

Jan/Feb 2008

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

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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>*)

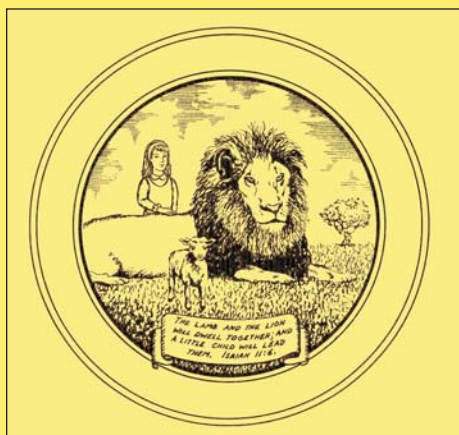
The Church of God Faithful Flock, with headquarters in Modesto, California, humbly presents this new magazine – The Philadelphia Remnant, which continues to provide a conduit for the work Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong spearheaded, the work of reaching out to people worldwide with the message of the soon-coming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

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A Warning to the Church

By Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong
(Transcript from July 1, 1978 sermon)

Well, greetings everybody. I have called a special day of prayer and fasting today because God's Church is **IN FATAL DANGER!** And I can't say that loud enough to hammer it home to you. We don't realize, my brethren, the way we've been drifting. We have been doing just what you heard in the sermonettes – doing our own thing. We have been getting lukewarm.

The Word of God says: **Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together, SO MUCH THE MORE as you see this day approaching.** We see it approaching, and we are going to sleep, sound asleep. I would rather have two or three filled with the Spirit of the Living God than to have this Church packed full (and a thousand other churches like it) of lukewarm people getting into the Laodicean condition, doing their own thing.

LEAVEN OF INTELLECTUALISM

I have good news for you, and I have bad news for you. The bad news I will give you first. God was doing really a great Work – through me and through this Church – up to about 10 years ago (nine or 10, right around 1969). We were "**one**." Nobody was in doubt about who was in charge. And then many, near the top, began every man to try to do his own thing. He wasn't trying to do God's thing. He was trying to do his own. And a spirit of competition began to come in.

At the same time, what I call the "leaven of intellectualism" was coming in and gripping the college, and also gripping our congregation locally here, and more or less the whole church. I had an argument not too long ago with a woman who said, "Why, all the scientists believe in God." Well, I denied that. But I said, "You can have that opinion if you want." I said, "Some



MR. HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

of them believe in God." But, I said, "I'll guarantee you, you don't know one – and you can't find one – who **BELIEVES GOD.**" That's something else again, isn't it? In other words, they don't believe what God says. They don't obey what God says.

There were many who believed on Jesus Christ when Jesus was on earth over 1900 years ago. To those Jews who believed on Him, **He said, "You seek to kill Me and to put Me to death because you won't believe My words. You don't believe what I say."** They believed on Christ, but they didn't believe Christ. Now there is too much of that in this world. In fact, there is quite a lot of it; and I think that, as I go along, you'll understand why nearly everybody is not believing God at least.

GOD'S KIND OF COLLEGE

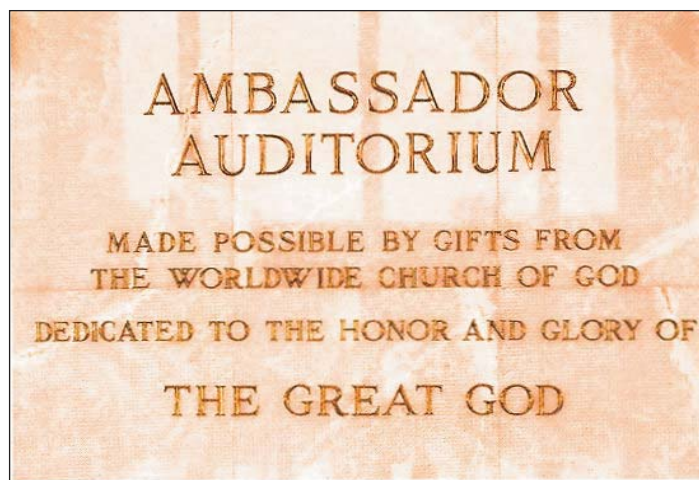
Well, about nine or 10 years ago, along about 1969, a spirit (of not only intellectualism) was getting into the college until it became no longer God's college, I'm

ashamed to say. And I am going to change that! This is going back ... I struggled the first three or four years to see that this would be God's kind of college. I had to struggle against professors with their Ph.D.s and their master's degrees. They wanted to make it just like all other colleges. They wanted to get this intellectualism. There is a *leaven* of intellectualism that gets in and just *puffs* you all up. For three years, I had to fight to let this be God's kind of college, instead of the *intellectual leaven* that has leavened this world and its education. Now someday that's all going to *burn up*, when this whole earth is going to *burn up*, and there won't be any of that left. And some of our intellectuals are going to *burn up* with it, if they don't *wake up in time*, and if they don't realize that that intellectualism is of Satan the devil.

INSPIRED PREACHING

Lately, it has become stylish to say that Mr. Armstrong is very much out of date [much more today]. There is a word "**prophecy**" in the Bible that does mean receive prophecies from God (like the ancient prophets) *and foretell*, but also, in more cases, *it means to preach*. And it means preach with inspiration – a *fired-up* kind of preaching. Today, it seems like we've got to have a very mild modern intellectual classroom lecture. And it's gotten to be out of style on this platform and in this Church for someone to really speak out. I want to hear more of that absolute conviction. Now, the Holy Spirit of God in us is not emotion, but there certainly is an emotional content, and it certainly does work on our emotions. Now, some people, they just have emotions on their shirtsleeves, and I don't mean that at all.

Well, brethren, we are all humans, and Satan is infinitely more powerful than we. And he has been getting into this Church! And it had come to the place that no one seemed to know who was in charge around here. It came to the place where some of you've said, "I am of Paul," and others of you were of Apollos, and others of Cephas. And I don't know whether any were of Christ or not – maybe one or two.



There was an effort to *overthrow* the Church in a grand coup and take over, just like taking over a government, in 1974. But Jesus Christ is the Head of this Church, and He didn't let it happen. Now, we lost some 30 or 35 ministers. We've probably lost a couple thousand members. In six months, we had more than made up for it and gotten others back to take their places, and I will tell you, so far as I know (and I haven't heard, and I don't know exactly for all of them. But, so far as I know), practically all of those ministers who went out in that rebellion – and that's what it was – are working at physical labor with their hands at any kind of job they can get today. They are not in the ministry.

They were going to take members with them. They were going to build a big church themselves. They said, "Well, Herbert Armstrong did it. So can I." Well, Herbert Armstrong did not do it! **JESUS CHRIST BUILT THIS CHURCH**, and I was *only* an instrument that He used. I gave myself to Him, and He has used me. I didn't do it. And you have never ... Not one of you have heard me take credit for it.

GOING INTO LAODICEAN CONDITION

Well, the bad news is that we have been going that way, and we are *going into the Laodicean condition of sleeping and slumbering* like you read in the 25th chapter of Matthew. And while the Bridegroom – Christ – tarried before He came, *they all slumbered and slept*, and that's the condition we are getting into.

We are getting very close now to the time of the Second Coming of Christ. But, because it didn't happen in 1972, some people think, "Oh well, it's not going to happen now." And so Jesus Himself said, "**At such an hour as you think not**" He'll come! *The door will be shut, and it will be too late!* And that's what's going to happen to a lot of you.

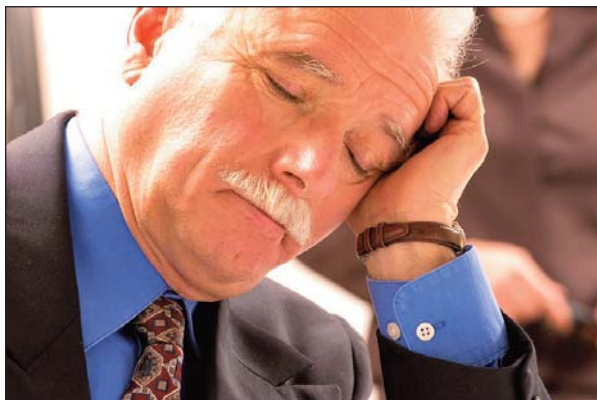
I'm trying to wake you up today! And if I can't wake you up, you can get angry and walk right out – right now! I invite you to, if that's the way you feel, because I don't want people here who don't have the Spirit of God (pretending that they do). Now, visitors are welcome and all that, but that isn't what I mean. But I don't want people here – to pretend and profess membership – who don't have anything but the spirit of Satan in them.

But, anyhow, the spirit of Satan began to grip us. Everyone started to do his own thing. There was a power struggle to get into the top. Mr. Armstrong was getting old and was going to die. Everyone wanted to be the one who could take over and be the head of the Church, and their wives wanted to be the first lady of the Church; and don't you think that was not there. And so some of us were of one leader, and some of another; and no one seemed to know who really was in charge. I'll tell you who was in charge: Jesus Christ. Only we were all going to sleep, and just letting the Church go its own way.

TIME TO WAKE UP!

Now, the good news: JESUS CHRIST IS MOVING TO PUT THIS CHURCH BACK ON THE TRACK! We are going to stamp out all of that spirit of competition that got in – that spirit of vanity, self-exaltation, lust and greed, envy and jealousy. That is the attitude of Satan the devil. And the good part of it is that God has reorganized His church, and I am going to do all I

can to bring it back. Now I completely stopped breathing. My heart stopped completely for at least 30 or 45 seconds. It wasn't 30 or 45 minutes. But it completely stopped, until my face was blanched and white, back here last August. God brought me back. And it's pretty important that God brought me back, brethren, because Jesus Christ knew which way YOU are going.



He brought me back for two reasons. One is to try to revive you, TO SHAKE YOU UP if I can. To get you to realize that **YOU ARE IN DANGER!** I'm not going to purr that out like a college professor. I'm going to shout it at you – in power! You can take **the warning**, and **wake up**, and maybe go on into

God's Kingdom. Or you can go the other way, and **burn up**, and be ashes under the souls of my feet and some others who are going into the Kingdom of God. You take your choice! And if I've offended you and you're angry, I feel sorry for you. I'm saying what needs to be said. That's why I called this day as a day of fasting and prayer.

Well, we are all human. We need to remember that there is a devil, called Satan; that he is infinitely more powerful than we are. And Satan knows better than we that he has now but a short time. And he wants to **de-stroy** this Church! Let me read you the 12th chapter of Revelation and beginning with verse 7. We're down to this time when ...

Revelation 12:7: There was [or, is] war in heaven ... Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon, and the dragon fighting with his angels, and prevailed not. That is, the dragon prevailed not. **Revelation 12:8-9: Neither was their place [and his angels] found any more in heaven. (9) And the great dragon was cast out, [Who was he?] that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which DECEIVETH THE WHOLE WORLD ...** And he is *deceiving* I say *over half of you people* in front of me

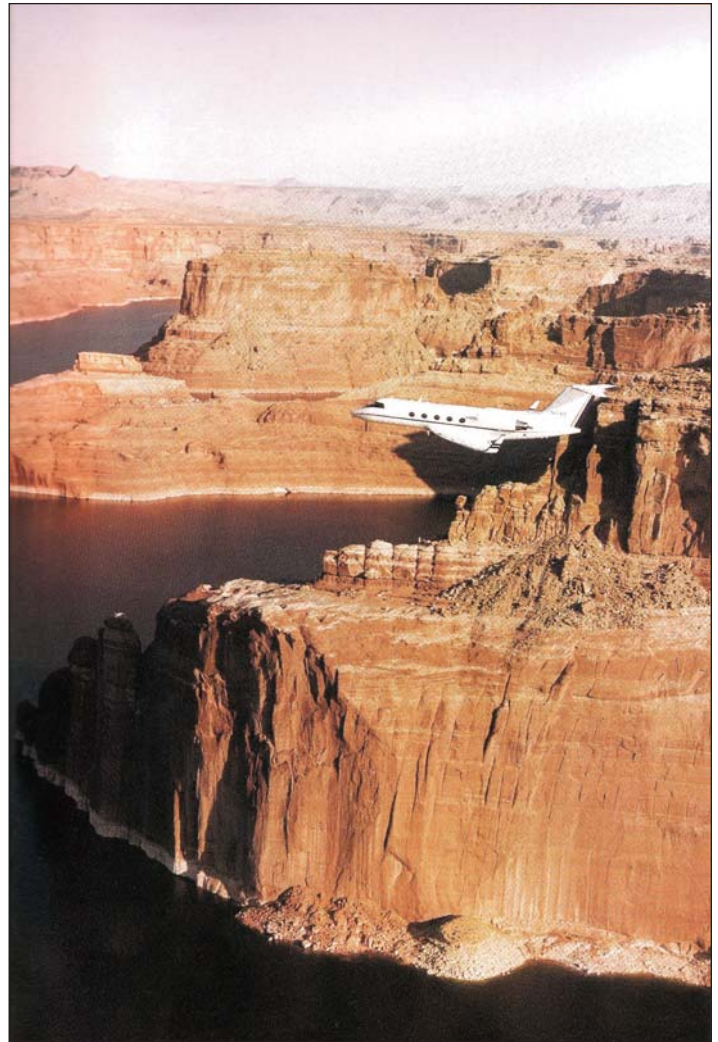
right now! I don't mean the person next to you. ***I MEAN YOU!*** God brought me back because someone has got to put a little life into this Church! That's why I am back here. That's why I didn't stay dead. There's a reason.

And I want to tell you that, back in those first days in August and September, I couldn't do any work. I couldn't do anything but just try to take it easy and recuperate. And I felt it'd be so much nicer if I could just sink back into that, because I didn't know anything was happening. I was totally unconscious.

The dead know not anything. I was dead, temporarily, and I didn't know anything (just as the Bible says). [Ecclesiastes 9:5] Those who have been brought back and say they saw this and that are lying, or they had a hallucination. I know. I have been there. You haven't, have you? But I thought that for myself how much nicer it would be. I've worked hard all these years. For 50 years, I have had to strive, and the devil has been after me as after nobody else. He would rather destroy me than anybody on this earth. You better believe that! Some of you don't. And he wants to destroy all of you. Now, that's where the real fault is, and that is the place where all the blame has to go. Well anyway, it says here that this was the devil, and he didn't prevail.

ACCUSER OF THE BRETHREN

Revelation 12:9-10: The great dragon ... that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world; he was cast out into the earth, and his angels [who now became demons] were cast out with him. (10) And I heard a loud voice saying ... Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom [Or "now is coming," because it hasn't come yet; but it is coming very soon.] ... and the power of his Christ [The strength of our God and the power of His Christ.]: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. People are accusing now. How did this Church come to that? I want to tell you, I'm heartsick today. I'm just grieved clear to the bottom of my heart because you brethren have gone to



THE G III FLIES OVER THE GRAND CANYON

sleep, and not just you [here]. When I say "**you**," this is being recorded. It's going to be played in all the churches. So when I say "**you**, brethren" I mean all of the Church. It's time we have to **WAKE UP!** But he [Satan] accused the brethren, the Church.

Revelation 12:11-12: And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony [and the Word of God too]; and they loved not their lives unto death. (12) Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. WOE to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having *great wrath*. **SATAN IS ANGRY!** He is stirred up. He's not asleep, but he is trying to *lull* you to sleep. I'm trying to wake you up. About all I can wake up is myself. I'll

Continued on Page 32

Personal from the Editor

By Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley

January 16, 2008, marks the 22nd anniversary of the death of God's late apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. He was also the Elijah who was promised by God to come in this end time to be used as an instrument by Him to try and save mankind from *destruction* (Malachi 4:4-6).

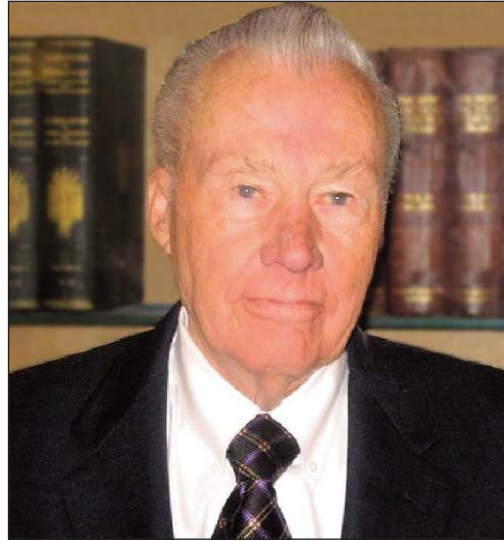
Twenty-two years is a long time! And because of this length of time thousands of members have forgotten how Jesus Christ used him in his special mission to mankind for more than 50 years and even in their own lives. This has led to many divisive problems within the Church of God.

