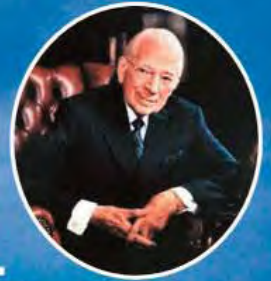
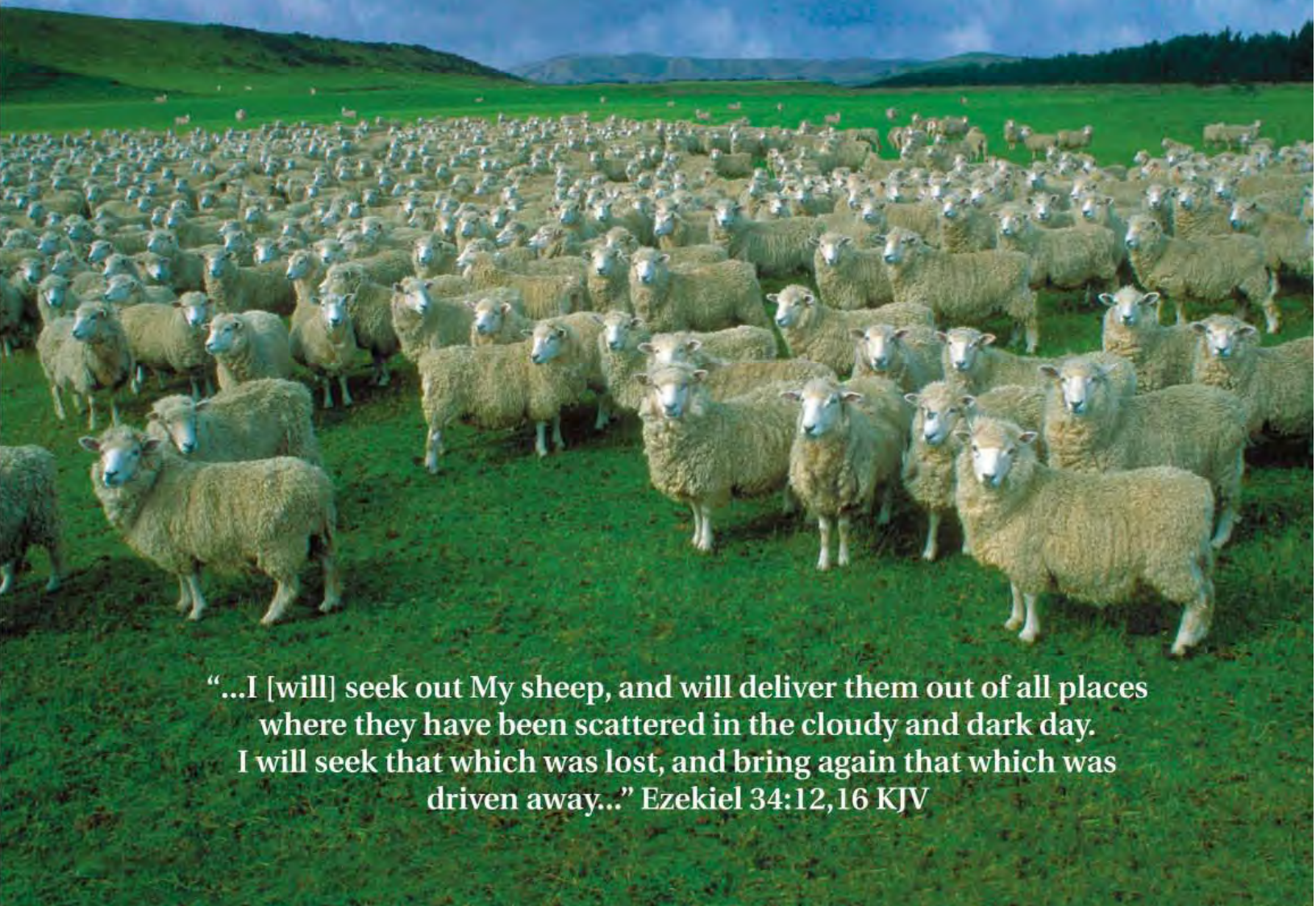


March/April 2008

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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MARCH/APRIL 2008

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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>*)

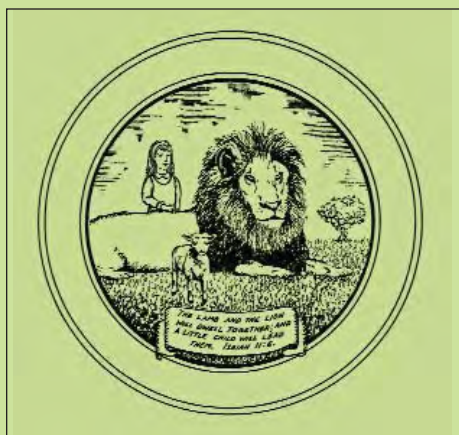
The Church of God Faithful Flock, with headquarters in Modesto, California, humbly presents this new magazine – The Philadelphia Remnant, which continues to provide a conduit for the work Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong spearheaded, the work of reaching out to people worldwide with the message of the soon-coming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

Conducted by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong

This is the most solemn ceremony of the year or service. This will be my 55th Passover. I am quite sure that must be a little larger number than any of you have had.

God ordained the Passover forever when the children Israel were in Egypt, thousands of years ago now. But at Jesus' last Passover that He observed during his earthly ministry we read that *"then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed."* Now the Day of Unleavened Bread, actually the day that had arrived at sunset that night was the preparation day for getting leaven out of the home preceding the seven Days of Unleavened Bread. It of itself was not one of the days but the day on which all leaven should be put out. *"And he sent Peter and John, saying, 'Go and prepare us the Passover that we may eat ... and when the hour was come, He sat*



MR. HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

down, and the twelve apostles with Him. And He said unto them, 'With desire have I desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you that I will not any more eat thereof until it be fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.'" [Luke 22:8, 14-16] Indicating that we will continue the Passover in the Kingdom of God after the coming of Christ.

Now Jesus changed the symbols of the Passover from eating the roasted body of a lamb after its blood had been shed and the lamb had been killed to the bread and the wine so that we read now in Matthew 26, *"and as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body.'*" So that the broken bread represented His broken body, broken for us.

*"And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink ye all of it; for **this is My blood** of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink hereafter or henceforth of the fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it with you in My Father's kingdom.' And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the Mount of Olives."*



FRUIT OF THE VINE

Of course, there Jesus talked with them a while. He went apart and prayed. He almost weakened when He realized what was going to happen and that the hour had come and the time of the day had come and He had to face it now. But that lasted on through the night. He was taken in to various places and tried by the government officials and by the Jewish officials and was condemned to death.

Now in John 13, *“And supper being ended, the devil having now put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray him. Jesus knowing that His Father had given all things into His hands, and that He was come from God and went to God; He riseth from supper.”* It had been a supper when they ate roast lamb up to this time. This was the last supper. Now Jesus was to change it from eating a meal into merely the bread and the wine which we shall take here tonight.

