.info)

**3 World Views – Only One Will Happen!**  
[www.newworldahead.org](http://www.newworldahead.org)



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