Due to the *falling away* and *scattering* of God's people since his death, his absence from us is an almost **direct analogy** of Moses going up into the mountain to be with God for 40 days to RECEIVE the two tablets of stone on which were written the Ten Commandments by God, and the mission of the Elijah of this time to RESTORE the same commandments, statutes and judgments (Malachi 4:4-6). He also was to RESTORE the doctrinal teachings of Jesus Christ within His Church (Matthew 17:10-11), which he did.

To the people of Israel this also was a *long period of time*. After being accustomed to seeing Moses on a daily basis, and then not seeing him for close to 40 days, gave them reason to think he probably was gone for good; possibly he was *consumed* by the great **consuming fire** enveloping the top of Mount Sinai (Exodus 24:16-17).

They were now free from the repressive governmental leadership of Moses and could have a collective leadership and worship God in the manner that would appeal to them as tried by Korah, Dathan and Abiram at another time (Numbers 16:1-3). They would choose for themselves their own laws and teachings. This was the same approach by the new apostate leadership, and later by many other leaders after the death of Mr. Armstrong!

The parallel: In studying those Scriptures in view of Moses' absence and the death of Mr. Armstrong, one



Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley

should be able to see in each case they only saw the man without seeing the LORD who was USING both as His human instruments.

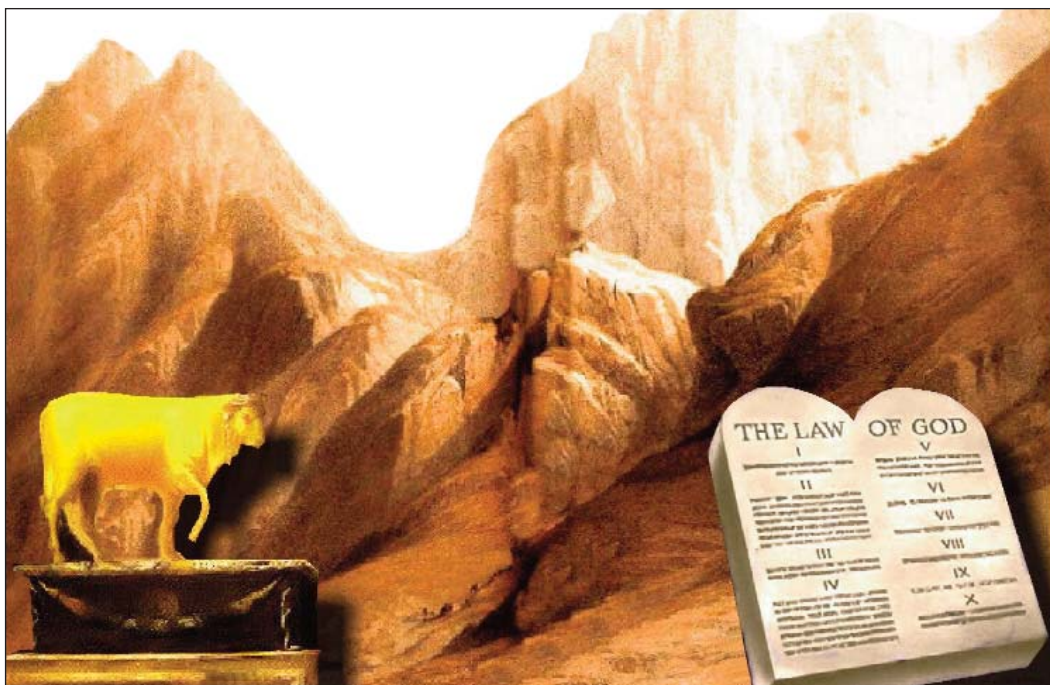
The leaders then exerted strong pres-

sure on Aaron to make them a **golden calf** to go before them back to Egypt with their own chosen leadership, saying, "... **for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt** (language of great *contempt*), **we do NOT know what has become of him**" (Exodus 32:1). Once the golden calf had been made Aaron revealed it to the people and then announced to them: "**Tomorrow is a feast (day) to the LORD**" (YHVH, the LORD).

"**And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered BURNT OFFERINGS, and brought peace offerings** (in honor of the golden calf but would remind them of YHVH as pictures today of the one who is supposed to be Christ); **and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play**" (Exodus 32:5-6).

Oxen were used for the peace offerings (Exodus 24:5). In accordance to the laws of God, the burnt offerings were given to the priests to eat, and the people feasted on the peace offerings (Exodus 29).

They then rose up to play, meaning to dance *lasciviously* and sing to the accompaniment of *wild music* (Exodus 32:19). Play also means *illicit sex* – fornication and adultery. It was a very wild and debauched reveling that involved many thousands of men and women. Many of them stripped off their clothing and



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danced naked (*unrestrained, naked* KJV, Exodus 32:25).

Of particular interest is that they used *the cover* of the worship of the LORD for their idolatrous worship that provided an opportunity for both men and women to gratify their *lusts* for one another with His supposed blessings! This can be understood by the fact the offerings were *first presented*, and they used the name of the LORD (YHWH) in their worship of the golden calf.

Just before Stephen was stoned to death by the Jews, he spoke to them of this rebellion of Israel against God and from his account there is added content to establish *respect* for the office of Moses that was given to him by God:

“This is that Moses who said to the children of Israel, ‘The LORD your God will raise up for you A PROPHET (the Messiah, Jesus Christ) like me (Moses was a type of Jesus Christ, Exodus 4:16) from your brethren. Him you shall hear.’ This is he who was in the Congregation in the wilderness with the Angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, the ONE (Moses then – Mr. Armstrong today, Matthew 17: 10-11; Malachi 4:4-6) who received *the living oracles* to give to us; whom our fathers would NOT obey, *BUT REJECTED!* And *in*

their hearts they **TURNED BACK TO EGYPT**, saying to Aaron, ‘Make us gods to go before us (back to Egypt); as for **THIS MOSES** who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do NOT know what has become of him.’

(Moses has lied by causing us to wander here in this terrible wilderness without going anywhere; there is no land of promise. The parallel is Mr. Armstrong was no prophet; he kept telling us just a few short years – possibly 25, 10 years or less, before the return of Christ and here we are 22 years

later and life continues just as it always has. *Disrespect* to his memory and even *contempt* by many.)

And they made A CALF in those days, OFFERED SACRIFICES to the idol, and REJOICED in the work of their own hands” (Acts 7:37-41).

No literal calf has been made to worship today, but it has in spirit because of making changes from the true teachings to *pagan teachings* (Revelation 2:20). They had conveniently moved Moses into the background of their minds wanting to think that all God had used him to do was *now* in the past. The same is evident today by their teachings and their fruits (Matthew 7:15-20). There was no longer *a reverent fear* of the LORD from Israel; nor is there today by members of the corporate Churches of God!

However, what they *were* thinking and doing did *not* escape the attention and eyes of God. **“And the LORD said to Moses, ‘Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves! They have TURNED ASIDE QUICKLY OUT OF THE WAY WHICH I COMMANDED THEM.”** (Exodus 32:1, 7-8).

The same is true today! All that is being done in our time is *not* escaping the attention of God and Jesus Christ! And there are real problems facing those who

are guilty UNLESS there is repentance. Almost immediately after the death of Mr. Armstrong, attractive changes began to be made that found great favor with the members. There was great rejoicing when the ruling against makeup was made null and void.

Healing was dealt with, and a favorable change was made in the teaching of it. No longer was there a belief in *physical sin*! Accordingly the Passover service was changed to reflect their change in belief and teaching. These led to more and greater changes until finally even the laws of God were said to have been done away.

Unexpectedly, Moses came back down from the top of Mount Sinai! Upon seeing the people of Israel had indeed turned away from the way of God, he was filled with great anger for he saw their worship of the golden calf and *licentious conduct* and knew they had re-turned to Egypt in their hearts (Exodus 32:19)! God then had Moses slay about 3,000 of the leaders who had led Israel away from the true worship of God.

Think about it: Very few realize it now, but just as Moses came down from the mountain after 40 days, so has Mr. Armstrong *returned* from death to resume his mission as did Moses, though this is not realized at this time (Habakkuk 1:5)!

HOW has Mr. Armstrong returned? Jesus Christ has brought him back to life through his RECORDED WORKS that can be found on our many web sites. After a space of 21 years, the Work Christ gave him to do for more than 50 years in his life, *has been RE-SUMED* through the use of web sites made possible through the means of modern technology.

Because of these web sites, his Works are sounding what may very well be the FINAL WARNING to the Church of God and the nations of Israel just before entering into the hard straits of famine and pestilence to then be followed by

the **Great Tribulation** (Ezekiel 5:16-17). These web sites are numerous and reach into many nations! This of itself speaks volumes of the need of the DIRE WARNING that must be given since we are now very close to the precipice of the close of this age!

This very month Jesus Christ is making possible as many as 130 other web sites to link to our major web sites. This will make possible the **SOUNDING LOUDER OF THE TRUMPET WARNING** to reach the Church and to all Israel.

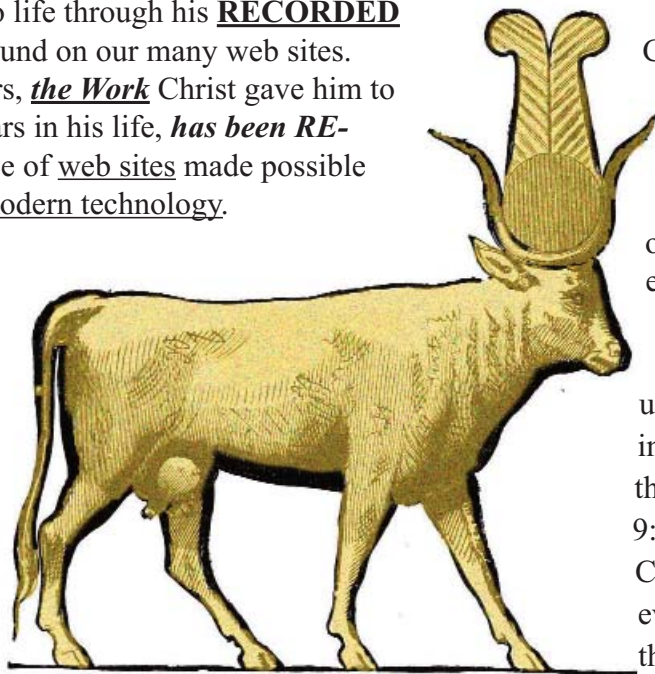
Realizing we are on the final countdown of these terrible things coming to pass, we are now pushing the **Ezekiel Warning web site to the front burner:**
<http://www.ezekielwatchman.org/>.

Mr. Armstrong, though dead, will now be reaching into all nations on all of these web sites in a far more powerful way than he ever did in human life. This is due to Jesus Christ making all of these web sites with his recorded works available through His use of this lowly Church of God that He is now using as an instrument, a conduit!

This is of itself a **PURIFYING TEST** on God's people similar to the witness of Noah before the beginning of the Flood! They did not believe Noah any more than members do now of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

Consider the life-testifying fact that Mr. Armstrong was the promised Elijah to come at the end time; and the Scriptural fact that no one else is mentioned this side of the beginning of the Great Tribulation to give this end-time warning!

This is also similar to the Jews who understood the actual year of the coming of the Messiah by the prophecy of the 70 weeks but rejected Him (Daniel 9:24-27). No one else came after Jesus Christ, but He continued to be rejected even though all the signs were there that testified as to who He really was.



HATHOR: (ISIS) EGYPTIAN COW GODDESS



THE FALL OF JERUSALEM IN 70 A.D.

With these facts in mind, it is only logical to understand that Jesus Christ would use him to complete the final warning albeit by his Recorded Works from his life-time ministry!

Another analogy: Moses' life was cut short right on the edge of entering the Promised Land after wandering for 40 years in the wilderness. However, the LORD did permit him to view it from the top of a mountain, but *denied* him entrance into it. He then died and the LORD buried him.

Mr. Armstrong also died just a few short years to the close of this age, but similar to Moses he saw it through the understanding Christ gave him through many descriptive Scriptures.

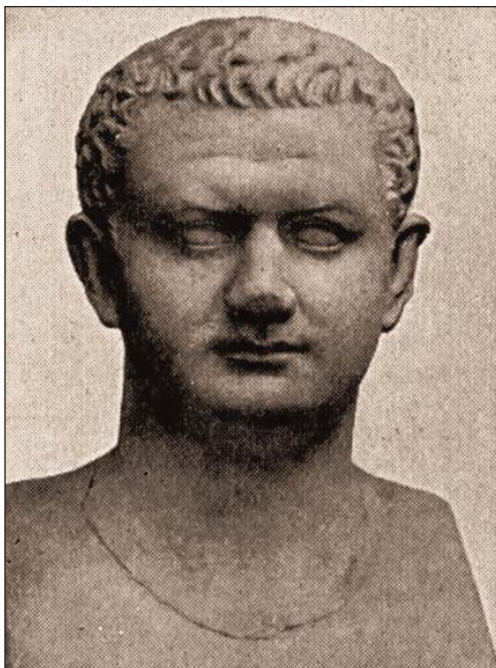
It is realized that it is hard for members to believe that Christ would USE web sites without a live human being at the forefront of the warning! But this is really what is taking place (Habakkuk 1:5). It also is realized

this will be ridiculed by the unbelievers just as was Noah! Time will soon tell who is right and who is wrong! And as God dealt with Israel at that time by having Moses slay about 3,000 Israelites, Scriptures reveal He is going to deal with the disobedient and unfaithful today (II Thessalonians 1:7-8; Revelation 6:9-11)!

This time Jesus Christ will bring enemy nations against Israel and the unfaithful members by the *famine, disease epidemics and then the Great Tribulation* (Ezekiel 5:11-17). Please consider further:

Though Mr. Armstrong shouted out the WARNING of what is even now being seen at the very door, there are those who think because he has been dead for 22 years there is no longer a need to think about the short amount of time left.

In this context, it would be well to consider the following: Shortly before Jesus Christ was arrested and crucified, He proclaimed A WARNING to the Jewish



TITUS

people of what would soon befall them by the Roman armies (Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21). He even cried while envisioning the terrible sufferings His people would undergo at that time (Luke 19:41-44).

And on His final heavily guarded walk to the place He would be crucified, Jesus Christ again made known to the people the sufferings they would experience in the near future:

“Upon seeing the great multitude of people following Him, and women also mourning and lamenting Him, Jesus turned and said to them, ‘Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore, and the breasts which never nursed! Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’” (Luke 23:28-30).

Consider further: The WARNINGS Jesus Christ gave those Jewish people of what was to soon come upon them was basically forgotten over the following 37 years. Things continued pretty much the same during those interim years and His words were forgotten except for the faithful members of God’s Church.

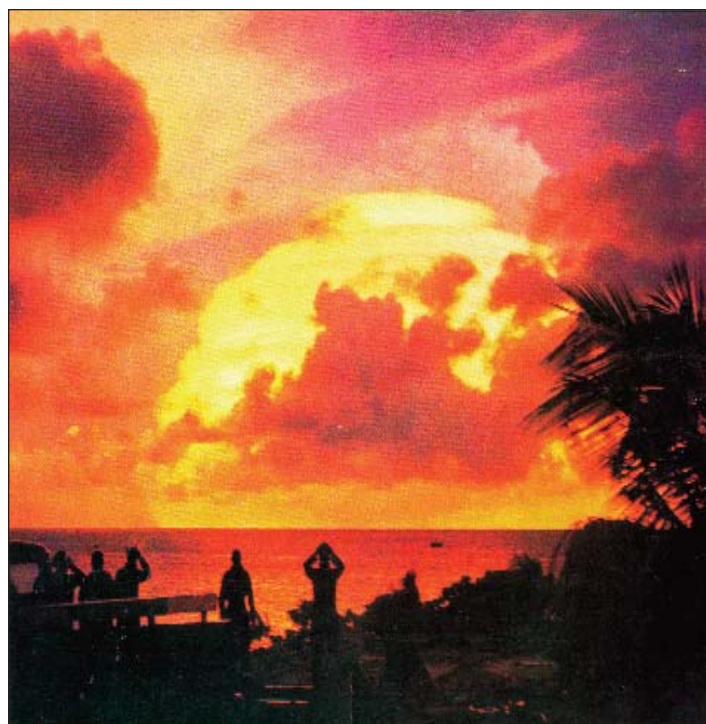
But 70 A.D. did come and so did the Roman armies! And with the beginning of the Passover of that year, what Jesus Christ had said to them did come to pass! History records horrible sufferings and deaths that came on the Jewish people by Titus and his enormous

Roman armies. It is well worth noting that history recorded the conquest of the Roman armies began at the Passover: *A Handbook of Ancient History in Bible Light*, Dorothy Ruth Miller, Page 260, “The siege of Jerusalem by Titus began at the Passover season, on the fourteenth of Nisan, 70 A.D.”