“He riseth from supper, laid aside His garments; and took a towel and girded Himself. After that He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples feet, and to wipe them with a towel wherewith He was girded. Then cometh He to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto Him, ‘Lord, dost Thou wash my feet?’ Jesus answered and said unto him, ‘What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.’ Peter said unto him, ‘Thou shalt never wash my feet.’ Jesus answered him, ‘If I wash thee not thou hast no part with Me.’ Simon Peter said to him, ‘Lord not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.’ Jesus said to him, ‘He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not

all’. For He knew who should betray Him; therefore said He, ‘Ye are not all clean’. So, after He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and was set down again, He said unto them, ‘Know ye what I have done to you? You call me Master and Lord and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.’”

The washing of their feet was an act of humility. In those days, they wore open sandals, the roads were dusty, they probably did not have cement sidewalks to

walk on. A servant would take off their slippers or their sandals when they came in at the door of the house and would wash their feet after which they would probably put on other sandals that were there waiting and clean for them. In other words, the host would always have some extra sandals for guests to wear. They still do



FOOT WASHING CEREMONY

something like that in Japan. Now I’ve gone into homes in Japan where I have had to take off my shoes and put on slippers of some kind that were there at the home for guests to use when they came into the house. But it is an act of humility and He was their Lord and Master and He stooped to do this to them. *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his Lord; neither he that is sent greater than He that sent Him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if you do them.”*

So now at this time we will leave and have the foot washing service. And I think you know, as I said, I have not participated in the Passover here at this place

for some years, but I'm sure you all know just where to go and there should be no conversation, no talking, but quietly go and then return as quickly as possible.

I will read now from the 11th chapter of the apostle Paul's first letter to the Corinthians beginning with verse 23, *"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread: And when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me.'* After the same manner also He

took the cup, when He had supped, saying, 'This cup is the New Testament of My blood: this do ye, as oft as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.'"

Therefore it is a memorial. *"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come. Wherefore whoso-*

ever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily," referring only to the manner in which you do it, *"shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But let every man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily,"* in the manner in which he does it, *"eateth and drinketh damnation* (or judgment) *to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep."* Not discerning the Lord's body, that it was broken for us, for our physical healing. His blood was shed for the remission of our spiritual sins. His body was broken for the healing of our physical sins or whatever has happened to cause illness, sickness or suffering.



UNLEAVENED BREAD

Now from John 6:53, *"Then Jesus said unto them, 'Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink of His blood, ye have no life in you.'"* I might just explain in that regard that we do not have life until we receive the Spirit of God. We have a material chemical existence. It is not life in the spiritual sense at all. As you read in 2 Corinthians the first two chapters that *you were dead in trespasses and sins*. As a matter of fact, Adam and Eve did not have life. They were created with a chemical existence. Before them was the Tree of Life and they could have had life but they made the wrong choice

and took to themselves the knowledge of what is right and what is wrong or of good and evil of deciding for themselves what is sin. They did not receive life.

God has decreed that *as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive in a resurrection to judgment*. Judgment has begun already at the

Church of God, but judgment has not begun as yet on the world. Judgment will begin on the world of all of those that survive and are still living after Christ comes when the world is ruled by the Kingdom of God and the Government of God. Judgment is not a process of condemning, but a trial as to whether you receive life or death. In other words, we might say it is an opportunity to receive life. I think there has been so much misunderstanding on that very vital point. The world is not yet judged. Everyone who has ever been born will be judged in his own due time, but there are three resurrections yet to come mentioned in the Bible.

The first resurrection will be those who have been judged to have received life. I hope that includes all

who are in this room. That will be at the coming of Christ. The second resurrection will be the resurrection to judgment, the Great White Throne Judgment mentioned in the 20th chapter of Revelation. The third resurrection will occur after that judgment, which may last 100 years, which may last a very short time. God knows. One passage of scripture indicates it could be 100 years. That scripture could be translated in two different ways and another way of translating it would not refer to 100 year lifespan in that resurrection so we just cannot know that. However, the last resurrection would be a resurrection of those who have been judged whose eyes have been opened, who have known the truth, who have **rejected** God and **rejected** Christ and Christ's sacrifice for them and God's gift of eternal life and who have been judged guilty. They will die in **the Lake of Fire, which will burn them up**. Not a hell fire that burns and burns and never burns up. Chemically, such a thing would be impossible, yet millions have believed it. The world has been very greatly deceived.

I would like to conclude tonight by reading a number of portions now from the book of John beginning with chapter 13. I am just going to read a few verses through as I go in the 13th chapter of John. ... We must have the bread and wine served next.

PRAYER

[**THE BREAD**] Almighty God in heaven, we pause now to ask your blessing on **this broken bread representing the broken body of Jesus Christ, broken for**

our healing. Father help us all to take it worthily. Help us to have faith and believe. We are in a time of trouble when apparently Satan has come down after the battle with Michael in heaven and is persecuting the Church in every way possible. Our only defense is the shield of faith and the armor of God. Father in heaven, help us to understand that we don't work up faith ourselves, that faith is the gift of God, that it comes through your Holy Spirit and that you give it when we are totally surrendered to you. It is not our faith. It is Jesus' faith given to us. The same faith He used to walk on the water. The same faith He used to heal the sick, to perform miracles, to cast out demons.

Father, I ask you to give all in this room that faith. A faith that many of us have never had. Open our minds to receive it in the name of Jesus and **bleed this bread to that purpose as we partake of it**. In Jesus' name, Amen.

[**THE WINE**] Jesus said for all of them to drink of it, that this is the New Testament of **His blood** shed for the remis-

sion of sins. Help us to understand Father that this merely is a memorial representing, **a symbol representing the blood of Christ**, and our taking it means our receiving again **the blood of Christ** for the remission of sins. God is the lawgiver, God the Father. Our sins cut us off from God the Father and when Jesus paid the penalty in our stead that simply reconciles us to God the Father, and God has eternal life to give. However, the life comes through the death of Jesus Christ, I mean through the resurrection of Christ, rather than through His death, and it comes through our resurrection ultimately, and I hope for God's Church at the second coming of Christ for judgment is on us now. So Almighty God, **bleed this wine**

Continued on Page 37



RED WINE

Personal from the Editor

By Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley

The evening of April 18, 2008, is the Passover! It is then followed by the Night to be Much Remembered, which is the beginning of the Seven Days of Unleavened Bread.

Brethren, once again God's true people will be graced and blessed to have the opportunity to be able to observe this wonderful and most meaningful time of this New Year by God's Sacred Calendar.

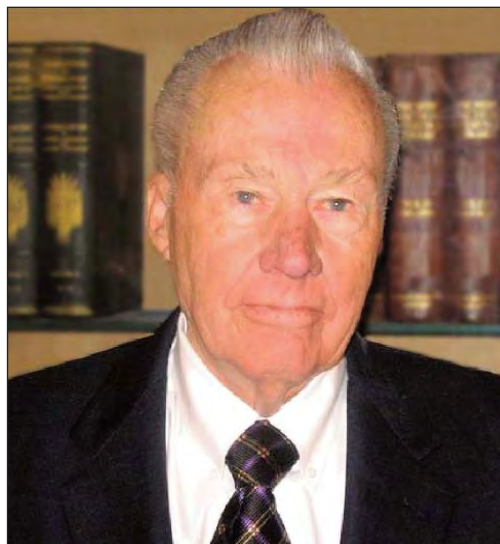
However, in observing this coming PASSOVER TWO VERY IMPORTANT AND VITAL QUESTIONS need to be asked – and then answered by you as a member of the Church of God:

1) Will you be observing this coming Passover with the same ceremony that Jesus Christ led His late apostle to develop in the early years of his ministry based on the actual Scriptural teachings regarding the Passover symbols?