This siege began on the very anniversary of His death; for it was the very night of the Passover when the Jewish priests arrested and rejected Him as their Messiah in 31 A.D.

Very soon, what Jesus Christ used Mr. Armstrong to proclaim about the coming *famine, disease epidemics*, to be followed by *the Great Tribulation*, will befall the Church of God, the nations of Israel and a little later the Gentile nations at the battle of *Armageddon*!

It is highly possible the *nuclear attack* will come on Israel at the Passover very probably less than five years from now by the modern counterpart; the revived Holy Roman Empire. We are on the final countdown! Are you one of the wise who will understand before it comes to be too late and then be counted worthy to escape these horrors that are virtually on top of us (Daniel 12:10)? Our prayers are to that end for you and for all of God’s true people. 🐑



U.S. Department of Energy
THERMONUCLEAR BLAST

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) shall NOT prevail against it (Matthew 16:18).’

By Alton B. ‘Don’ Billingsley

In this fifth writing of establishing where the true Church of God is today, it is necessary to point out the Scriptures that speak of its continued existence along with its embodied doctrinal beliefs and teachings that are yet faithfully being kept fully intact and make known where it can be located today.

In recent years, its trail in history from its beginning to its present location had been sought and traced by its teachings through the many centuries by searching ancient historical writings. This was done by scholars in our parent Church of God and taught to students in Ambassador College.

GOD’S CHURCH FORCED INTO BACKGROUND

Though this search was not necessary due to the Holy Bible making known its present location by its true teachings, it nevertheless was enlightening to realize it could be found in historical writings.

This was a laborious task due to the Church of God having been forced into the background for 1,900 years by persecution from the dominant Catholic Church while being supported by the governments as one can see from the historical source below:

***The Story of the Christian Church* by Jesse Lyman Hurlbut, D.D. Chapter 5, Page 41, The Age of Shadows, “For fifty years after St. Paul’s life [he was beheaded in 68 A.D.] a curtain hangs over the**



A WOLF IN SHEEP’S CLOTHING

church, through which we strive vainly to look; and when at last it rises, about 120 A.D. with the writings of the earliest church fathers, we find a church in many aspects very different from that in the days of St. Peter and St. Paul.”

History has repeated itself once again! Just as the Church of God was forced into the background in past history so has the Philadelphia era of God’s Church today! Though it continues to exist, it is little noticed since the much larger corporate Churches are now at the forefront with the many smaller ones dominating the scene.

As a result, it is *unrecognized* by the many thousands of members who have been deceived into believing that whatever other Church of God of which they are members is the true Church.

Most have forgotten *the caution* Christ gave to His disciples, when He said, **“Take heed that NO ONE**

deceives you. For **MANY** will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will **DECEIVE many**" (Matthew 24:4-5).

Nevertheless it can be found in the same manner as did the scholars by finding the Church that has **ALL** of the doctrinal teachings that were restored in it by Jesus Christ through His late apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong (Malachi 4:4-6; Matthew 17:10-11).

It is with this *fullness of picture* in mind that I have been writing these series of writings to try and help the true and faithful members to work their way through all of these many Churches and enable them to see the one where Jesus Christ can still be found today.

Mr. Armstrong often wrote of the True Church and the need to know where it really is, and just as importantly to be an active member in it while doing the Work. Please note a quote from his booklet, *Where is the True Church?* Page 26:

"Many have appropriated God's name, but are not proclaiming the Kingdom of God, as the GOVERNMENT of God, which we must OBEY ... That true Church is preaching the imminency of the coming of Christ as KING of kings and LORD of lords, to RULE all nations for a thousand years on earth. ... There is only ONE such Church! It is doing the WORK of God. It is as Jesus said it would be, a 'little flock,' persecuted, despised by the world." (Luke 12:32).

The above quote is verified by the teachings of Jesus Christ! This should be enough to make one seriously consider whether he or she might just be in the wrong one! In God's true Church, there is only **"ONE BODY, ONE SPIRIT, ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM, ONE GOD AND FATHER ..."** (Ephesians 4:1-4-6)

It should also be realized that for the corporate Churches of God to be *different* from one another each had to have developed a *different belief system* than what we had in our parent Church prior to 1986!

Jesus Christ made known how one can distinguish one from the other in His Sermon on the Mount, when He said: **"BEWARE of false prophets, WHO COME**



ROTTEN FRUIT

TO YOU in sheep's clothing, but **INWARDLY** they are **RAVENOUS WOLVES**. **YOU WILL KNOW THEM BY THEIR FRUITS ...** every good tree bears **GOOD FRUIT**, BUT a bad tree bears **BAD FRUIT ...** Therefore **BY THEIR FRUITS** you will **know them**" (Matthew 7:15-17, 20).

The fruits being whether one is filled with God's Holy Spirit and also being guided into all of His truth (John 14:16-17, 16:13, Acts 5:32).

A true Christian is also one who has a *knowing relationship* with Jesus Christ and **OBEYS** Him: **"Now BY THIS WE know that we 'KNOW HIM'** [a real knowing relationship, John 10:14, 27], **IF we keep His commandments. He who says, 'I KNOW Him,' and does NOT keep His commandments is a liar, and the TRUTH is NOT in him. He who says he ABIDES in Him ought himself also TO WALK JUST AS HE WALKED"** (I John 2:3-4, 6).

This means a real enduring and lasting love for Him and for His commandments, His true teachings, and way of life: “**Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life ...’**” (John 14:6). Further, He said: “... **Everyone who is of the TRUTH HEARS My voice**” (John 18:37). And we must “... **live by every word of God**” (Matthew 4:4, Luke 4:4).

This also includes *obeying the gospel* and *dire consequences* for those who do not: “... **when the Lord Jesus is REVEALED from heaven with His mighty angels, IN FLAMING FIRE taking vengeance on those who DO NOT KNOW GOD, and on those WHO DO NOT OBEY THE GOSPEL of our Lord Jesus Christ**” (II Thessalonians 1:7-8).

OBEYING THE GOSPEL involves more than the Good News Christ brought to mankind; for it also includes His doctrinal teachings and laws.

Though there are other doctrinal teachings that have been changed from the true ones, the primary and major doctrinal teaching that is being disobeyed by the Churches is that of God’s restored doctrine of Government within the Church of God.

Please note a quote from the booklet written by Mr. Armstrong, *Where is the True Church?* page 26: “**Many have appropriated God’s name, but are not proclaiming the Kingdom of God, as the GOV-**



PRESBYTERIAN VOTING

ERNMENT of God which we *must* OBEY. ...”

God’s Government is *THEOCRATIC, HIERARCHICAL*, meaning it is organized from the top down, from God the Father and Jesus Christ, and then Christ’s rule through the leadership He has placed within His Church (I Corinthians 11:3, 12:28, Ephesians 4:11, Hebrews 13:7, 17).

ONE UNDIVIDED CHURCH

Mystery of the Ages, pages 242-243, Mr. Armstrong, “**One Church with One Government. Notice especially, there is only the ONE CHURCH. Not MANY churches. The CHURCH is not divided. There is only one Church. Not a parent church and many little daughter churches that have split off in disagreement. Divisions splintering off are NOT STILL IN THE CHURCH. ...**”

Mr. Armstrong wrote on page 242 that God’s Church is *not* a voting Church as was/is the Sardis, and organized as are the Presbyterian and Congregational churches, and *governed* by the presbyters or ministers in control *through* the process of election.

Though there are larger corporate Churches of God with God’s form of Government, all of them that I am knowledgeable of are headed by ministers who are disobedient in other doctrinal teachings, yet retaining some of the true doctrinal teachings so as not to lose any of their members.

Virtually all of them will *NOT* obey the ruling made by Mr. Armstrong on makeup! He made it very plain that its use is a sin! He also made a ruling regarding the proper clothing women should wear (I Peter 3:3-4, I Timothy 2:9-10).

In addition, wrongful changes have been made regarding the meaning of the bread partaken of during the

Passover service (*Mystery of the Ages*, pages 211-212), not a two-fold gospel (*What is the TRUE GOSPEL*, pages 5-6, Mr. Armstrong), born again now (*Just what do you mean – BORN AGAIN?*, pages 12-14, Mr. Armstrong), interracial dating and officiating at marriages between them (*Mystery of the Ages*, pages 147-149, 166-170), etc.

Aside from the truly converted Laodiceans dwelling in their midst, as well as some of the remnant of the Philadelphia era yet there with them, based on Scriptural writings, and those of Mr. Armstrong's, the conversion of these ministers and members alike is very questionable.

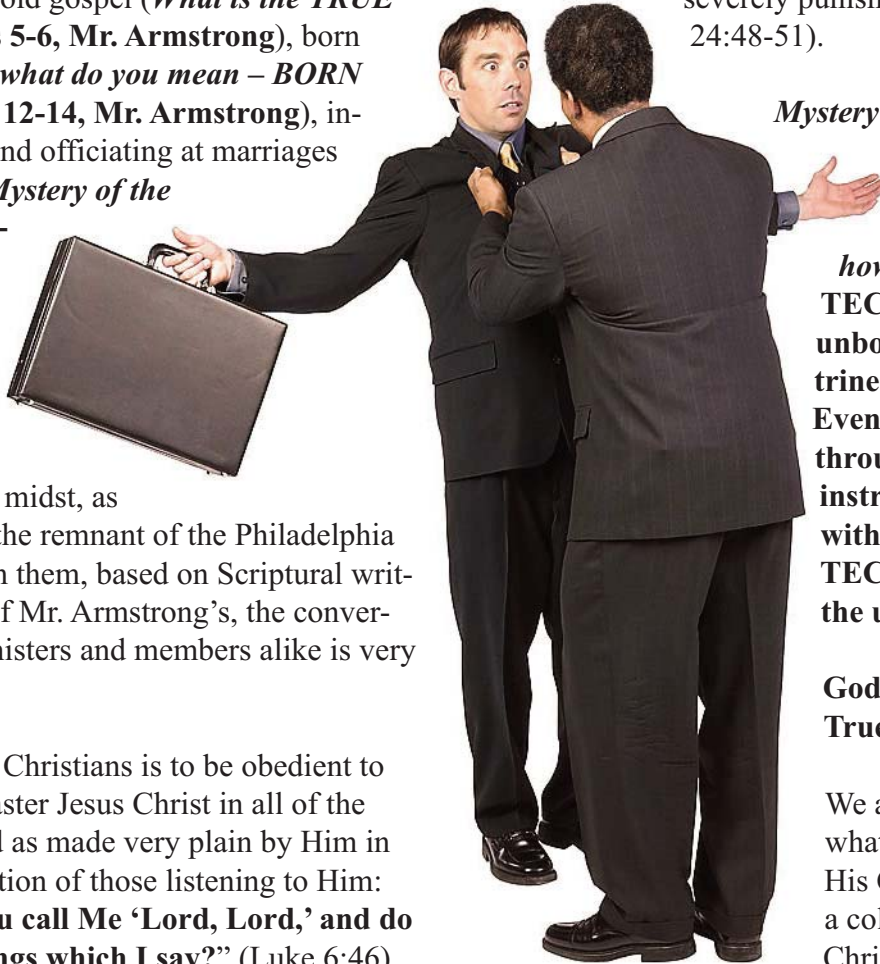
To really be true Christians is to be obedient to our Lord and Master Jesus Christ in all of the teachings of God as made very plain by Him in answer to a question of those listening to Him: **"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do NOT do the things which I say?"** (Luke 6:46). Lord means *master*, one who has control and authority over another person.

The unconverted tares become conditioned to God's human leaders and then lose respect and sooner or later will leave the Church upon seeing their humanity and human failures as did Miriam, Aaron, Korah, Dathan and Abiram of Moses (Numbers 12:1-2; 16:1-3).

Lessons of reverent fear for God should be learned from reading those Scriptures, for Jesus Christ does not change. **He is the same yesterday, today and forever** (Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8).

However, one should also know that the authority of rule given by Jesus Christ to His ministers is only to be used to *protect* His people from those who would bring them spiritual harm (II Thessalonians 3:6, 14, Matthew 18:15-17, I Corinthians 5:9, Romans 16:17-18). In addition they are to love, care for, feed, His people (John 21:15-17, Matthew 24:45-47, Ephesians

4:11-16). Those who browbeat them will be severely punished by Christ (Matthew 24:48-51).



Mystery of the Ages, page 262, Mr. Armstrong, "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 ... Even so, the CHURCH, through Christ's ministers, instructs, teaches, counsels with, advises, and PROTECTS from *spiritual* harm the unborn members!"

God's Instructions to His True, Faithful Ministers

We also should remember what Jesus Christ said about His Church that is made up of a collective body of individual Christians over which He has placed His ministry for the edifying and unity of the faith:

"For as the BODY is ONE and has many members ... For BY ONE SPIRIT we were all baptized into ONE BODY ... But now God has set the members, each one of them, IN THE BODY just as He pleased ... Now you are THE BODY of Christ, and members INDIVIDUALLY. And God HAS APPOINTED these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers ..." (I Corinthians 12:12-13, 18, 27-28, Ephesians 4:11-13).

The true ministers of God will cling to and teach the true doctrinal teachings of Jesus Christ, as the apostle Paul makes known: **"... not handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of THE TRUTH"** (II Corinthians 4:2-4, John 16:13).

To be continued



The quotes above are intended for educational purposes only



The Great Grain Drain

The United States, Canada and Australia have been blessed with such extensive amber waves of grain for so many years that those nations have been able to help feed a hungry world. But drought and increased exports are depleting their stockpiles at an alarmingly rapid pace. Many experts are coming to the conclusion that widespread food shortages are inevitable – even in those developed western countries!

By Mark Mendiola

The mainstream news media barely mentioned a startling U.S. Department of Agriculture report issued on Oct. 12, 2007, that showed **a disturbing steep drop in world grain supplies**. Most people are unaware of this significant, ominous trend, which is treated like a footnote by newspapers and a blip by television networks as they sensationalize the latest inconsequential celebrity scandal or other meaningless developments.

Yet, a looming global food shortage will become one of the most shocking international developments in the not-so-distant future! Such a turn in events could trigger a worsening of tensions between nations and ignite a sharp spike in grocery costs for virtually everyone, even leading to mass starvation throughout the world. **It's that critical!**

Most in the western world remain oblivious to this frightening scenario as they go about their mundane lives and are absorbed by their endless pursuit of pleasure and comfort.

The abundance of wheat, barley and other crops produced in the United States, Canada and Australia has fed much of the world for decades, but **the days of plentiful stockpiles in those traditional breadbaskets are coming to an end as the grain is drained while demand exceeds supply.**

“The USDA projects wheat supplies for the 2007-2008 crop year will fall to 307 million bushels, down 55 million bushels from its estimate last month, due to the fast pace of export shipments. Foreign appetite for the country's wheat has surged after poor weather damaged harvests around the world this year,” the Associated Press reported in October. “Record high prices have done little to dampen demand. **Stockpiles of wheat at the crop year's end would be the lowest since 1949.**”

In other words, the AP reports U.S. wheat stockpiles may shrink to the lowest level in nearly 60 years due to robust demand following two years of dismal harvests throughout the world! **The USDA also projected that world wheat stocks will be down to 107 million tons this next year – or the lowest level in 32 years** – as world population swells by 70 million people each year. That's down from 119.3 million tons in 2006 as food resources relentlessly dwindle to precariously low levels.

The top United Nations agriculture official warned on Dec. 17 that **the world food supply is dwindling rapidly and food prices are soaring to historic levels** in what he called an “unforeseen and unprecedented shift,” the *International Herald Tribune* reported. Jacques Diouf, head of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, lamented that the FAO's food price index rose by more than 40 percent in 2007, compared to 9 percent in 2006. World wheat supplies fell 11 per-



cent in 2007 to the lowest level since 1980. There are only 12 weeks of world wheat and eight weeks of world corn left in storage based on consumption rates. Wheat was fetching as little as \$5 a bushel in May 2007, but broke a record \$10 a bushel on Dec. 17 – **double what was paid only seven months earlier!** It won't be long before this "agflation" hits consumers hard as staples become increasingly expensive to buy.

"In early September, the world price of wheat rose to over \$400 a (ton), the highest ever recorded. In May it had been around \$200. Though in real terms its price is far below the heights it scaled in 1974, **it is still twice the average of the past 25 years.** Earlier this year **the price of (corn) exceeded \$175 a (ton), again a world record.** It has fallen from its peak, as has that of wheat, but **at \$150 a (ton) is still 50% above the average for 2006,"** *The Economist* reported in its Dec. 6 edition in a cover story titled, "The End of Cheap Food." Rice prices also hit records in 2007.

The British magazine's food price index is at its highest since it started in 1845, rising by one-third the past year! "This year the overall decline in stockpiles of all cereals will be about 53 (million tons) – a very rough indication of ... how much demand is outstripping supply." The International Food Policy Research Institute projects grain prices will rise by up to 20 percent by 2015. The FAO's forecast for 2016-17 is slightly higher, *The Economist* reports.

A weak U.S. dollar has prompted foreign investors to buy large quantities of relatively inexpensive grain on the world market, helping trim the monstrous U.S. trade deficit but also **depleting domestic stockpiles.** The U.S. Commerce Department reported on Oct. 11 that the U.S. trade deficit dropped to its lowest level in seven months – **due largely to increased exports of wheat, corn and soybeans.** However, the prospect of American farmers emptying their silos to export their grains overseas is a grim reality with dire consequences.

"Wheat supplies are of special concern given that Australia's harvest this fall, which is expected to be mea-



PLOWING DUST

ger, will do little to replenish dwindling world stockpiles. One wheat crop after another this year has suffered either too much rain or too little, and **inventories are headed for the lowest in more than two decades,**" the AP reported.

Perhaps nowhere on earth have severe weather conditions hurt crop production more than in Australia, which has endured **an extreme blistering drought** for several years now that **has decimated its crops.** On Sept. 18, 2007, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics cut its wheat forecast for the world's second largest grain exporter to 15.5 million tons, down from its June forecast of 22.5 million tons. Australia usually produces about 25 million tons annually.

Jonathan Barratt, managing director of Commodity Broking Services in Australia, told Bloomberg: "Wheat has been unbelievable with the way it has been trading over the last three to four months. **There are critical supply shortages.**"

The Australian bureau slashed its *total* winter crop production by **31 percent** to 25.6 million tons and its barley forecast by **35 percent** to 5.9 million tons. Andrew Gillanders, chairman of the Grains Council of New Zealand, told *The Press* in his country on Sept. 21, "The rest of the world wanted to import grain from Australia, and we now have a below-average Northern Hemisphere harvest, and the main producers are now



below average in the Southern Hemisphere. **It has created a hand-to-mouth situation throughout the world.**" Meanwhile, Canadian wheat production for 2007 was projected at 20.64 million tons, down from 25.26 million tons in 2006, according to Statistics Canada. **Spring wheat production was projected to be down by 23 percent and winter wheat down by 18 percent. Western Canadian wheat production fell 19 percent to 15.3 million tons. Soybean production was expected to be down by 19.6 percent.**

The Canadian Wheat Board expects wheat prices to stay high well into 2008 because of low global stockpiles and adverse weather cutting output in major exporting countries, Bloomberg reported on Dec. 6. Meanwhile, U.S. wheat sales almost doubled in six months. Believe it or not, the Bible shows steep drops in grain production in the United States, Australia and Canada portend food shortages and even **famine** in western nations. Those countries finally will realize the wheat, barley, corn, soybeans and other crops stored for ready consumption are not guaranteed. They will learn the hard way that the food on their tables and shelves is a blessing not to be taken for granted!



NOAA

THE DUST BOWL OF THE 1930s

CURSE ON FOOD, WATER

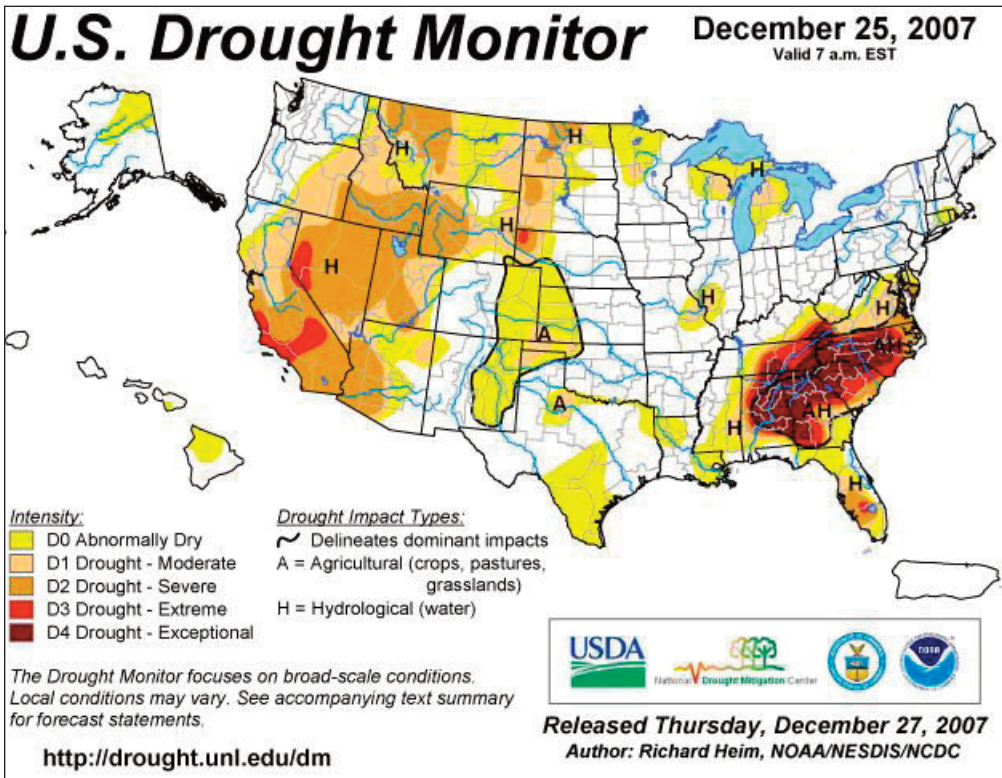
There's a direct correlation between the setbacks experienced on the agricultural front by the American and British-descended nations and their plunge into blatant immorality – to the point anything regarding Almighty God and His commandments is viewed with open contempt. It's no coincidence that as these countries derisively reject their Judeo-Christian heritage that **terrible curses are afflicting them. Nothing will bring nations or empires down more rapidly than destructive drought, wildfires or flooding that ruin crops and bring about food shortages!**



U.S. Department of Agriculture

Yet, most in our modern society refuse to admit there's a direct cause and effect between our personal actions and the curses overtaking the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and related countries. Instead, they will blame "increased carbon dioxide emissions" for the horrendous conditions afflicting our peoples, denying even the existence of Almighty God who controls the weather. Moses emphasized in no uncertain terms that if the Israelites would obey God, they would be blessed with abundant





scorched by drought, bringing to mind the devastating Dust Bowl of the 1930s. Water levels in reservoirs and lakes are dropping quickly. Snow pack in mountains is failing to materialize. Forest and rangelands are turning into extremely flammable tinder.

October's devastating infernos in California that forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homes – which were consumed by raging flames that caused at least \$1 billion in property damage – are yet another major curse to afflict our people. Much of the state's avocado crop was wiped out by

harvests, overflowing stockpiles, excellent weather, military victories and preeminence among nations.

“But it shall come to pass, *if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God*, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that **all these curses will come upon you and overtake you ... Cursed shall be your (bread) basket and kneading bowl**. Cursed shall be the fruit of your body and **the produce of your land**, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. ... **The LORD will strike you ... with scorching (blight), and with mildew ...** And your heavens which are over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you shall be iron. **The LORD will change the rain of your land to powder and dust**; from the heaven it shall come down on you **until you are destroyed** (Deuteronomy 28:15, 17-18, 22-24).”

Many parts of the United States, Australia and Canada are experiencing large sections of land

those fires. Los Angeles recorded only 3.2 inches of rain up to June 30, **making it the driest year on record since 1877**. The city draws half its water from the Sierra Nevada mountain range, which has seen only about 20 per cent of normal levels prior to December.

“An epic drought in Georgia threatens the water supply for millions. Florida doesn't have nearly enough water for its expected population boom. The Great Lakes are shrinking. Upstate New York's reservoirs have dropped to record lows. And in the West, the Sierra Nevada snowpack is melting faster each year. Across America, the picture is critically clear – **the nation's freshwater supplies can no longer quench its thirst**,” the Associated Press reported at the end of October.

“The government projects that **at least 36 states will face water shortages within five years** because of a combination of rising temperatures, drought, population growth, urban sprawl, waste and excess.” On the heels of California's catastrophic fires, it was learned that Lake Lanier, Atlanta's main source of water in



Georgia, could run dry in a matter of months, leaving more than four million people in that metropolitan area without water. Lake Okeechobee, the backup water supply for metropolitan South Florida, also remained five feet below normal in October despite September rains. "The drought that started in parts of Georgia and Alabama in early 2006 has spread throughout the region, **worsened by sweltering temperatures and a drier-than-normal hurricane season,**" the Associated Press reported.

As the *New York Times* reported, **2007 was the first time in more than 100 years that much of the Southeast had reached the most severe category of drought.** The region's reservoirs were at or near all-time lows. "For the better part of 18 months, cloudless blue skies and high temperatures have shriveled crops and bronzed lawns from North Carolina to Alabama."

NOAA/National Weather Service forecaster Randy Schecter stated, "By the middle of October, **extreme drought covered nearly one-half of the Southeast, and critical water shortages had developed in a number of cities.** With the hardest-hit areas needing more than a foot of rain to pull out of drought, this drought is not going away soon."

At the end of October, **the U.S. Drought Monitor showed all 50 states with some level of dryness or drought, covering 52 percent of the nation when normal is 30 percent. Fifty percent of the Southeast was experiencing "extreme" drought conditions – the highest intensity – with 31 per cent of it reeling from "exceptional" conditions, affecting millions of people in the region.** "Reservoirs and lakes in Georgia, Kentucky, Alabama, Tennessee, and North and

South Carolina have dried up, prompting some states to ship water in from other areas of the country," CTV reported. The water shortage in the Southeast is getting so extreme that Georgia, Alabama and Florida are engaged in a "Tri-State Water War" for the precious, dwindling commodity. **The epic drought in the Southeast is the worst there in more than a century.** Wells in North Carolina even are drying up, forcing residents to either buy water or retrieve it from creeks and streams.

"Through September, **it is the region's driest year in 113 years of record-keeping.** In five of the six worst-hit states, rain totals this year are close to a foot below normal. **It is the driest year on record for North Carolina and Tennessee, second-driest in Alabama and third-driest in Kentucky.**

A tree-ring study this summer of Tennessee's rainfall history shows this is the third-driest year for the state in at least 350 years, behind only 1839 and 1708," *USA Today* reported.

Farmers from Virginia to Alabama are selling cattle they normally would keep over winter because pastures have dried up and hay is too costly. Some

growers of grain, cotton, peanuts and soybeans aren't planting or may quit." If mandatory commercial and industrial water cutbacks are imposed in Atlanta, it would be the first time a major U.S. metropolitan area has been forced to take such drastic action to save its water supply, National Drought Mitigation Center experts said. Farming and personal water restrictions could then follow.

FAMINE: A SIGN OF THE TIMES

The unthinkable prospect of a major U.S. city running out of water and taps running dry now is a grim reality. That frightening development fulfills a



DEVASTATING FIRES RAVAGED CALIFORNIA



major prophecy by the Old Testament Prophet Amos, who foresaw drought conditions getting so bad that grain would become scarce and cities would lack drinking water.

“Also I gave you cleanliness of teeth (hunger) in all your cities. And **lack of bread** in all your places; *Yet you have not returned to Me,*’ says the LORD. ‘**I also withheld rain from you**, when there were still three months to the harvest. I made it rain on one city, I withheld rain from another city. One part was rained upon, and where it did not rain the part withered. **So two or three cities wandered to another city to drink water, but they were not satisfied;** *Yet you have not returned to Me,*’ says the LORD. ‘**I blasted you with blight and mildew.** ... *Yet you have not returned to Me,*’ ” says the LORD. (Amos 4:6-9)”

The Bible is plain that the Great Creator God determines weather patterns and whether particular areas get rain. “Blight and mildew” imply both drought and flooding destroying crops. Even devastating wildfires can be used by God as divine punishment to get His people to return to Him. “Behold, the Lord GOD called for conflict by fire, and it consumed the great deep and devoured the territory (Amos 7:4). These terrible conditions are afflicting nations such as the United States, Canada and Australia with greater intensity and frequency, wiping out large swaths of grain and other vital crops, **jeopardizing our food supplies.**

The Bible shows that prior to Christ’s return massive food shortages will be rampant throughout the world. In the Book of Revelation, one of the “Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse” is described as a rider on a black horse that symbolizes famine stalking the earth. Jesus Christ warned that famine would be a major sign of the end of this age and His Second Coming (Luke 21:11, Mark 13:8, Matthew 24:3, 7).



‘A QUART OF WHEAT FOR A DENARIUS’

“When He (Christ) opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, ‘Come and see.’ And I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, ‘**A quart of wheat for a denarius**, and **three quarts of barley for a denarius**; and do not harm the oil and the wine’ (Revelation 6:5-6).”

A denarius was about a day’s wage for a worker in Palestine about 2,000 years ago, when Christ and His disciples lived in that area. **Meticulously measuring and paying that much money for such a tiny amount of grain shows food in extremely short supply and prices soaring as a result.**

That’s a description of conditions yet to come in the near future – not only in Third World countries but even the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and New Zealand – *believe it or not!* The mountains of grain reaped in those western nations are shriveling to incredibly smaller heaps not enough to feed the entire world.

A crisis of massive proportions is developing right before our eyes as drought, wildfires, flooding, blight and mildew ravage our food stockpiles. One of these days, all of us could wake up to find ourselves feeling pangs of hunger that respect no national boundaries!



Unprecedented Famine to Strike First

By Garfield Gregoire

In 1975 in *Prophecy*, a booklet written by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, we find the following dire warning on page one: “Your own future is laid bare, *now* in prophecy! The curtain of the future is drawn back. Prophecies that were closed and sealed tight now stand REVEALED. This mystifying, neglected third of the Bible now becomes plain. Mysteries of God, never before understood, now become crystal-clear. ... But *what is actually going to happen is not what the world expects!* Today this world is changing – fast! Unprecedented events are shaking the world already. Yet what we have seen is mild compared to the catastrophic happenings that will rock this world ... You’ll have to live into these tremendous times. This is YOUR life! You live here, in this erupting world! It behooves you to know what the Creator-RULER of the Universe now makes known!”

WE REFUSE TO HEAR

An **awesome, overwhelming CRISIS** of the age is about to **STRIKE** in its full fury upon the United States and Britain. The flow of events leading to that very time is NOW upon us, and God expects us to **take heed** to what is coming upon this earth. Of course, God is not going to force us to believe what he says.

Notice **Ezekiel 3:3-4, 7**: “He said to me, ‘Son of man, feed your stomach and fill your body with this scroll which I am giving you.’ Then I ate it, and it was sweet as honey in my mouth. Then He said to me, ‘Son of

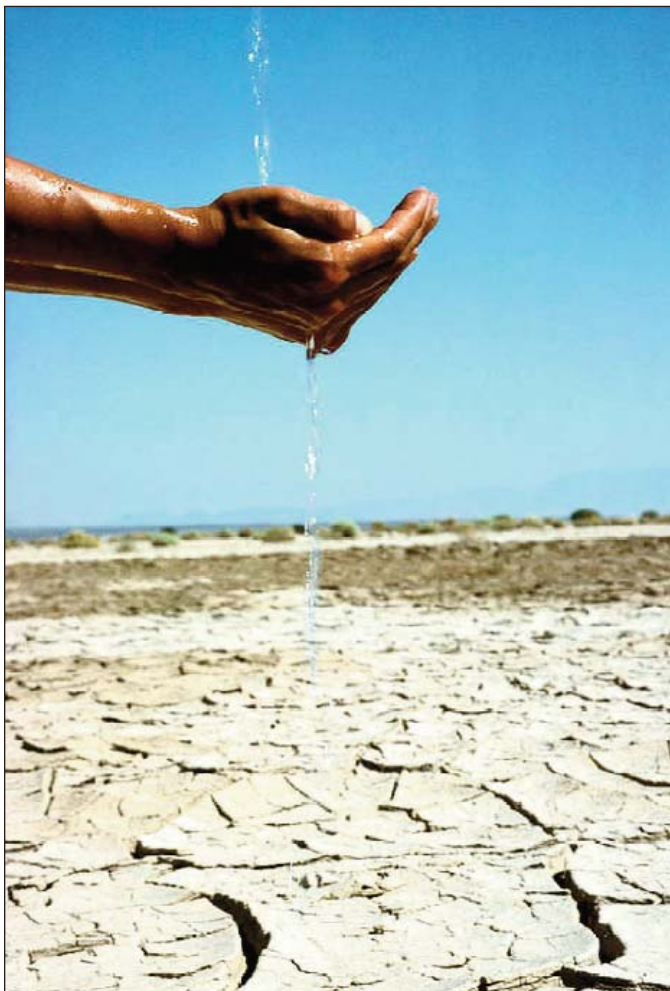
man, go to the House of Israel and speak with My words to them ... yet the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, since they are not willing to listen to Me. Surely the whole house of Israel is stubborn and obstinate. (New American Standard Bible)”

Mr. Herbert Armstrong was the Ezekiel Watchman who took this message to modern day Israel (the United States and Britain). Mr. Armstrong showed that the message of Ezekiel was for our time – and that it had to be delivered by a **modern, 20th century Ezekiel**. Our people refused to **heed** this Ezekiel **warning** message. It seemed they didn’t care to know. God says that our people are “STUBBORN AND OBSTINATE.”