2) Or, during the Passover service, will you be participating in a ceremony that was manufactured by the apostate leader who replaced Mr. Armstrong that reflects a diabolical lie? An erroneous change that *stripped away* the substance of the Scriptural meaning of *the symbol of the bread!* This has led to a lack of true discernment of it and could bring about *sickness that could lead to an early death* (I Corinthians 11:27, 29-30).

In that same chapter, the apostle Paul exhorted members to examine themselves BEFORE partaking of those precious and most meaningful SYMBOLS: “But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that BREAD and drink of that CUP. For IF we would judge ourselves, we would NOT be judged. But *WHEN* we are judged, we are *CHASTENED* by the Lord, that we may NOT be condemned with the world (I Corinthians 11:28, 31-32).”

It is sorrowful to realize *this cautionary warning* by the apostle Paul will go *unheeded*, for Satan will continue to *blind* the truth from most of these members due to the skillful writings and articulate speech of a



Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

false ministry through their Bible studies and sermons!

A leadership who has been so *blinded* they do not see a problem with their erroneous teaching that *there is no such*

thing as physical sin, which directly connects with the bread and our physical healing. Unless one knows their Holy Bible, they can make it appear to be right.

To eliminate the real symbolic meaning of the bread, it has since been *combined* with the wine during the Passover service *without* showing any distinction between the two symbols. Needless to say, this is a diabolical lie fostered by Satan himself on a deceived ministry and is taught by them!

NOTE: This same erroneous ceremony has been accepted and is in use by virtually all of the corporate Churches of God, including the United Church of God and the Church of God, an International Community.

Most of those who are *now* deceived and being deceived by Satan will *wake up, but too late*: “But evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But YOU must continue in the things which YOU HAVE LEARNED AND BEEN ASSURED OF, KNOWING FROM WHOM you have learned them (II Timothy 3:13-14)!” Question: Who was the apostle sent to us from God with the truth?

MYSTERY OF THE AGES, Jesus Beaten for Our Healing, page 212, Mr. Armstrong: “... This indescribable *scourging* was endured that believers

might be **HEALED from PHYSICAL TRANSGRESSION**, sicknesses or disease (Isaiah 53:5; I Peter 2:4). ..." This is the reason for the distinction of the BREAD from the WINE.

THE END IS VIRTUALLY IN SIGHT

World events in light of end-time prophecies clearly make known we are in the time of the end. It is very possible this coming Passover, and only one more, will be the last ones to be observed by the elect of God's true Church where we now live. If this be so, by the time of the third Passover, 2010, the **elect** will have fled from wherever they now live to rendezvous (come together) in Judea.

From there, they will go as a collective people to the place God will have provided for them (Matthew 24:15-21; Revelation 12:13-16). There they will be shielded from the time of the greatest trouble this world will have ever faced or ever will again (Matthew 24:21; Daniel 12:1; Revelation 3:8, 10).

TIME CYCLES ENTER THE EQUATION

Another consideration is *the 19-year Time Cycle*. Mr. Armstrong sometimes spoke and wrote of it as being very significant for our understanding in connection with the Work of God, as can be read in the following letter by him:

Member and Co-Worker Letter, November 4, 1960 (Excerpts), "I think I have told you in former letters how 19 years is a complete time cycle. Days, months and years, as God counts time, are measured by the movements of the earth, moon and sun, in relation to each other. The earth, moon and sun come into the same relation to one another only every 19 years. The preaching of Christ's Gospel to the world by the Apostles covered exactly two 19-year cycles. The first 19 years was confined to Palestine and Asia Minor. The second 19 it expanded into Europe. I think I have mentioned before how Jesus began teaching His disciples in the autumn of 27 A.D., and I was converted and started being taught the true Gospel from the written Word (Jesus was the spoken Word of God) in the autumn of 1927 – exactly 100 time cycles later.

The Apostles were ordained and started on their ministry of Christ's Gospel in the spring of 31 A.D., and precisely 100 time cycles later, late spring or early summer 1931, I was ordained and started full time preaching Christ's Gospel. Christ OPENED THE DOOR of radio and the printing press early January, 1934. And 19 years later, early January, 1953, He opened the door for the broadcast to leap over to Europe!



National Park Service

THE USS ARIZONA IGNITES AFTER JAPANESE BOMBERS ATTACK PEARL HARBOR ON DEC. 7, 1941.

Perhaps these are only remarkable coincidences with no significance, but I couldn't help thinking of these 19-year dates when, for the first time, I SAW Pearl Harbor, flying over it in a jet plane, exactly 19 years after my first plane ride when I first heard of the BOMBING of Pearl Harbor! Whether it means anything or not, it was interesting to me, and I thought it might be to you. ..."

With this in mind, consider the major events that did take place in the history of the Church of God during those 19-year time cycles as noted by Dr. Hoeh.

Bible Notes, by Dr. Herman L. Hoeh in 1953, is as follows: "The last year of Christ's ministry, the crucifixion, resurrection – Pentecost – **the first 19-year time cycle in 31 A.D.** The second 19-year cycle of the apostolic ministry begins – Acts 16:9 – gospel goes to Europe 50 A. D. The second 19-year cycle ends – Church flees Jerusalem 69 A.D. End of 2520 years punishment upon Israel 1803 A.D. Restoration of Palestine to Israel after 'seven times punish-

ment' beginning 604 B.C. Mr. Armstrong was ordained (compare Jeremiah's call and preparatory training of apostles) in **1931 A.D.**

First 19-year cycle of Philadelphia Church begins in January 1934 A.D. [within USA]. Second 19-year cycle begins January 1953 A.D. [Began to go to Europe]"

It was at this point, after 1953, that Dr. Hoeh *miscalculated* in his chart. *As to why* – he believed that at the end of 1972 (it being the next 19-year cycle from 1953), **“famines begin previous autumn upon Israel and continue 3½ years (Joel 1 and James 5:17). Tribulation commences; Israel obliterated.**

“Tribulation ends 3½ years later at the end of 6,000 years –AFTER A DELAY (Revelation 7) the Trumpets begin to sound, commencing upon the Feast of Trumpets at the end of 6,000 years, 6001.”

By moving these miscalculated dated years of terrible times into our present time frame, they could prove to be very meaningful in view of this end time with the 19-year time cycle of 2010 in mind. Skipping over the 19-year time cycles of 1972 and 1991 – and focusing on the next 19-Year Time Cycle of 2010 – could very well mean that early **January 2010** would mark the completion of the ministry of Mr. Armstrong via his Recorded Works on our web sites that began with his life-time ministry in **1934**.

MR. ARMSTRONG'S RESTORED WORKS

The complete doctrinal teachings, as were RESTORED within God's Church by Jesus Christ through His late apostle, and the Elijah promised by Jesus Christ for the end time, has turned out to be important only to **the remnant of the Philadelphia Era of the true Church of God** (Revelation 3:7-13). This also includes the correct understanding and obser-



BRETHREN STAY IN TOUCH VIA MODERN TECHNOLOGY

vance of the Passover. It is sad that members would rather have all that the larger Churches have to offer them than to **love the TRUTH** enough to be willing to walk alone with Christ, if this were to be the price one would have to pay to do it (John 14:15-18; Matthew 4:4).