But notice what God said He is going to do: “... for they have refused my judgments and my statutes, they have not walked in them. Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; because ye multiplied more than the nations that are round about you, and have not walked in my statutes, neither have kept my judgments ... Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold I, even I, am against thee, and will execute judgments in the

midst of thee in the sight of the nations” (Ezekiel 5:6-8, King James Version).

God is going to shortly pour out the full flow of his **fury** and **anger** upon our people. This same book of Ezekiel gives a sequence of CATASTROPHIC events that are now soon to come to pass. One of those events has to do with a **famine** of UNPRECEDENTED proportion.



A LACK OF WATER PARCHES GROUND

FAMINE FORETOLD

Notice what God says to our people: “Wherefore, as I live, saith the Lord GOD; surely because thou hast defiled my sanctuary with all thy detestable things, and with all thine abominations, therefore will I also diminish thee; neither shall mine eye spare, neither will I have any pity. A third part of thee shall die with the pestilence, and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee ... (Ezekiel 5:11,12).” In the panorama of **prophesied events** – leading to the **fall of our nation**, God has revealed that we are **first** going to be **struck** and **weakened** by a **DEVASTATING NATIONAL FAMINE** that will claim the lives of one third of our people.

In a work titled *Where Are We Now In Prophecy?*, there is an original text by Mr. Armstrong that carries the heading: “What Lies Ahead Now In Prophecy?” In that text (page 9), Mr. Armstrong writes: “And now, the next prophesied event – to strike in the full fury of its climax before the democratic nations are brought low by the resurrected Roman Empire – is a famine, caused by unprecedented drought and/or floods and affecting Africa first, then other areas of the Third World and finally the United States, Britain ...”

In June 2002, the BBC ran a report that carried the heading: “Millions Face Famine in Africa.” Here is a short excerpt from that report: “The World Food Programme (WFP) has warned that 12.8 million people are on the brink of starvation in Southern Africa and urgently need food aid ... Crops have failed due to drought, floods, and political breakdown.” This report of apocalyptic disaster is very much in tune with what Mr. Armstrong long before said would happen.

Now five years later, Africa remains in the grip of famine. Such areas as Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Ethiopia have been severely affected.

In a report dated May 21, 2002, the BBC also stated that “Aid agency Save the Children is warning that unless decisive action is taken, southern Africa faces a huge famine.” The report goes on to say “that up to 19 million people in six countries – from Malawi in the north of the region to Lesotho in the south – are facing drastic food shortages caused by a combination of er-

atic rainfall and floods followed by drought.” In October 2006, the BBC also reported as many as 40 nations in Africa, Asia and Central America were facing food emergencies “because of poor cereal harvests, and were likely to need help from the international community.”

We, in America, have not been able to **grasp the MAGNITUDE of what famine has done to Africa**, but like an oncoming locomotive, this very same famine is **headed our way**, and our nation will soon experience what Africa has been experiencing. **DON'T KID YOURSELF** in believing that this couldn't happen here in America. As surely as night brings darkness and day brings light, so shall this prophesied famine come upon our people unless they repent of their widespread sins.

CHRIST SAID IT WOULD HAPPEN

Christ prophesied a time of **GREAT TROUBLE** would come that includes widespread famine. Notice Matthew 24:3: “And as He sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?’” The disciples were curious and wanted to know what **sign** would indicate the end of this present civilization. In answer to their question, Christ said: “For many shall come in My name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things



USAID photo

FAMINE IN ETHIOPIA

must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and **there shall be famines**, and pestilences, and earthquakes in divers places (v. 5-7).” Christ made it known there would be ongoing religious deception and world turmoil – accompanied by **FAMINES**, **PESTILENCES** and **EARTHQUAKES**.

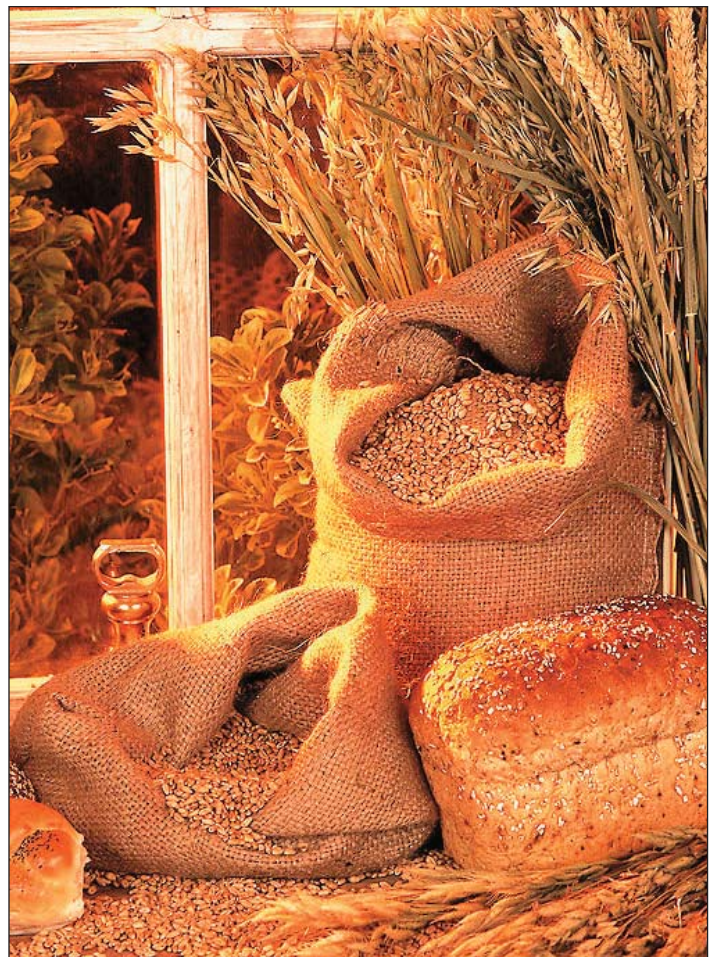
But notice verse 8: “All these are the beginnings of sorrows.” “Sorrows” can be translated “travail” or “pain.” The word conveys a woman in pain – as she struggles to give birth. In this case, “**the beginning of sorrows**” is that period leading into the GREAT TRIBULATION (Matthew 24:21). Notice the very next event that would follow the beginning of sorrows: “Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for My name’s sake” (v. 9). Those of us who are more acquainted with Mr. Armstrong’s teachings know that he taught that this reference to “**you**” can apply spiritually to the Church of God as well as the nations of Israel. This “**beginning of sorrows**” is the time of intensified troubles for the United States and Britain. It is at the height of this prophecy that the unprecedented famine of Ezekiel 5:12 will come to pass.

Quoting again from *1975 In Prophecy* (under the sub-head, “Then, World War III”), Mr. Armstrong writes: “Once we are weakened by starvation, disease, and the resulting calamitous economic depression, the ten-nation European Colossus will suddenly STRIKE with hydrogen bombs that shall DESTROY OUR CITIES and our centers of industrial and military production!”

This time of trouble was long prophesied by Jeremiah. Notice Jeremiah 30:6-7: “Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? Alas! for that day is great, so that **none is like it**: it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble ...” Jacob here refers to the nations of Israel. It is speaking of the modern descendants of Israel – the British and American people.

THE STAGE IS BEING SET

“**And I will INCREASE THE FAMINE upon you, and will break your staff of bread**” (Ezekiel 5:16). Notice God said he would “**break**” the “**staff of**



‘THE STAFF OF BREAD’

bread.” “Staff of bread” is rather interesting. Some Bible translations use the word “supply” for staff. The Hebrew word is “matteh.” It means a rod, scepter or staff. Strong’s Concordance explains that because a staff was used for walking, it symbolizes a life-supporting instrument. If we consider what is being implied here, we can conclude God is making it known He is going to destroy **the very source of our food supply** – or that on which the entire nation depends. This means our farmlands will be less and less productive – until our nation has lost the capacity to feed itself. The Prophet Joel shows a **great drought** will come upon our people. No doubt, this drought is tied to Ezekiel 5:12.

In a September 2006 article titled, “Drought Punishes Crops in South,” *USA Today* reported thousands of farmers in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, parts of Georgia and the Florida Panhandle “have been hampered by the drought that began at the end of last year’s hurricane season. ... It is widespread in the Southeast.”

Brian Fuch, a climatologist, said, “Over the last several weeks, there has been a worsening of drought severity. We’re seeing more of the region being classified as drought conditions, and even a few pockets of extreme drought conditions.” The report continues: “Ranchers in parts of western Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming and central and southern Texas also are experiencing drought conditions ... It was one of the worst years in decades for wheat farmers in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. In August, corn farmers in Iowa, Nebraska, and western Missouri were bedeviled by rain shortages and this week’s drought monitor shows that much of the southern U.S. is in a severe exceptional drought ... northern Minnesota remains parched ... Officials declared 36 counties agricultural disaster areas.”

The article goes on to show that Alabama has lost 90 percent of its corn crop and expects to lose 75 percent of its cotton crop.

‘Report warns water crisis looming in arid Southwest’

The above heading, dated February 22, 2007, also was cited by *USA Today*. Here is an excerpt from that report: “DENVER – The fast-growing states of the arid Southwest must plan for more severe droughts because of a regional warming trend that shows no signs of dissipating, says a new assessment of the Colorado River's water supply. The report released Wednesday by the National Research Council says agriculture, which uses 80 percent of the West's water, is the likeliest target for shifting water supplies to growing urban areas. But the council, an agency of the National Academy of Sciences, cautions that the availability of agricultural water is finite.”

The report continues: “Until now, water needs have been met by selling or leasing water rights from farms to cities. As population growth demands more of a shrinking water supply, battles could erupt over dwindling farmland and rural landscapes drying up. Some farm production might have to shift elsewhere because of urban growth.”

The United Nations Food Agriculture Organization says, “Emergency food aid now accounts for one half



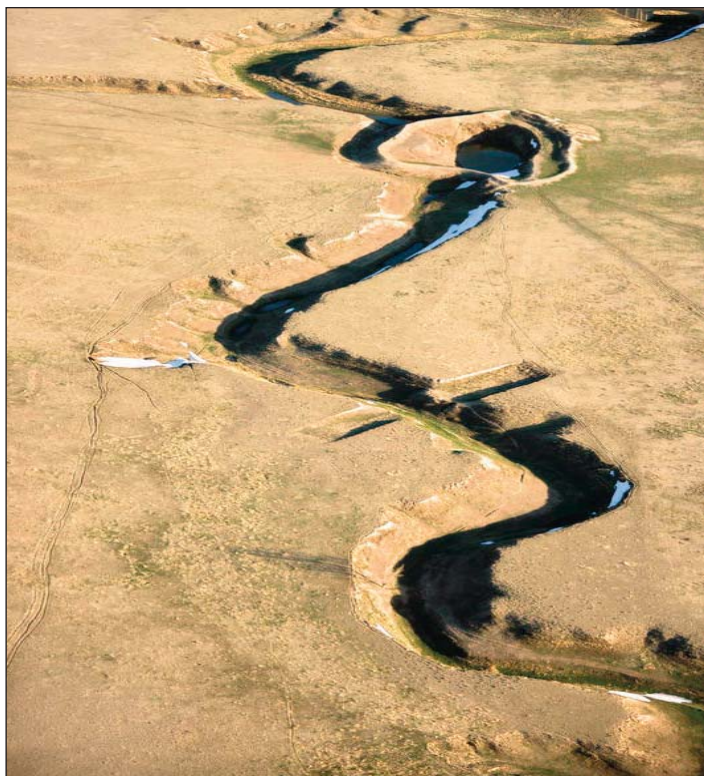
USAID photo

FAMINE IN UGANDA

to two thirds of all food aid, with 39 countries receiving it. Over the past two decades, the number of food emergencies has doubled from 15 to 30 a year, with much of the increase occurring in Africa, where they have **tripled.**” These facts prove that we are headed for disaster and need to **HEED** what God said is going to happen to our people. It won’t be long now before the famine prophesied in the Bible is in the headlines of our newspapers and magazines.



The beginning of sorrows has begun!



A DRY RIVERBED



Health: God's Gift to His People

By Tom Cooper

In Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's booklet titled *The Seven Laws of Success*, we read that one of those very important laws concerns physical health. Viewing the subject of physical health from God's perspective can provide us with knowledge that mankind, as a whole, has been unable to obtain through the years.

Down through the ages, mankind has been subjected to disease and sickness as a normal part of life. The term "childhood disease" immediately brings to mind "common" illnesses such as mumps, measles or chicken pox. Often we think of elderly people suffering from complaints of arthritis, high blood pressure or cholesterol problems. Average life spans in our times have been, for the most part, disappointingly low.

Announcements read each week during Church services concerning prayers for those who are sick among God's people are a constant reminder that God's people are not exempt from the physical illnesses that plague our society. What was and is God's plan for our physical and spiritual health? Are there any guidelines or information to be gleaned from the Bible? Combined with the latest nutritional and spiritual insights available to us in this high tech information age, can we improve our health?

In **Hosea 4:6** we read, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge ..." Though this scripture applies to God's spiritual law, when we combine it with many other places in the book of Proverbs, we can see that knowledge is to be sought and valued highly.

Proverbs 8:10 reads, "Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold." The knowledge God provides within His Word speaks volumes when examined in light of the latest scientific research done in the field of nutrition.

FOOD OF THE PROMISED LAND

God designed Israel to be a showcase nation to display to the world the results of following God's way of life. The physical blessings He showered upon Israel were meant to be visible fruit that overcame any language barrier. When the Israelites left Egypt, they remembered that the land of Goshen where they resided within Egypt was prime agricultural land. **Numbers 11:5** speaks of fish, cucumbers, melons, leeks and garlic – all healthy foods in their own right. They lusted after these after departing from Egypt. Now notice what God's word reveals to us about the "promised land" and blessings if Israel stayed loyal to His way of life:

- "A land of milk and honey." **Exodus 3:8.**
- "And the LORD will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee; but will lay them upon all them that hate thee." **Deuteronomy 7:15.**
- "A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive (trees yielding olive oil) and honey." **Deuteronomy 8:8.**

God could have chosen anywhere on earth with any number of plants or animal life to set up His showcase nation. He chose Palestine, and He chose specific foods for His people. When we study nutritional information about the foods listed for ancient Israel, many

fall among the so-called “super foods” and include omega-3 oils and antioxidants. Consider some of the foods: Almonds, grapes, raisins, wine, fish, figs, wheat, barley, pomegranates, honey, lean grass-fed meat, olive oil, apples, fowl and vegetables. These foods are all found in lists of healthy foods.

In the *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, written by Mr. Armstrong, the blessings promised to Abraham were fulfilled in modern times by God. These nations (descendants of Israel) have been blessed with abundant types and quantities of health-giving foods. Again, a list of what is available is a plethora of God's providence. The rub, of course, comes in **how** this food is merchandised, stored, manipulated chemically and bred or cultured to increase profits.

For example, cattle bred over a hundred years ago were marbled with fat, naturally resulting in tender meat. But now, with mankind arrogantly “trying to improve” upon God’s laws of nature, cattle are put on feedlots to add additional weight for the last few weeks of their lives. As a result, modern people eat more fat (contrary to God's law), and the meat has far less conjugated linoleic acid (CLA), which now is known to be needed by diabetic patients. Range-fed animals contain 10 times the CLA as grain-fed animals (*Beat Diabetes Naturally*, 2006, Michael Murray and Michael Lyon, p.110). So what is God's plan for the future?

Amos 9:13-14 tells us, “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper,



GOOD HEALTH WILL ABOUND IN THE WONDERFUL WORLD TOMORROW!

and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt (flow with it)... and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them.” During the Millennium, there is an interesting promise of long life spans. **Isaiah 65:20, 22** shows just such a setting. The picture God gives of the Millennium is one of peace, prosperity, long life and health.

NATURALLY HEALTHY FOODS

An extremely important lesson we learn from the Bible is that God knows what foods are healthiest. Many modern nutritional studies confirm that those foods listed in the Bible grant us optimum physical health. Some of the most recent understanding from *The Doctor's Book of Food Remedies* (Selene Yeager and the editors of Prevention Health Books) shows the following: Olive oil is the best oil for our hearts and circulatory system (p. 153, 384); wheat provides fiber and minerals when yeast is released in bread making. Fish eaten twice a week or more provides omega-3 fatty acids. Better health and increased life span result

(p. 212). Figs are loaded with potassium and B6, good for heart health (p. 209). Flax seed, ground up so your system can digest it, provides lignans which can literally dissolve cancer cells, and help restore kidney function (p. 221, 222). Nuts, like almonds and walnuts, provide additional omega-3 oils, also making them good for our hearts (p. 370, 371). Barley, very high in antioxidants and excellent at lowering cholesterol, also has selenium, vitamin E and lignans, making it an anti-cancer grain (p. 59). Potassium-rich celery has an ability (when eaten regularly) to lower blood pressure (p. 129).

Radio broadcaster Paul Harvey has reported that spinach has been found to help with short-term memory, and pomegranates are now considered the new antioxidant king, even better than blueberries. However, none of this knowledge does any good if it isn't taken to heart. Notice that all of these naturally healthy foods come from our Creator!



Vitamins and minerals play a key role in maintaining good health. Zinc, for example, is an extremely important element that man must have in his diet! A lack of zinc is associated with poor immune systems (like cancer patients have), body odor and prostate problems. Zinc is found in meat, fish, nuts and the germ of grains, primarily wheat (*Understanding Vitamins and Minerals*, 1984, Rodale Press, p. 119-121).

Vitamin B2 (riboflavin) is essential to good health. A lack of vitamin B2 is linked to light sensitivity as in migraine headaches and cataracts. Vitamin B2 prima-

rily is found in dairy products like cheese, milk and yogurt (p.157, 43). Vitamin D, another key vitamin, also is deficient in many diets. A lack of vitamin D now is associated with many types of cancer and osteoporosis, according to Paul Harvey News.

Living and working in buildings and commuting inside automobiles has caused a shortage of vitamin D by depriving many of us from the major supplier of this vitamin – sunshine. While we have many major sources of information on proper nutrition and health,

we must remember that all the knowledge in the world is useless unless it is acted upon. What we choose to eat or not determines our personal health.

GOD DESIRES GOOD HEALTH

God desires us to be in good health (*III John 2*). He wants us as His sons and daughters to enjoy all of His free gifts. Consider the spiritually nutritious articles, booklets, sermonettes and sermons provided by God over the decades via the Philadelphia era of

His Church! God's Word presents a picture of so many good things intended for all of mankind. Good health is one of them, but we must choose to change when we see what God desires.

God, through His Church, has taught about good health since the 1930s. **What would you give to live through the end-time events fit as a fiddle?** Health is a choice, and it is about change. It is about accepting the knowledge God has offered you as a loving gift. We can't afford to pass up the great food God actually intends for us to enjoy on this voyage through life.



The Family: God's Master Plan for Mankind

By Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong
Plain Truth February/March 1985

SOMETHING caused the Creator God to decide to create man on this planet. Few indeed know what it was and what the PURPOSE for humanity's presence really is. WHERE are we going, and what is the way? These are the most vital questions. Yet, I repeat still again, science cannot give the answers. No religion has the explanation. No university teaches this most important of all knowledge.

GOD IS RULER AND EDUCATOR

Most people know almost nothing about God. To understand ourselves, WHY we are, where we are going and how, we need to know more about our Creator. Our present life is like going on a journey. Suppose you had just won a prize – an all-expense-paid trip to some other country. Wouldn't you want to know where you are going, how to get there and as many things as possible about this trip? Should we not, then, be even more filled with eager anticipation to know as much as possible about this one great trip of life? And to know that, you need to know some things about the God who is sending you and providing the way.

It is vital at this point, then, to know this, as revealed in the Bible: The Eternal God not only is Creator of all that is, but is the RULER over all He creates and also the EDUCATOR, the revealer of basic knowledge. He reveals through the Bible vital knowledge otherwise inaccessible to man. Yet mankind – generally – has rejected this revelation as a source of basic knowledge. The Bible is far, far from the sum total of knowledge.

It is the BASIS, the FOUNDATION, the starting point

and the foundational approach to the acquisition of discoverable knowledge! God, through His instruction book, reveals what man cannot otherwise learn! FULL TRUTH comes from the biblical revelation, PLUS acquired and discoverable knowledge approached through the CONCEPT revealed in the Bible.

Today educators, scientists, psychologists, doctors and those who set the moral standards, rely on the evolutionary concept as their assumed and erroneous basic premise and approach to knowledge. They do not know, for example, how, why or when the family originated.

But the Bible reveals this knowledge otherwise unacquirable! So once again, let us go to that SOURCE of knowledge!

GOD ORDAINED MARRIAGE

Jesus Christ said: "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife ...'? ... Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate" (Matthew 19:4-6, Revised Authorized Version throughout).

Marriage is a physical union but a divine institution. Almighty God ordained it! It did not evolve! It is not of MAN'S devising. Notice, in the Scripture quoted above, Jesus said to the Pharisees, "Have you not read ...?" He quoted an already written passage of Scripture. He said the Pharisees should have read it! Where is that scripture found? It is found in the second chapter of Genesis. It is part of the brief SUMMARY record of the ETERNAL'S original instruction to the newly created Adam and Eve. The creation of Eve had just been described, and God then said: "Therefore a



man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife ... " (Gen. 2:24). So the Almighty revealed the sacred MARRIAGE institution to the first man and woman.

WHY MARRIAGE?

Now stop and think for a moment. Why did God ordain the human relationship of MARRIAGE? Animals reproduce. But animals do not marry! Animals are born with instinct. They need little or no teaching. As soon as a calf is born, it will begin to stagger to its feet, while the cow just stands waiting. She does not need to teach her calf how to walk, how to take its food, how to do anything. A little wobbly and unsteady the first minutes, the calf is soon up and walking.

But with humans all this is different. The newborn human does not get up and walk immediately to its food. The tiny baby is helpless. It has mind – but at birth there is NO KNOWLEDGE as yet in its mind. It must be taught! It needs parents to teach it! It matures so very much more slowly than other creatures! Yet its potentiality is infinitely higher! And for this higher purpose, parental guidance and FAMILY LIFE are NECESSARY! God made cattle "according to its kind." He made "every winged bird according to its kind." But he made MAN after the God kind!

MAN'S DESTINY

Now, incredible as it may sound to those who do not UNDERSTAND the revelation of God's TRUTH – and only an infinitesimal minority do – GOD is a FAMILY! Let me make this most wonderful

truth of all time PLAIN! First, go back once again to the very first words in God's revelation of knowledge to us: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

God inspired Moses to write those words in Hebrew, not in the English words above. The Hebrew name here translated "God" is Elohim. It is a plural form used with a singular meaning like the words family, group, team. One family, but composed of more than one person. One group, but unless composed of more than one person, it would not be a group. One athletic team, composed of two or more players besides a number of substitutes.

Almost no one today knows that God is, actually, a divine FAMILY. One family. That family is ONE GOD. A clever Satan has deceived people into almost every other belief about God. Most have been deceived into believing God is only THREE persons – LIMITING God to three persons and misrepresenting the HOLY SPIRIT, which flows from God and from Christ,

to be a single person. Others think of God as ONE PERSON ONLY. But notice, again, in the New Testament, John 1:1-5, 14: "In the beginning was the Word." Sounds similar to Genesis 1:1, doesn't it? In Genesis 1:1, it is "In the beginning GOD ...," meaning more than one person forming ONE God. In John 1, the English word Word is translated from the original Greek word logos, which means "word,"

"spokesman," "revelatory thought," as a being or person. The next words in John 1 are "... and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with



USDA photo of cow and calf

God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made" (verses 1-3). This "Logos" was a separate personage. He existed "from the beginning" the same as God. He ALWAYS self-existed. He existed with God. And He, also, was God. They both co-existed forever. "All things" (words elsewhere translated "the universe") were made by him – the Word – the divine Spokesman.



PARENTS SHOULD INSTRUCT THEIR CHILDREN ABOUT THE MEANING OF LIFE

But now notice verse 14: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." This, of course, is speaking of Jesus Christ. In the human flesh, He was begotten of God the Father, the only one ever so begotten before human birth.

At the time of this begetting and human birth, "the Word" became the Son of God. The Father, from heaven, said of Jesus, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 17:5). Jesus, praying, called God "Father" – Father and Son, a FAMILY relationship. The Church, at the resurrection to immortal SPIRIT life, is to MARRY the resurrected and glorified Christ (Ephesians 5:25-28). So we have here a FAMILY relationship – father, son, husband and wife. And the wife is to be composed of born children of God.

In MAN, God is reproducing Himself. Man has the supreme potentiality of being actually born into the divine God family! Do you realize what that means? Of course, God is composed of immortal SPIRIT. Man, like animals, is composed in this life of material FLESH – matter! But the transcendent essential factor

is that God IS PERFECT SPIRITUAL CHARACTER! It is the supreme intelligence, combined with holy and righteous CHARACTER OF MIND, that most importantly distinguishes God from every other living creature. No animal has this potential, but it is the true destiny of MAN. Of course, God, too, possesses supreme, ALL-MIGHTY POWER. But without right CHARACTER, this power would be destructive and dangerous!

What is this righteous spiritual character? It is that controlled ability, in a separate independent entity, to come to a knowledge of the true and right from the false and, further, to use the self-discipline to will and to actually DO the right. And how define right? By the spiritual law of God! This necessitates that each individual human be an independent entity, with a mind of his or her own – with freedom of choice (free moral agency). It requires MIND to absorb KNOWLEDGE, to reason, to think, to plan, devise, to draw conclusions, to will and to act.

Inanimate objects have no mind, make no decisions, have no character. Animals have instinct, but they do not possess human-level consciousness of self, do not absorb knowledge from which to reason abstractly. Animals do not create, question or decide whether to obey moral codes. Humans are born with MINDS. Hu-



A NEWBORN BABY

mans must be taught and learn. The human mind can absorb knowledge and reason from it – think creatively, formulate plans, make decisions, render judgments and exercise self-discipline.

Man has the capacity to develop righteous CHARACTER. This character is not created instantaneously. It develops through experience, and experience requires TIME. A human baby is born without knowledge, but with capacity for acquiring it and of developing righteous CHARACTER. The human has the supreme potential of receiving God's own HOLY SPIRIT that imparts the divine nature, to equip the MIND to comprehend revealed spiritual knowledge!

Human babies – born helpless – need the tender care, the loving instruction, the patient training and discipline and the warm affection and love of a mother and father. They need the warmth and protection and security of family and of home life. And they are of supreme importance – for they are the potential HEIRS of God!

Animals have never been given FAMILY relationship as humans experience it. Angels have never enjoyed FAMILY status. The family relationship is a God-PLANE relationship – not an angel-plane relationship.

And God bestowed it on MAN! Because MAN is to be born INTO THE GOD FAMILY. Of all life forms – whether plant, animal or angel – in all God's creation, MAN ALONE was created for MARRIAGE – for HOME and FAMILY LIFE! Man is, now, composed of matter. Yet in man, and in MAN ONLY, is God's CRE-

ATION still going on! Humans, by repentance, surrender to God and acceptance of Christ, may be in mind and attitude converted – may receive God's Holy Spirit. Thus, they are actually begotten as God's children. They may have direct contact with God and call Him FATHER! They are brought into a FATHER-AND-SON relationship with God!

This is possible for no other creature – not even angels! Angels were not, never can be, begotten and BORN of God! Each angel is a separate creation. No angel can ever become a part of the DIVINE FAMILY OR KINGDOM OF GOD! Notice! God says: "For to which of the angels did He ever say: 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You'? And again: 'I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son'?" (Hebrews 1:5).

Neither animal, nor angel, nor any other being, except MAN, can be literally begotten by spiritual reproductive process, and then actually BORN into the divine GOD FAMILY! Humans are, if converted through Jesus Christ, the heirs of the GOD FAMILY. They are to enter the divine FAMILY. They are, even now, the begotten children of God. Therefore God ordained the family relationship for human beings.

Family relationships demand MARRIAGES! The FAMILY relationship demands the HUSBAND-AND-WIFE relationship! And that demands MARRIAGE and faithfulness to that matrimonial bond! The CHURCH of God is merely that BODY composed of the begotten children of God. And the Church, as a BODY, is the affianced BRIDE OF CHRIST, to





MARRY Christ at the time of the resurrection and His Second Coming! Now UNDERSTAND! The husband-and-wife relationship, and the family relationship, are God-plane relationships! Since humans were put on earth for the very PURPOSE of being begotten, and then BORN into the God FAMILY – which is the KINGDOM OF GOD – the ETERNAL has endowed this GOD-PLANE relationship for HUMANS and for humans only! What a wonderful privilege to be humans – to be given the marriage relationship now, to marry Christ and become part of the God family!

THE AFFIANCED BRIDE

Here is another reason for the institution of marriage in the human family. It is to teach us – to constantly remind us – of our sacred relationship to Jesus Christ! Here is the vital teaching: "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word [the Word, if obeyed, washes away error], that He might present it to Himself a glorious church [glorified—deified], not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love

their own wives as their own bodies. ... For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church" (Ephesians 5:22-28, 30-32).

Notice! For this reason – because of the coming marriage (spiritually) between Christ and the church – because the church is, now, the affianced bride, engaged to marry Christ – FOR THIS REASON, God ordained the MARRIAGE institu-

tion for humans! But not for animals! Not for angels! Notice Revelation 19:7, speaking of the Second Coming of Christ in glory: "... the marriage of the Lamb [Christ] has come, and His wife has made herself ready." Only those made ready in righteous character will be presented to him then!

WHY HOME AND FAMILY

So, in addition to the family relationship, there is also the divine marriage relationship. So understand! The husband-and-wife relationship and the family relationship are God-plane relationships!

Humans are free moral agents. God never forces one to be truly converted – to become his very begotten son. Yet the purpose God is working out here below is to reproduce Himself — to bring, through Christ, "many sons to glory" (Hebrews 2:10) in the divine KINGDOM OF GOD! Since humans were put on earth for the very purpose of being begotten, and then born into the God family, the Eternal has endowed this God-plane family status for humans, now – and for humans only!

What a wonderful privilege to be given the MARRIAGE and FAMILY relationships that we may be prepared for the spiritual marriage to CHRIST and the divine family status, for eternity, in THE KINGDOM OF GOD!



A Warning to the Church of God

Continued from Page 4

probably offend a lot of you. I'm doing this *in love* in the only way that I know to *wake you up*. If I come and say nice things and everything like that, I'm not going to wake anybody up. So, I'm not going to pull my punches.

Revelation 12:12: Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having GREAT WRATH

[It is the wrath of Satan. **The Great Tribulation**, almost upon us now, is not the wrath of God but the wrath of Satan], because he [Satan] knows he has but a short time.

How does he know? Because in **Matthew 24:14** it says, **Jesus said, when you see this gospel of the Kingdom being preached around the world, then you know that the Kingdom of God is near at hand and that the time is here.** Satan knows that, but a lot of you don't believe it. Satan knows this Bible better than you do, and he knows he has but a short time. But some of us don't know what a short time he has, do we? I say, "**Wake up, brethren.**" We've been asleep. This church has been drifting off into some kind of a spiritual dreamland.

PETRA?

Revelation 12:13-14: And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. [That is this Church.] (14) **And to the woman** [Now we are coming down just before this **Great Tribulation**. "**And to the woman ...**"] **were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly ...** Now before this (back here in the sixth verse), beginning in 554 and even before that, for 1260 years the woman fled afoot. This time she is to fly. The woman is the Church. In other words, the Church ... **Revelation 12:14 ... were**



ON THE WINGS OF A GREAT EAGLE

given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place.

Now the place, where is it? There's been great contention. I used to preach of the possibility it would be at Petra. Well, I don't know it will be at Petra, and I never said that I knew it would be. But others say, "Well, that's something we can get back at Herbert Armstrong. Let's just say he was wrong about that." And some very high in the Church were saying that's a lot of rubbish and hogwash. I say to you now, I don't know whether it is Petra. I don't know where it is, or where it'll be. I know God knows. But I know this: There are many indications that it is Petra. And if it isn't Petra, then the Bible gives us absolutely no indication of where it will be. Now that much I know, and I'll stand my ground on any of you who want to come and face me with it. I have been to Petra, and it is not a very pleasant place to be. Well, anyway, we're to be taken where we will be ... **Revelation 12:14: ... nourished for a time, and times, and half a time** [That's 3½ years], **from the face of the serpent.** We will be protected from the devil, but then now notice what the serpent does. Here comes the Laodicean Church that follows us. **Revelation 12:15: And the serpent cast out ...**

We are getting into the Laodicean condition, *but* we are not the Laodicean Church, and this shows it – be-

cause the Church of Philadelphia is to be taken into this place, and we have not been taken (nor any other church, as yet).