The cost of **loving and living the TRUTH of God** could mean giving up friendships and fellowship with others. It could then mean having to listen to Church services by phone or by computer link while sharing fellowship with others by the same means except during God's Feast of Tabernacles; at the Feast site where God places His name!

Sadly, this is **a price** that many thousands of members are not willing to pay even though Jesus Christ made



National Archives, Jupiter Images

PRESIDENT REAGAN WONDERED IF THE WORLD WAS FACING ARMAGEDDON

known the cost all of us might have to pay to become one of His disciples during the time of baptismal counseling (Luke 14:25-35). We are now being tested by what we promised at that time (Daniel 12:10).

The day is soon coming when those who will *re-fuse to pay the price* will have grievous regrets, but then it will be too late for the door will have been closed to them (Matthew 25:10-13)! *Are you willing to pay that price?* If so, you are very probably one of the members of the Philadelphia Era of God's true Church. And if so, you have a promise from Christ of being protected from **the Great Tribulation**.



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A LIME-COLORED FIG

Jesus Christ is still knocking at the door of the minds and hearts of all of His people (Revelation 3:20-22). Hopefully all will hear and invite Him fully into their lives while there is yet time.

SIGNS CAN NOW BE SEEN OF THE END TIME

In view of the major areas enumerated by Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21, that speak of the end time, Jesus Christ said we could perceive its closeness by what He further said to us about these terrible times:

“Look at the fig tree and all of the trees, when they are already budding you see and known that summer is now near. So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near” (Luke 21:29-31).”

There are almost daily warnings of one kind or another that could impact the lives of everyone! We read and see in the news about *the danger of terrorism, immigration out of control, the economy, weather conditions, shortages of food and water, the continual spread of deadly diseases!*

Before much longer, there will be the prophesied famine and disease epidemics to befall the Church of God and the nations of Israel. These two will be the forerunners of **the Great Tribulation!**

Various leaders in this country and elsewhere are presently making known that there is little time left for this country to survive as a nation.

Some are predicting from two to five years at the most.

Before his death, President Ronald Reagan is quoted as saying: **“Sometimes I wonder if we are destined to witness Armageddon.”** *The Record*, Tuesday, May 22, 2007, page A3.

PASSOVER THE CROSSROAD FOR REMEMBRANCE

The Passover is not only the **crossroad** for decision making but also marks the trying and purifying times for the Church of God, and also for the nations of Israel! Terrible times to be experienced due to the failure of not bringing back into memory **the life and death meaning of the Passover** and observing it in its full meaning!

Scripture records that all of the firstborn of the Egyptian people **were slain** on the night of the Passover (Exodus 12:29-30). They reaped what they had sown for murdering all of the newly born sons of Israel (Exodus 1:22). The people of Israel were spared from death because they had dipped and brushed **the life blood of a lamb** over the doorway of their homes.

Because of NOT remembering their history with repentance, during the coming **Great Tribulation** most of the people of Israel will be **brutally slaughtered** because of their many evils, which includes **murdering** their **unborn** babies that belong to God.

PUNISHMENT ON THE CHURCH AND ISRAEL FOR NOT REMEMBERING THE MEANING OF THE PASSOVER SYMBOLS

Bible history often teaches us the principle of duality. With this in mind, it is highly possible that the coming **nuclear attack** will occur at the time of the Passover on the house of Joseph and Israel! And it will take place by the modern counterpart – the revived Holy Roman Empire that destroyed Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

We learn from history that God permitted **a wholesale slaughter** to begin on the people in Jerusalem at the very time of the Passover in 70 A.D. by the Roman



armies (*A Handbook of Ancient History in Bible Light*, Page 260, by Dorothy Ruth Miller).

Are you one of the wise who will understand before it is 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.

This coming Passover is a very good place to take that critical step by observing it with the true teaching of the symbolic meaning of both the BREAD and the WINE. We are offering our help – if you want it.

*The quotes above are intended
for educational purposes only*



The True Church of God

*‘Where is the one and only true Church of God
– in this end time?’*

‘Jesus Christ said, ‘I will build My Church.’ He did not say ‘churches,’ denominations, ‘sects.’ He said the gates of hell would not prevail against that Church. Somewhere that original true Church exists today. But WHERE? WHICH? ...’ Booklet, *WHERE Is the True Church*, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong

By Alton B. ‘Don’ Billingsley

In this sixth writing establishing where the true Church of God is today, aside from the members of the Sardis and Laodicean eras, this writing will continue pointing to where the remnant of the Philadelphia Era is by eliminating all others who claim they are spiritual Jews (true Christians, Romans 2:28-29) but who are in reality members of the synagogue (churches) of Satan (Revelation 2:9; 3:9).



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Where is the True

Church, pages 15-16, Mr. Armstrong: “Satan wanted to destroy it. Why? Because this world is Satan’s world. He sits on the throne of this world (Isaiah 14:13). And the Church of God will fill the earth after Satan and his world are destroyed. Christ, the head of the Church, will take over Satan’s throne as world ruler. So, when Satan failed to prevent the Church from being founded and getting off to a glorious start, what did he do next? He deceived certain humans into seeking to destroy the Church from within. ... He caused

some within the Church to turn to a false and counterfeit gospel” (Galatians 1:6-7; II Corinthians 11:4, 13-15).

In view of this writing of Mr. Armstrong and reading the Scriptures, it becomes easy to see that Satan is continuing to seek the *destruction* of the Church of God *from within* by comparing *the wayward beliefs and teachings* of each of the many corporate Churches of God with “the FAITH ONCE DELIVERED which was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3).

THE PHILADELPHIA ERA OF GOD'S CHURCH

The apostle John wrote of the Philadelphia Church era as dwelling in the midst of *deceived* ministers and members who were/are claiming to be true Christians, but instead are of the synagogue (churches) of Satan!

“Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, WHO SAY THEY ARE JEWS, AND ARE NOT, BUT LIE ...” (Revelation 3:9).

In contrast, he wrote: And to the angel (messenger) of the Church in Philadelphia, write, “... (You) have KEPT MY WORD, AND HAVE NOT DENIED MY NAME ... Because you have KEPT MY COMMAND TO PERSEVERE ...” (Revelation 3:8, 10).

Please note, perseverance is directly connected with the KEEPING of God's Word and upholding the NAME of Jesus Christ (3:8).

Not only would this have meaning from its beginning in 1934, but would come to be far more meaningful for the **scattered REMNANT of the Philadelphia Era** after the death of its chief human shepherd, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

THE LAODICEAN CHURCH ERA

Though *the Laodicean Church Era* also is part of God's true Church, the letter to it is addressed *differently* than to the other Church eras. To the other eras, he writes: “**To the angel (or messenger of the Church in (city) ...**” But to Laodicea, he writes: “**And to the angel (messenger) of the Church OF LAODICEANS,**” *not* to

the city of Laodicea, *but to the Laodiceans!* (Strong's C. # 2994 – An inhabitant of Laodicea)

A membership scattered among other groups *without* an obvious leader. They are identified by an ATTITUDE of self-righteousness and self-satisfaction with themselves (Revelation 3:14-22; Matthew 25:1-13). Sadly, they are headed for the **Great Tribulation** (Revelation 6:9-11).

The Philadelphia Era no longer has an apostle, either! Possibly what we are to understand from both groups being *leaderless* is that by being *scattered* among other groups **Satan** has a better opportunity to use *his false leaders* to try and destroy all of us.

The letter to the *Philadelphia era* makes known they *only* are remaining fully faithful to the FAITH ONCE DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS, and are faithfully KEEPING GOD'S WORD and NOT DENYING the name of Christ (Revelation 3:7, 10-13).



REJECTION OF CHURCH DOCTRINES

Aside from the United Church of God, whose leadership is voted into office by the elders (see *Mystery of the Ages*, page 242), there are other large churches with God's form of Government within them. However, all of them I am knowledgeable of are headed by ministers who have *strayed* and are *disobedient* in other doctrinal teachings.

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

Other wrongful changes have been made regarding the following doctrinal teachings, as made plain by the writings of Mr. Armstrong that *reveal* their erroneous beliefs and teachings, are as follows: 1) The changes made in the meaning of the bread that is partaken of during the Passover service (see *Mystery of the Ages*, pages 211-212), 2) A two-fold gospel (see *What is the TRUE GOSPEL*, pages 5-6, Mr. Armstrong), 3) Born again now (see *Just What Do You Mean – BORN AGAIN?*, pages 12-14, Mr. Armstrong), 4)



Interracial dating and officiating at marriages between them (see *Mystery of the Ages*, pages 147-149; 166-170), etc.

THE GRAVE DANGER OF ERRONEOUS DOCTRINES

Speaking his farewell to the elders of the large Church of God at Ephesus, the apostle Paul, said: “**I know this, that after my departing, shall *grievous wolves* enter AMONG you, NOT sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men **ARISE**, speaking perverse things to *DRAW AWAY* disciples after them**” (Acts 20:29-30).

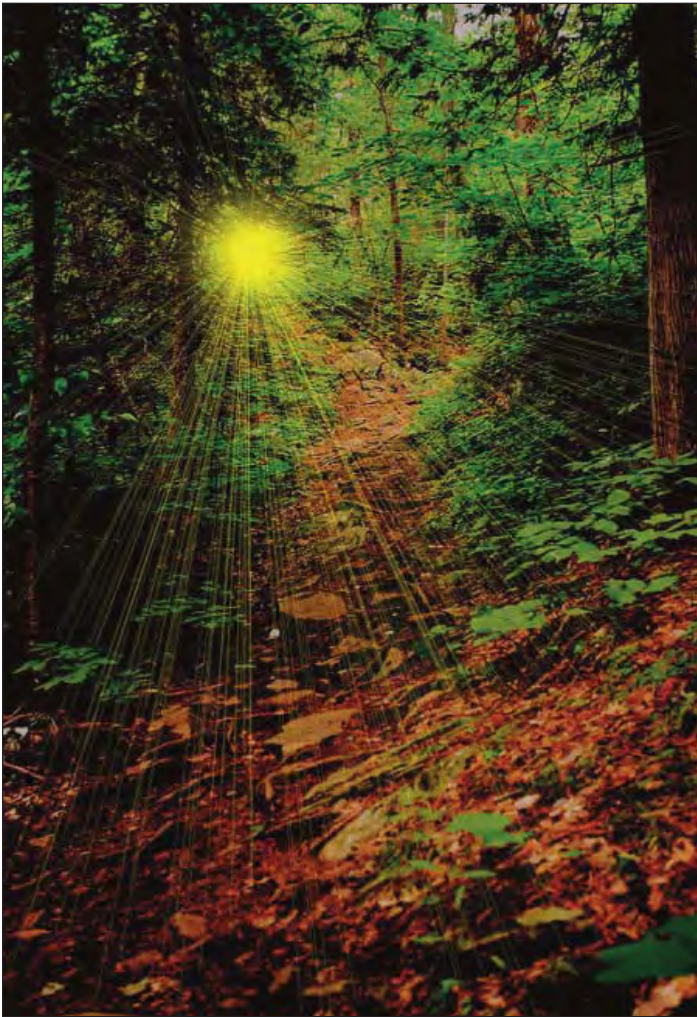
Before his death, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong also warned us as well: *Good News*, May 1960, “**Should We Listen to Others**”: “*The greatest danger of all is WHEN one who is among us, supposed to be one of us, approaches you with some doctrine or interpretation CONTRARY to that of God's Church, and of God's ministers. Whether it is a so-called ‘Jehovah Witness’ or even one supposedly a member of God's own Church, remember THIS COMMAND: “If there come ANY unto you’ it does not say member of another church – it says if ANY come unto you – ‘and bring not this doctrine, RECEIVE HIM NOT INTO YOUR HOUSE ...’ – DON’T LISTEN TO HIM! . . . DO NOT LISTEN to those who bring a different doctrine*” [II John 10].

GOING THE WAY OF SATAN

Please consider further *the danger* of listening and reading the erroneous teachings *masterminded by Satan the devil* as explained in the following writing of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong:

“Do you think YOU are immune from the wiles and subtle deceptions of Satan? [Ephesians 6:11]. **DON’T SO UNWISELY UNDERESTIMATE SATAN!** Satan is the strongest personage God





“So comprehend the illustration. We all were lost in the dark woods of sin. On first realization of it, with repentance and belief, we received a first portion of God’s Holy Spirit. ... The Spirit of God, by lighting up the Bible, leads us a step at a time, into more and more truth, and a step at a time out of error and sin.

“But if and when you REJECT ONE POINT OF TRUTH, it is like stepping aside in the dark woods. You are NO LONGER being led by THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH opening the Bible to right understanding. [John 14:26; 16:13] The light – the Spirit of God – leaves you behind. [Revelation 3:11] You are in darkness again. Lost again in the darkness of sin! You stumble around in the thick dark woods trying to find the lighted lantern. But every step you now take is taking you farther away from the lighted lantern, proceeding on the SURE path out of the woods.

“Take the example of some ministers [virtually all of them today] who left God’s Church. Some tried to incorporate new ‘churches’ of their own. But they were not GOD’S churches. These men had all rejected ONE OR MORE points of truth, or Church doctrine.

ever created, except for the two archangels Michael and Gabriel. ... God’s word warns us to be constantly ON GUARD against Satan’s wiles.

“Let me illustrate. One is walking along a thickly wooded forest on a moonless pitch-black night. But just ahead of him is an experienced guide with a lighted lantern. If he follows that lighted lantern he will be led safely out of the woods. But if he turns aside just a step or two and hesitates, the light continues on out of his sight. Then he is really lost.

“If one turns aside from God’s truth on just one point, or one doctrine, and does not quickly repent, the light of God’s truth moves on. In his self-centered effort to find the light of truth, he now walks blindly in wrong directions. He takes more and more steps in the wrong direction. That is, he proceeds on into more and more error, all the while losing more and more of what truth he had.

“They almost immediately began to add new points of false doctrine of their own – not of God. Soon they began rejecting points of TRUTH. Perhaps it was tithing. Perhaps healing [by saying there is no such thing as ‘physical sin’ and therefore rejecting His broken body for our physical healing, Isaiah 52:13-14; 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16-17; I Peter 2:24] – perhaps voting in this world’s governments. Perhaps it was God’s Government in the Church. Soon they were rejecting God’s annual Holy Days and Feasts.