But after that: **Revelation 12:15-17: The serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. (16) And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened up her mouth, and swallowed up the flood, which the dragon cast out of his mouth. (17) And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed.**

The remnant is the last one, or the Laodicean Era. But a lot of ministers now come out with some of the younger ministers and say, "Oh, that's all hodgepodge and all. Mr. Armstrong is wrong." We had here a doctrinal committee of intellectuals, and the whole idea was "Let's try and study intellectually to find out how wrong Mr. Armstrong is, and where he's misled us." That was THE REAL OBJECT. Well, there isn't any such committee any longer, and there isn't going to be. God doesn't reveal His will to intellectual scholars, on the intellectual basis, that go into it in little tiny ways. (Oh well, I don't know. I get disgusted with some of that.) Anyway, [Satan, the dragon] **he ... (Revelation 12:17) ... went to make war with the remnant ... that keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

Now the Laodicean Church will be keeping the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus, or they wouldn't be the Church of God. But they are lukewarm, and they are asleep, and we're not Laodicea yet.

THE CHURCH'S DOMINANT CONDITION

Now then, I want you to turn back to the third chapter of Revelation, and notice something about this



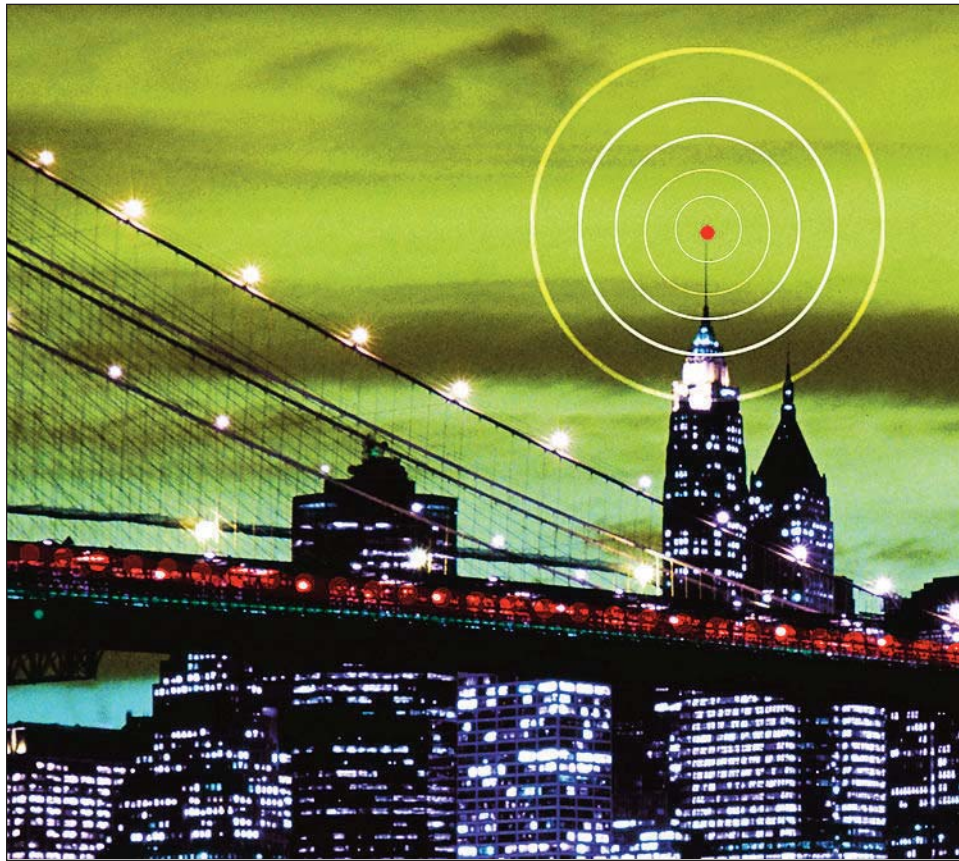
SATAN APPEARED AS A SERPENT

Church; and we begin here with the seventh verse. **Revelation 3:7: And unto the angel of the church in Philadelphia ...**

Oh, let me tell you what I have always said for 50 years. Fifty years ago I was writing this. The message to the seven angels of the seven Churches in the second and third chapter of Revelation has a *dual interpretation and meaning*. Number one: It is telling of the seven successive eras, or stages of time in 1900 to 2000 years, of the Church. But number two: It was telling of the condition in the Church at all times. But it starts out with the Church at Ephesus, and that was the situation that was the dominant situation in the first and second century, and so on – back at the beginning, in the days (and right after the days) of the original apostles.

Laodicea is the *DOMINANT* condition in the FINAL Church – *drowsy, and asleep, and lukewarm*. And Christ is going to spew them (most of them) out of His mouth (or at least half of them). Matthew 25 would indicate half of them, and I sometimes wonder if there are half of us that ... We're just not very much *on fire* for God, brethren. *I say that to your shame*, every one of you. I say *wake up!* I'm not going to say, "You're right, and everything is so wonderful, and everything is going fine," and flatter you. I'm going to tell you

the truth, and sometimes the truth hurts. And I hope it hurts. I hope it hurts enough that you wake up, and realize, and do something about it. *And I hope that you go home from this service, and get down on your knees, and ask for the mercy and the forgiveness of God, and ask Him to come back into your life – because that's what you need to do. And your eternity may depend on it!*



GOD OPENS DOORS FOR HIS GOSPEL MESSAGE TO REACH THE WORLD

Well, now then, I have said that the Laodicean condition will *dominate* at the tail end. But I have said that all of those conditions – all the way from Ephesus up to Laodicea, all seven – are present at all the time in the Church, but that now, in the Philadelphian Era, we have the Laodicean condition. That's what I am talking about today. *It's here.* But we are not Laodicea. We also have the condition of Ephesus. We have *lost* our first love, and it is time to get back to it. Every one of those conditions is in this Church, but the dominant one is what I want to read you now.

AN OPEN DOOR

Revelation 3:7-8: To the church [of] Philadelphia [write], these things saith He that is holy, He that is true, He that hath the key of David, He that opens, and no man shuts; and shuts, and no man opens. (8) I know your works: Behold, I have set before you an open door.

Now, if you trace that open door, in Paul's writings God set an open door before him. And you'll see there that an open door merely means, and it's a figure of speech that means, that God opens the way to get the message – and that's to get the gospel message – out.

And He's opened a door (to go to the Gentiles and the

nations of the earth, and to the kings of those nations) to us.

Revelation 3:8: Behold, I have set before thee an open door. That is,

an open door to get the Gospel out. And the other Churches, before us, did not. The Gospel did not go to the world *until* this Church came to start taking it to the world. It absolutely was NOT preached at all.

The Gospel is not just a man's message about Jesus Christ. It is Christ's message, which is the good news of the Kingdom of God; and that message has not been preached for 18½ centuries. Now then, for half a century it has been going out – through this Church, and through me. And, as they say today, you'd better believe it!



A LITTLE STRENGTH

Revelation 3:8: I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it. [They've certainly tried to shut it, but no one has been able to] For thou hast a little strength ...

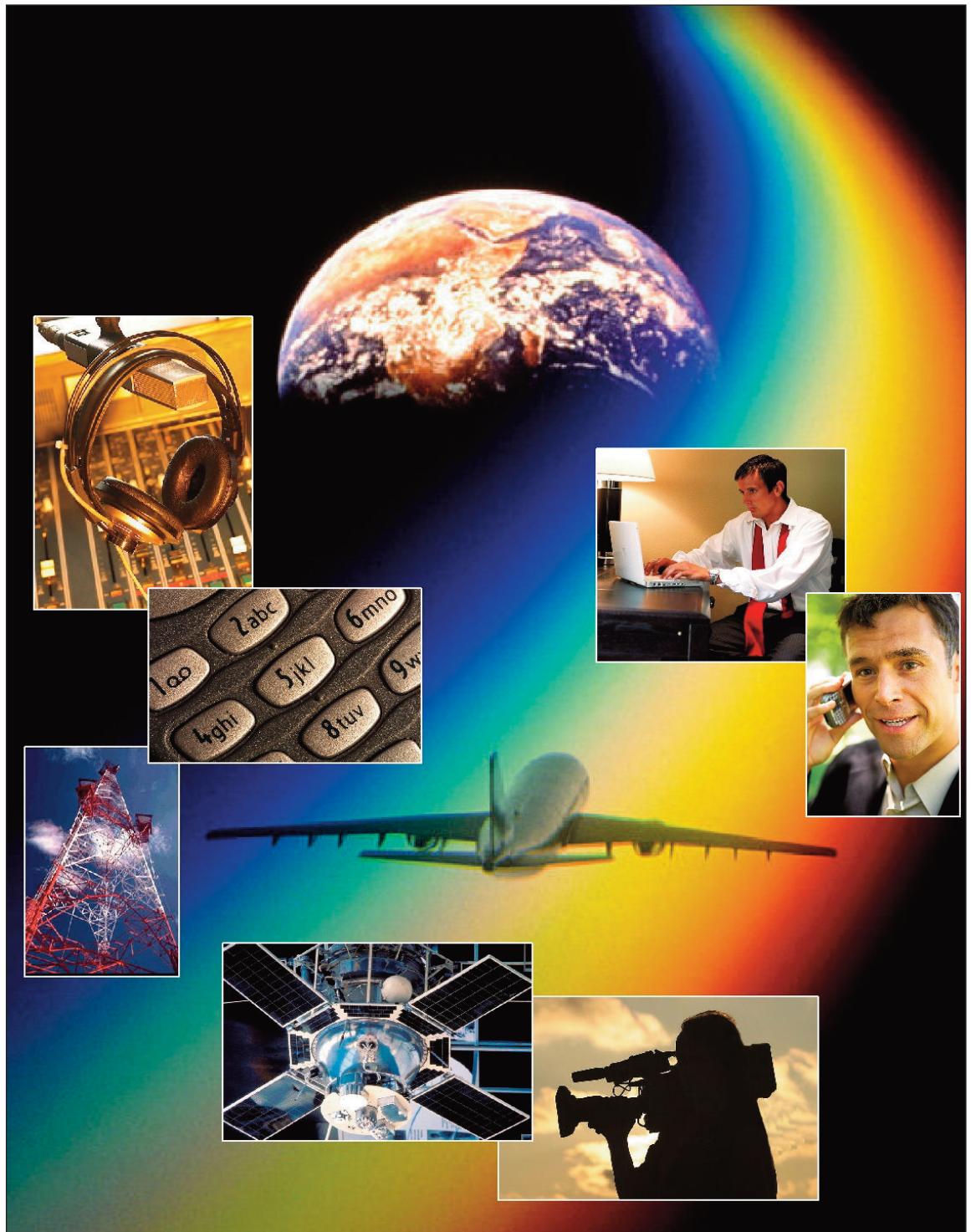
Another translation is "**you have only a little strength,**" but a little strength. They don't have much strength. And I've had very little, and you've had very little. But God has given us tremendous power to reach the world, and facilities that magnify that power – like radio, and television, and the printing press, and airplanes to fly us to all parts of the world, and telephones with instant communication to any and every part of the world. They didn't have that back in the first apostles' day.

Revelation 3:8: Thou hast but a little strength

[here], and hast kept my word. Brethren, often I have said this: That I have known scores of men with better minds than I have – not only more scholarly (because they have gone on with that), but more aptitude to be scholarly, with better personality, with more

of everything that could be used. And God did not call a one of them.

Now why did He call me? Well, I go right back to this. And, you know, some of them say that this "**message to the angel of the Church**" might mean to the one God placed as a leader, the human leader in the Church. And I would say that this *does apply* to me



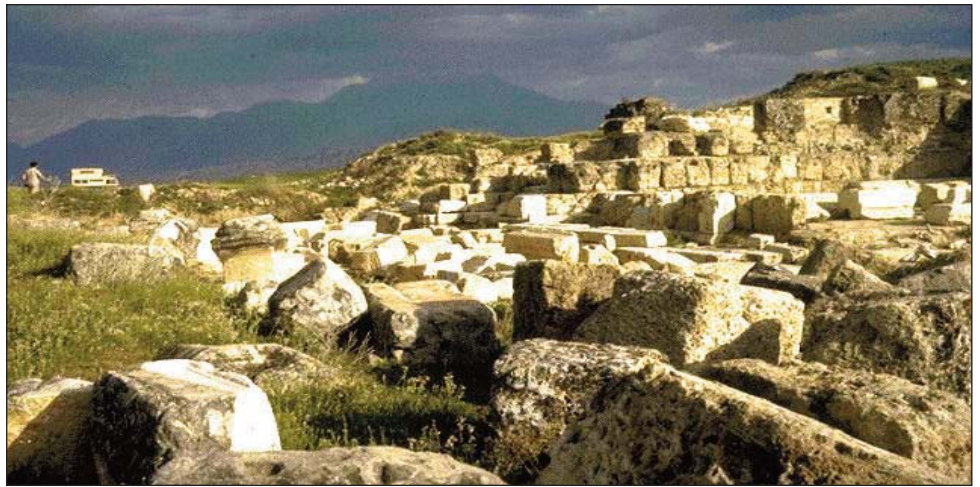
personally, and it *should apply* to the whole Church.

But there has been an effort to water down the truth. That's another thing that has happened in the last nine years. We're trying to water down the truth of God with false doctrines that have been creeping in, and ministers are teaching them, around the world even. Ministers of this Church! Now, believe you me, I AM GOING TO GET AFTER THOSE THINGS, AND FAST! JESUS CHRIST IS IN POWER. Jesus Christ is THE POWER back of it, and He is going to set these things in order. And, if any of you want to fight Christ, you start fighting Him, and see where you get off. Or if you want to go with the devil, maybe you'll suffer the devil's fate. I am speaking very plainly today. I'm a little wrought up about it.

Revelation 3:8: I know ... [He knows our works. So there are works; and they're good works, and not rituals] **Behold,** [He set this open door.] **you have but a little strength, and hast kept my word.** I was going to say, if there is any one reason why God called me, it is because I was willing to believe what He said, and because I had kept His Word, and I have not compromised.

Now there has been an effort on the part of some of our *younger ministers* to compromise in this last nine years. They want to water down. They want to do away with tithing. Some of them wanted to do away with keeping the annual holy days and the annual festivals of God.

They want to do away with God's truth in every way they can. Let me tell you, *IF YOU DON'T TITHE (and some of you don't), YOU ARE STEALING. YOU ARE A THIEF, AND YOU ARE STEALING FROM GOD. I SAY THAT ON THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS CHRIST.* Now, if you think I've insulted you, get up and walk out. I won't care a bit.



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THE RUINS OF LAODICEA

Revelation 3:9: ... which say they are Jews [You see, in the New Testament, he is a Jew who is one spiritually and not by birth. In other words, the Church, and they're not of the true Church.], **and are not, but do lie: Behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet** [Not to worship us, but worship before our feet, worshiping God], **and to know that I have loved thee.**

You know that this Church is the only one of the seven that God doesn't find some fault with. He doesn't mention any fault, and yet we're full of faults. But God has told us this is one thing here – that He has used us to get this message around the world. ... God has called me back for two reasons: One is to try to set this Church back in order, and to wake you people up. That's why I am here. Now, I feel like the apostle Paul. He said that he would rather go, depart and be with Christ. In other words, go to the sleep of death and wake up in the resurrection and be in the Kingdom of God. But he said, "**It is more necessary for you that I shall stay on.**" And that's why I am here, brethren.

My job is hard. It's not easy. And I have to push myself. To do things now, I have to push myself about 10 times harder than I did 20 years ago. And still I am no older in mind and in power than I was 20 years ago. The rumors are going around that I am senile, that I don't know what's going on, my head is in a cloud. Do I sound like it? Did some other minister tell me to say these things that I'm saying? There are ministers sit-



CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE

GOD CAN HOLD SOMETHING UP

I want to tell you, brethren, while I think of it: There was a picture that I happened to see on television in this past week, called "The Earthquake." Anyhow, here all of a sudden, this earthquake hit people just like that (when they least expected it, and all of a sudden), and it was *a frightful picture*. It showed the havoc. It showed big buildings just crashing and coming down, the epicenter of the earthquake right under, and I think it was supposed to be Los Angeles. Of course, they didn't say just what city and so on. It was showing what an earthquake can be like, and it was showing what might happen, and it could happen right here.

ting before me today that are going to disagree with what I have said. And no man gave me this, but Jesus Christ did. You better realize where it came from.

Revelation 3:10-11: Because thou hast kept the word of my patience [been faithful to the Word of God], I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. [In other words, *the Great Tribulation*.] (11) Behold ... Now other translations say: "**I will keep thee from *the Great Tribulation*.**"

Other translations have it that way, that we are not to have to go through *the Great Tribulation*, and that's what I showed you in Revelation 12. We are to have the two wings of a great eagle to fly. Now, of course, that is symbolic language, and I don't know whether that means literal airplanes or what.