“Soon they were rejecting more and more of GOD’S TRUTH and turning to more and more FALSE doctrines and errors. THEY, PROFESSING TO FOLLOW CHRIST in their new way, WERE GOING FARTHER AND FARTHER AWAY FROM HIM. They were going closer and closer to Satan and Satan’s WAY.

“It started, in every case, by taking one first step in Satan’s direction – compromising – becoming ‘liberal’ – or resenting and rebelling against GOD’S

GOVERNMENT in His Church – or letting a spirit of SELF enter in – it could be self-righteousness or self-centeredness in COVET-ING POWER. More than one has been led into spiritual darkness by coveting POWER in God's Church.

“YOU LET DOWN YOUR GUARD AND ALLOW SATAN TO DECEIVE AND USE YOU when, once you have known the truth, repented, received God's Spirit, started on GOD'S WAY, you take a step away from that way, began to liberalize, compromise with Satan.” *Worldwide News*, 1980 “Satan Deceive and Use Me? Never!” Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong

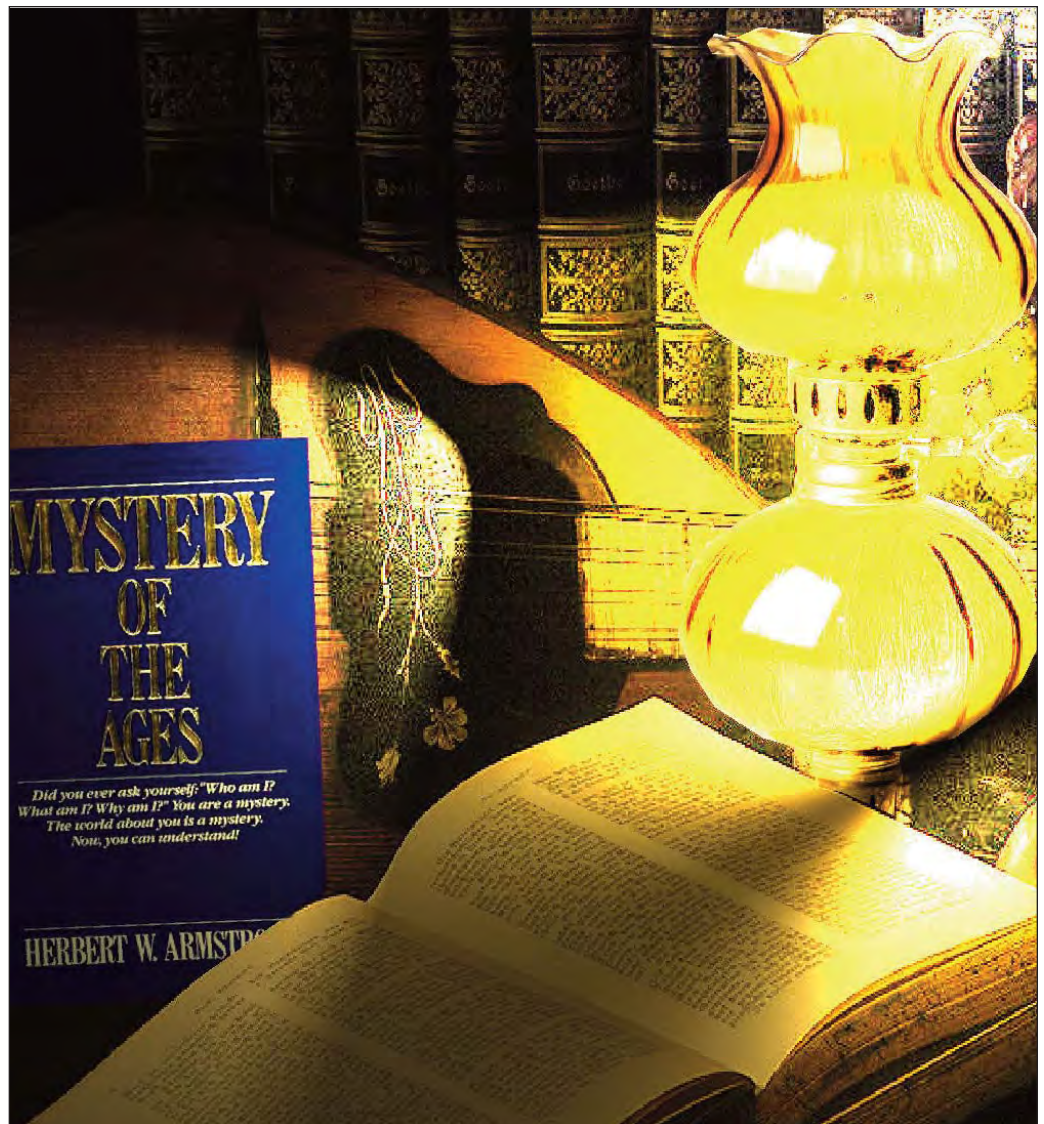
Further he wrote in this context: “... I will not compromise with the truth! I never have! I won't compromise – not even 'just a little'.”

Good News, December 1976. Personal, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

NAME A CHURCH THAT HAS NOT COMPROMISED IN SOME MANNER

In view of those writings of Mr. Armstrong, the question begs: Is there any corporate Church that has not changed one or more doctrinal teachings God used His late apostle to **RESTORE** within His Church – or rejected one or more by choosing to remain silent about them?

Is there no recommendation to read his last book *The Mystery of the Ages*? Do any put the recorded Works of Mr. Armstrong on their web sites? Do any ever play his taped sermons in Church services? Do any refuse to place themselves under the Government of God in



the true Church of God? And finally do they reject the ruling he made on makeup! Please name me one who is not guilty in one or more of these areas.

These ministers, if converted, are failing to fulfill their God-given responsibilities. Mr. Armstrong wrote: “**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.**” (*Mystery of the Ages*, page 262).

To be continued

The quotes above are intended for educational purposes only



The Lamb of God

who takes away the sin of the world!

By Mark Mendiola

During John the Baptist's ministry, the Pharisees sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem (John 1:19, 24) to the wilderness of Judea, where he was preaching repentance and baptizing many people in the Jordan River. Large numbers of people from Jerusalem, Judea and the entire region went there to confess their sins and be baptized (Matthew 3:1-2, 5-6). People wondered if he was *the Christ* prophesied to come (Luke 3:15).

John's sensational followings alarmed the Jewish religious authorities, who no doubt viewed him as a threat to their preeminence, especially knowing many thought he might be *the Messiah*. "Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, '*I am not the Christ*'" (John 1:19-20).

When they insisted John identify himself so they could return with an answer as to why he was baptizing so many people, he answered, "I am 'the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Make straight the way of *the LORD*,' as the prophet Isaiah said" (V. 23). Earlier in this same chapter, the apostle John explained John the Baptist was sent from God to bear witness of *the Light* (V. 6-7).

"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, '*Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!* ... And I have seen and testified that *this is the Son of God*. Again, the next day, John stood



A SACRIFICIAL LAMB

with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, '*Behold the Lamb of God!*'" (V. 29, 34-36).

Andrew, one of John the Baptist's disciples, then started to follow Jesus as a disciple and persuaded his brother, Simon Peter, to do the same. Andrew "first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, '*We have found the Messiah*'" (which is translated, *the Christ*)" (V. 41). The marginal reference in the New King James Version of the Bible shows "*Messiah*" literally may be translated "*Anointed One*."

Philip and Nathanael also became followers of Jesus. Referring to Him, Philip told a skeptical Nathanael, "*We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth*, the son of Joseph" (v. 45). All of Nathanael's doubts about the Messiahship of Jesus were dispelled when Nathanael met Him. "Nathanael answered and said to Him, '*Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!*'" (V. 49)

The apostle John immediately established *the divinity of Jesus Christ* in the very first chapter of his "Gospel" account. "In the beginning was *the Word*, and *the Word* was with God, and *the Word was God*" (John 1:1). Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong often emphasized this verse describes the actual beginning, even preceding Genesis 1:1, which states, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." *Before the heavens and earth were created, Jesus Christ and God the Father existed!*

The apostle John shows unequivocally in this first chapter that *the Word who was God became Jesus Christ in the flesh!* “And *the Word became flesh and dwelt among us ...*” (V. 14). The apostle John also points out God the Father used Christ to create the heavens and the earth! “*All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.* ... He was in the world, and *the world was made through Him*, and the world did not know Him” (V. 3, 10).

Jesus Christ was and is *the LORD of the Old Testament*, the Great Creator God by whom everything was created. “*That Rock was Christ!*” (I Corinthians 10:4). “GOD ... has in these last days spoken to us by His Son ... *through whom also he made the worlds*; who ... when *He had purged our sins*, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high” (Hebrews 1:2-3).

The apostle John undeniably stresses *this same Word* became *Jesus in the flesh* who was the prophesied *Messiah*, the *Anointed One*, the *Christ*, the *Light*, the *Son of God*, the *King of Israel*, the *LAMB OF GOD WHO TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD!* Mr. Armstrong explained Christ was able to pay the penalty and bear the sins of all mankind because He was the One who created every human being and is greater than the sum total of all the tens of billions of people who have ever lived. He lived a perfectly sinless life as *the Lamb of God!*

THE PASSOVER LAMB

When *the Eternal God* instituted the Passover in Egypt about 3,500 years ago, He gave explicit instructions about how it was to be observed. “Now *the LORD* spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, ‘This month shall be your beginning of



BLOOD ON THE DOORPOST

months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: On the 10th day of this month, every man shall take for himself *a lamb*, according to the house of his father, *a lamb* for a household. ...

“*Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year.* You may take it from the sheep or goats. Now you shall keep it *until the 14th day of the same month.* Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it *at twilight.* And they shall take some of *the blood* and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. Then they shall eat the flesh *on that night; roasted in fire with unleavened bread* and with bit-

ter herbs they shall eat it. Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but *roasted in fire* – its head with its legs and its entrails (its entire body). ...

“And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. *It is the LORD’s Passover.* Now *the blood* shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see *the blood*, I will *pass over* you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. So this day shall be to you *a memorial*; and you shall keep it as a feast to *the LORD* throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by *an everlasting ordinance*” (Exodus 12: 1-3, 5-6, 7-9, 11, 13-14).

God commanded the Passover be kept throughout our generations forever as an everlasting ordinance. The Passover is filled with rich symbolism and meaning. *The lambs slain by the Israelites at that first Passover in Egypt symbolized Jesus Christ, the ultimate, perfect fulfillment of the Passover lamb.*

“For indeed *Christ, our Passover*, was sacrificed for us” (I Corinthians 5:7).

This symbolism carries through from the beginning to the end of the Bible – from Genesis to Revelation. The Bible starts with righteous Abel slaying *the firstling* from his flock. “And **the LORD** respected Abel and his offering” (Genesis 4:4). God the Father and Jesus Christ recognized before this physical earth was created eons ago there would *undoubtedly* be a need for Christ to be slain as an innocent Passover lamb to atone for our sins. Mr. Armstrong wrote, “Christ determined He would die – from the time of creation – when Adam and Eve sinned.”

In the Book of Revelation, there are 28 references to “**the Lamb**.” Revelation 13:8 refers to “**the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world**.” The book also refers to Jesus Christ as “**a Lamb as though it had been slain** (Revelation 5:6).” He was slain and redeemed us to God by **His blood**. “Worthy is **the Lamb who was slain** to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!” (V. 9, 12). Revelation 7:14 and Revelation 12:11 mention “**the blood of the Lamb**.” The apostle Peter emphasized we are redeemed “**with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world ...**” (I Peter 1:18-20).

Like the little lambs sacrificed by the Israelites in Egypt, Jesus Christ was a *male, innocent lamb* whose **blood** was shed at the time of **Passover** to spare us from death, perfectly fulfilling the description of a Passover lamb and explicitly fulfilling many Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah! The animals sacrificed in the Old Testament were to be *without blemish* because they symbolized **Jesus Christ**, who Himself was *without sin, spot or blemish*.

THE NEW COVENANT PASSOVER

Jesus Christ observed His final Passover on earth in 31 A.D. on the night of the 14th of Nisan, the same

evening the Israelites killed the lambs and smeared their **blood** on their doorposts and lintels. At that time, Jews were still killing lambs at Passover (Mark 14:12), yet Christ changed the symbols of the Passover because He would be the perfect, sinless **Passover Lamb** slain for our sins, nullifying the need for lambs to be killed any more.

“For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that *the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread* (the same night of the 14th); and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘Take eat; this is My body which is broken for you; *do this in remembrance of Me* (as an *annual memorial* or *everlasting ordinance*). In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is **the new covenant in My blood**. This do, as often as you drink it, *in remembrance of Me*.’ For as often as you *eat this bread and drink this cup*, you pro-



JESUS CHRIST CHANGED THE SYMBOLS OF PASSOVER

claim the Lord’s death till He comes” (I Corinthians 11:23-26).

The Passover service reminds us of Jesus Christ and the extreme suffering He willingly endured for us. Every year we partake of the Passover, we proclaim the fact He was murdered for us, and we anticipate His Second Coming. We remember *His body was brutally beaten* and **His blood shed for us**.



THE ROMANS WERE MASTERS OF TORTURE.

“Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of *the body and the blood of the Lord*.

But *let a man examine himself*, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup. For he who *eats and drinks in an unworthy manner* (taking it lightly or flip-pantly) eats and drinks judgment to himself, *not discerning the Lord’s body*. For this reason, many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep (or die)” (V. 27-30).

Following the washing of His disciples’ feet (John 13:3-14), Jesus Christ instituted two distinct aspects of the New Covenant Passover ceremony – *the breaking of unleavened bread and the drinking of red wine*. Both are rich with symbolism – the bread represents Christ’s body broken for our physical sins; the wine, *His blood* shed to wash away our spiritual sins.

CHRIST’S BROKEN BODY

Jesus Christ knew from the very beginning He would need to allow Himself to be executed in one of the most excruciatingly painful deaths devised by the demented minds of men – *the Roman crucifixion*! He also knew He would be brutally beaten beyond recognition to bear the penalty of our physical sins even before He was nailed to a stake, where He hung for hours in absolute agony. His flesh was flayed off His bones during a vicious scourging.