I will tell you one thing: Satan gets some ministers, even, to try to criticize the fact that God has opened doors for me before kings, and presidents, and prime ministers, and emperors, and they try to say that's all wrong. Let's quit this slander. Let's quit this defamation of character. It's been going on. I'm of this, that and the other leader. Let's get back of Christ. I say, "**Follow me** (as you heard in the sermonette) **as I follow Christ.**" I'd never ask you to follow me any other way. Well, anyway, we are to be protected. I wanted to read that, part of that to you.

Here is the thing, brethren, that you don't know: We go along day-to-day careless, each doing his own thing. And we don't realize, in the meantime, Satan is very busy, and Christ is also on the job. And suddenly, *like a mouse getting caught in a trap* ... He doesn't know it. He doesn't see it. The first thing he knows, he's caught and can't get out.



RAT TRAP

I used to catch a lot of rats in a trap when I was 8 years old, and 9 years old. I remember I had had my ninth birthday. I was in Union, Iowa. We had moved up there for a little time. I tell you, those rats would get in that trap. They didn't know until they were in it, and it would *snap shut* on them, and they couldn't get out. That is going to happen to many of you! ***I am warning you now!*** Some of you – matter of fact, maybe most of you – will *ignore* it, and you will just go on taking it easy. All of a sudden, ***it is going to***

strike, and Christ **warned** us that, "**in such an hour as you think not**," it is going to happen. We are very close to the end time.

I was asked by a minister just the other day: Did I think that our Work would come to an end and be finished within a year? No, frankly, I don't, but I don't know. I do know this. I know that apparently God has been holding off things, and delaying our coming to the end, for at least six, eight, years now, or more. Maybe it is because this Church was getting *drowsy*, and He wanted time for me to come to realize it, and maybe for you to realize it and *wake up*.

You find, in the seventh chapter of Revelation, how God sent an angel to say, "**Wait, hold up** (what was going to happen, the plagues that were coming) **until I have done something that I want done**." That was the sealing in their forehead of the 144,000 and another innumerable multitude of all nations. Now, God can hold something up, and there's an example of where He did. On the other hand, Jesus said that, **when the time comes, He would cut everything short; and make a speedy, quick work of it.**

These things can happen so quick you wouldn't know it. So you can't *afford* to take chances. All I can do is **warn** you. *You can sit there, and ignore it, and be caught like a rat in a trap.* That's up to you.

ACKNOWLEDGE SIN AND REPENT

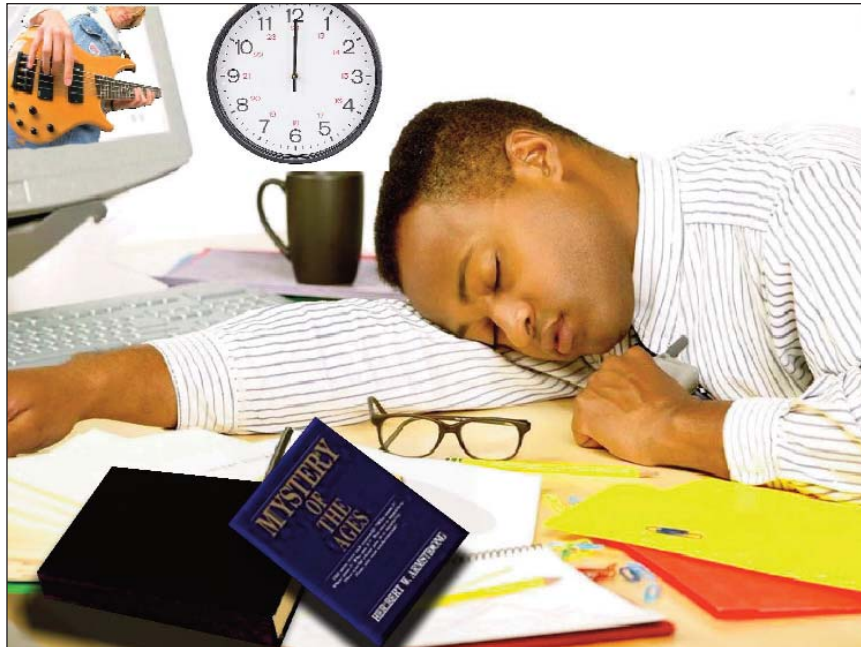
What about some of you, brethren? Do you refuse to be ashamed? Do you refuse to acknowledge that we've

been lackadaisical – in going along and taking it easy, and beginning to forget God? Will you acknowledge that you have been lax in your prayer life, and in the study of the Bible.

Jeremiah 3:12-13: Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, RETURN, thou backsliding Israel, saith the [Eternal]; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you. [That is what He is saying to us now. Now, that Church is a type of us. And the things written about them were written for our

learning and admonition, on whom the ends of the world are coming, in the New Testament.

"And I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you."] **For I am merciful, saith the [Eternal], and I will not keep anger forever. (13) Only acknowledge thine iniquity** [And I say to you – and I am speaking by the authority of Jesus Christ, and Jesus



WE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE OUR LETHARGY!

Christ says to you through me now – *only acknowledge your lethargy, only acknowledge you're sleeping, and drowsiness, and that you have been getting away from God*], **that thou hast transgressed against the [Eternal] thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the [Eternal].**

Notice that Israel, how they went until finally they were driven out into slavery. The first Church *lost* its first love. Solomon started out like a whirlwind, and he just wanted wisdom so he could rule the people better, to serve God. But he ended up with a thousand women and serving their gods. Many of the kings of ancient Judah were like that. They started out all right, but they wound up wrong at the end.

I have seen that. And now, as I am, well, like Moses was in older years, that God is using me. That does not mean that I am going to die tomorrow or next week. I think God is going to keep me here until this Work is finished. I said that I had been brought back to try to wake you up. But there is another reason. That is to finish the Work around the world. God is going to give me the strength to do it. He says:

Jeremiah 3:14: Turn O backsliding children, saith the [Eternal] [And He says the same thing to you today.]; **for I am married unto you.** [Now, for us today, He is not married to us, but He is engaged to us. But it is virtually the same thing, where the marriage won't take place until we are made immortal.] **And I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion.** Now, that was what He said to ancient Israel; but that is *a warning* of what He is saying to us today.

DEPARTING FROM THE LIVING GOD

Now then, I want you to go a little further. Notice in Hebrews, in the New Testament now if you will, the third chapter. The third chapter of Hebrews, beginning with verse seven. **Hebrews 3:7-9, 12: Wherefore as the Holy Spirit saith, Today if ye will hear his voice, (8) Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation** [In other words, like those Israelites did that I just read to you about. Now He says ... This is New Testament. This is to us, brethren. And some of us have let our hearts get a little bit hardened], **in the day of temptation in the wilderness: (9) When your fathers tempted me [provoked Me] ... (12) Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.**

If ever this Church needed that, it's right now today. Now God just says to take heed, and I am telling you. **AND GOD IS USING MY VOICE TO DO IT! AND YOU BETTER LISTEN, BECAUSE IT COMES FROM THE CREATOR GOD. Do you TREMBLE BEFORE THE WORD OF GOD? I'M GIVING IT TO YOU. YOU BETTER TREMBLE BEFORE THESE THINGS. I AM FRIGHTENED,**

BRETHREN. THIS CHURCH IS IN MORTAL DANGER!

Hebrews 3:12: Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. That's exactly what we've been doing! And, always, it seemed that people started all right, and then they want to ease off, as time goes on.

Hebrews 3:14: For we are made partakers of Christ [Have you forgotten that, brethren? We are made partakers of Christ.], **IF we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end.**

But we are not holding it steadfast to the end. We are slipping, and we're getting on very dangerous ground; and *Satan is winning that battle*. But Christ is on the Father's throne! And if we are willing, He will restore everything to this Church; and that is the good news. Jesus Christ has shown me, and He has awakened me to the condition of things. Now maybe I was slumbering a little bit. All right. I've repented, if I did. So, I'm awake. And I'm going to have guts (if that's what it takes) and the courage TO TELL YOU WHAT NEEDS TO BE SAID. If you agree, you will save your own eternity. And if not, it will be a witness against you.

A BETTER COVENANT

Now the eighth chapter of Hebrews, verse one. **Hebrews 8:1, 6: Now of the things which we have spoken, this is the sum: We have such a high priest** [They only had Moses back there. But we today have such an high priest, Christ ...], **who is set on the right hand of the throne [of God] of the Majesty in the heavens ... (6) But now hath He [Christ] obtained a more excellent ministry [That is, more excellent than Moses had.], by how much also He is the mediator of a better covenant.**

That covenant made them a nation, but with no spiritual promises – no salvation or eternal life. We have the promise of eternal life. We have the promise of going throughout all of the universe and finishing (like

you finish unfinished furniture) ... and finishing God's creation. But now it is in a state of decay, and God is going to use us, if we'll develop this character, to go into all of the universe some day. That's after the thousand years on earth though. A better covenant – the new covenant – will make us the Kingdom of God, God's nation to rule the whole world.

Hebrews 8:6: ... a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. Their promise was only to be a great nation in this world – physical, material wealth and leadership. We have the promise of immortal life and the tremendous potential, the tremendous potential that is ours! Now go back to the fourth chapter of Hebrews for a moment. Hebrews 4, and beginning with the 14th verse on to the 16th. **Hebrews 4:14-15: Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. (15) For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities.**

Look. I know this: I have been weak. I have not been perfect. But I know that I can go to that throne of grace, and Christ is there on His Father's throne listening, and the Father is listening. And Christ has gone through all of this, just like I have.

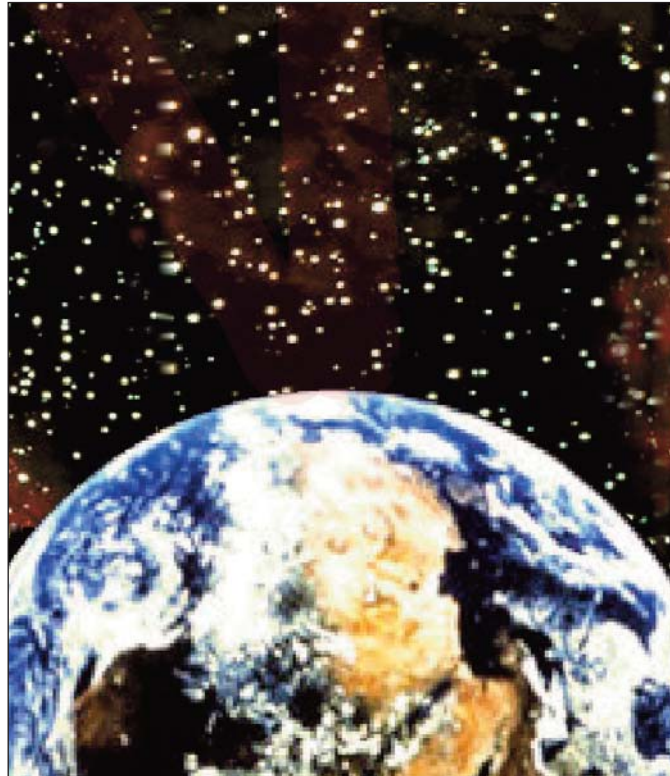
Now the difference is **Christ was tempted in all points like we are, but He didn't sin.** But He had been tempted, and He knows what it is. It is not only the temptation described in the fourth chapter of Matthew, when He had fasted 40 days and 40 nights, and the devil came at him. But listen. The devil gets at us through the human spirit that is in us. And Jesus Christ

was hearing that temptation, and Satan was trying to pour it into His mind every day – and every hour of every day – that He lived. The difference is this: That He was so close to God, and He knew the will of God. When Satan was pouring opposite things, He just **rejected it** right there. He **never** got into it, and never let it conceive and **take root** in Him, and to sin. That's the difference between Christ and us. We have done it.

But we have **Someone** who can understand that we are human. He knows we are human. He knows our

weaknesses. He is a forgiving God. And if we'll only turn back to Him, He will just open up His arms and receive us and love us. And you don't know how the love of God can come into your minds and your hearts, and how much He can love you. God loves this Church. I have been sort of shouting out at you today because I think we have to have it. But **God is love**, and I love you all, and I want you to love me. But sometimes it takes some plain speaking. Sometimes a parent has to speak that way to children. And, directly or indirectly, you are all my children in the Lord, and I have to speak to you as a father would.

Hebrews 4:14-16: Seeing then that we have A GREAT HIGH PRIEST [Christ], that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. [Some of us are letting it slip. We are not holding it very fast.] **(15) For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities** [He understands, and He knows, and He will forgive our weaknesses that we have had], **but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.** **(16) Let us therefore come BOLDLY unto the throne of grace, that we may ob-**



tain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Now that's what Christ wants, and He is just waiting with open arms to receive all of us, if we will come back to Him.

Now there is Satan, who is the prince of the power of the air, and he is broadcasting. And he is getting just through into our minds – not in words, not in pictures (like radio or television). **But** he is putting impulses, and he is putting into our minds attitudes of vanity, of trying to do our own thing, of self-exaltation, of competition. And there has been competition among the ministers, and we've got to have cooperation together. And anyone who will not cooperate will be talked to. And then, if he isn't willing to cooperate, he just won't be part of the team any longer. That's all.

A CALL TO REPENTANCE

Satan is the prince of the power of the air. Now, in II Corinthians 11, the apostle Paul said to the Church at Corinth [paraphrasing verse 3], **"I fear lest, as Eve was tempted by Satan, so you will be misled and deceived by that same Satan."** And that's to us today, in the New Testament. II Timothy 3 and on, where he says how it will be in the last days: That men would love themselves, and how they would come to be *sleepy, and asleep at the switch*. And that is the way we are. I Peter 5{2}, **how Satan is going about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.** God is calling us to a repentance. And this Church needs to repent, and it needs to go to its knees.

Now, brethren, all I can do is tell you. I know I am going to fight to try to see, through the great mercy of Christ, that He will be forgiving to me, and let me into His Kingdom. I want all of you to be there with me. That is why I poured out my heart to you today, and I hope that we are going to begin to take this a little se-



A ROARING LION!

riously. This Church has needed a shaking up. You'll find that, once our hearts are right, God will build this Church up. If this Church has not been growing, it is not. The membership is even going down, not gaining. Brethren, ***THAT OUGHT TO WARN YOU!*** That ought to WAKE US UP! All we have to do is get ourselves right with God, each one of us. I can only get myself right, and I can plead with you, and that is all I can do. But, once we do it (and if you will join me in trying to get

back to God, as I am for myself), I want to tell you that this Church will leap forward bigger than it did for the first 35 years when it grew faster, and more steadily, than any organization I have ever heard of.

Now the time has come for us to get a revival within our own hearts. It ought to strike home to us and condemn us, to think of that. ***IT'S OUR FAULT.*** And I'm not only talking to you that I see here today. I am talking to the other Churches that will hear this on tape recording all over the world. Unitedly, brethren, let's get back. Let's get on our knees, and let's get back to Christ. 🐑

Editor's comments: Though much of the sermon has been edited out to make room for it to fit within our limited space in the magazine, the continuity of the WARNING MESSAGE remains. The reader is encouraged to read the complete sermon on our web site www.cog-ff.com. For those who do not have a computer, you may request the complete sermon by mail to the address listed in this magazine and a cassette tape or CD will be mailed to you. An excellent sermon. **Don Billingsley**



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

Watchman for the House of Israel
www.ezekielwatchman.org

World News Bulletin
www.worldnewsbulletin.com

Lost 10 Tribes of Israel
www.losttribes.org

The Ten Commandments
www.10commandments.ws

Prophetic Events
www.propheticevents.us

What Do You Mean Born Again?
www.begotten.net

Restored Truths of God
www.restoredtruths.net

Pagan Holidays or God's Holy Days?
www.holy-days.org

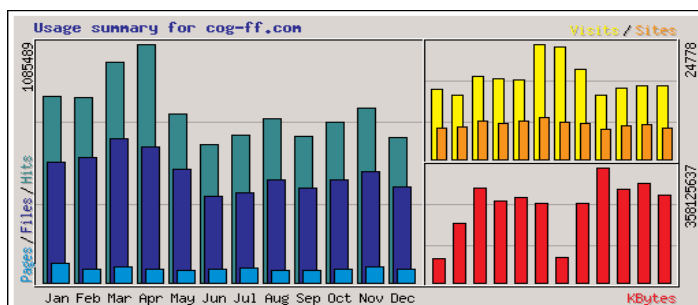
Which Day is the Christian Sabbath?
www.sabbathcentral.com

Herbert W. Armstrong – Apostle of God
www.herbertarmstrong.net

COGFF – Home School Association
www.coghomeschool.org

Herbert W. Armstrong – His Life & Work
www.herbertwarmstrong.info

3 World Views – Only One Will Happen!
www.newworldahead.org



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