The apostle Peter makes plain His wounds in the flesh made it possible for us to be healed of our sicknesses and diseases. “Christ also suffered for us ... who Himself *bore our sins in His own body* on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness – *by whose stripes* (or wounds) *you were healed!*” (1 Peter 2:21, 24).

Peter verified Jesus Christ perfectly fulfilled an explicit prophecy by Isaiah who foretold how the Messiah would be like *a sacrificial Passover lamb*. Christ was beaten to such a bloody pulp that he was unrecognizable. “Behold, My servant ... His visage (or appearance) was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men” (Isaiah 52:14).

“Surely *He has borne our griefs* (or sicknesses) and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded (or pierced through) for our transgressions, He was bruised (or crushed) for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. ... And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all (Isaiah 53:4-6).”

Both Isaiah and Peter emphasize *we are healed by Christ's stripes or wounds*. Peter shows He bore our sins in His own body. Isaiah shows He was wounded and bruised for our transgressions and iniquities. Sin is the transgression of God's law (I John 3:4). Iniquity also is lawlessness. Christ died because of our sins, which demand the penalty of death. “For the wages of sin is death ...” (Romans 6:23).

Isaiah goes on to show *Christ was like an innocent lamb whose blood was shed when it was killed*. “... And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth (Matthew 26:62-63, Mark 14:60-61). ... For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of My people He was stricken. ... Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise (or crush) Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul *an offering for sin* ... My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.



AN INNOCENT LAMB

... He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors” (Isaiah 53:6-8, 10-12). This is an obvious reference to Jesus Christ (Acts 8:31-35). Matthew, Mark, Luke and John all attest to the fact Jesus Christ was the Messiah prophesied to come in numerous Old Testament prophecies. He fulfilled those prophecies in explicit detail. “... Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures” (I Corinthians 15:3).

CHRIST'S SHED BLOOD

At Christ's last Passover service with His disciples, “He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you. For this is My

blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom” (Matthew 26:27-29).

Both the Old Covenant and the New Covenant were ratified with blood. “*For the life of the flesh is in the blood*, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for

it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul” (Leviticus 17:11).

After he wrote all the words of the LORD in the Book of the Covenant, Moses took half the blood of sacrificed oxen and put it in basins, and the rest he sprinkled on the altar. After the people of Israel affirmed the Old Covenant, “Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, ‘Behold, the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words” (Exodus 24:4-8).

The *blood of sacrificed animals* was no substitute for the shed blood of Jesus Christ! “But Christ came as High Priest ... *Not with the blood of goats and calves,*



but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all ... how much more shall the blood of Christ who ... offered Himself *without spot* (or blemish) to God purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this reason He is the Mediator of the New Covenant. ... And according to the law almost all things are purged with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission. ... For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins” (Hebrews 9:11-15, 22, 10:4).

HE BECAME SIN FOR US

Just as the blood of the Passover lambs was smeared on the doorposts of the Israelites’ homes, Christ’s blood stained the wooden stake on which He was hung like a common criminal. “But one of the soldiers *pierced His side with a spear*, and immediately blood and water came out” (John 19:34).

Psalm 22 is a remarkable prophecy penned by King David about Christ’s crucifixion, reflecting His very thoughts and words as He writhed in excruciating pain. “Excruciating” comes from the same root word as “crucifixion.”

That psalm starts with Christ crying out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” Why are You so far

from helping Me, and from the words of My groaning?” (Psalm 22:1). The expression “My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?” is repeated in Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34, showing beyond the shadow of a doubt Jesus Christ was the Messiah or Lamb of God who perfectly fulfilled this prophecy. “*I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it has melted within Me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death. ... They pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots*” (Psalm 22:14-18).

Sin cuts us off from God. “But *your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you*, so that He will not hear” (Isaiah 59:2). Mr. Armstrong explained God will not deviate an iota from His law. Sin separates us from God and causes Him to hide His face from us. Christ gave Himself as a ransom to pay the death penalty for our sins. As a result, He intercedes to God the Father on our behalf. “For there is one God and *one Mediator* between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all ...” (I Timothy 2:5-6, Matthew 20:28, Mark 10:45).

By bearing the sins of all mankind, Jesus Christ literally became sin for us, cutting Himself off from God the Father. Christ “died for all ... Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ ... For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us ...” (II Corinthians 5:15, 18, 21).

God the Father turned away from Jesus Christ and hid His face from Him when He bore our sins during His crucifixion. The thick curtain in the temple ripped in two from top to bottom, a major earthquake struck and the earth was plunged into darkness at the time Christ died (Matthew 27:50-54, Luke 23:44-45).

Truly, Jesus Christ, the Word who became flesh, bore our sins and suffered terribly to pay the penalty of our sins as the Messiah, the Anointed One, THE PERFECT PASSOVER LAMB OF GOD WHO TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD ONCE AND FOR ALL!





THE JEWS WERE TAKEN INTO BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY ABOUT 22 YEARS AFTER KING JOSIAH'S RIGHTEOUS REIGN

JOSIAH'S PASSOVER

Vital lessons for us today

By Ron Wilcoxson

Passover carries both nostalgia and deep meaning in its annual remembrance within the true Church of God today.

The people of Israel also need to remember it and consider its special meaning and the freedom from slavery their ancestors experienced while living in the land of Egypt (Exodus 1; 12).

The Passover was commanded by God for the Israelites to remember and observe forever (Exodus 12:24). Sadly, only a few of their kings remembered to observe it. Josiah was one such king some few years before the kingdom of Judah was conquered by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in 604 B.C. to 585 B.C. Josiah did what was right in the sight of God and made a covenant with Him.

"Then the king stood by a pillar ('Jacob's Pillar', *New JPS Translation*) and made a covenant before the LORD, to follow the LORD and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of *this covenant* that were written in this book. And all the people took a stand for the covenant" (II Kings 23:3; II Chronicles 34:31). "There had been no *Passover* kept in Israel like that since the days of Samuel the prophet; and none of the kings of Israel had kept *such a Passover as Josiah kept*, with the priests and the Levites, all Judah and Israel who were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. In the eighteenth year of the reign of Josiah this Passover was kept" (II Kings 23:22-23; II Chronicles 35:18-19).

Josiah's Passover was kept on the 14th day of the first month, the same date and time as the one Christ and the apostles kept. Scripture reveals the children of Is-

rael at that time also kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread for seven days (II Chronicles 35:1, 17).

GOD'S CHURCH SCATTERED, DISHEARTENED

It has been 22 years as of January 16, 1986 since the death of our Apostle and Elijah to Come, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong – the one Christ used to begin the Philadelphia era of God's true Church in 1934. From that time to the date of his death, the Passover was observed according to Scripture as did Josiah but with even greater meaning and intent.

Since his death, there has been a **GREAT APOSTASY**, a falling away from the faith once delivered to the saints (II Thessalonians 2:3; Jude 3-4). The hearts of the righteous have been saddened, and the hands of the wicked have been strengthened (Ezekiel 13:22). God's Church truly has been scattered (Ezekiel

34:12, 16). More than 400 groups have evolved since his death, each with its own twist on the true teachings God restored to His Church through Mr. Armstrong, *including the Passover*.

Avery Callenback, a Church of God – Faithful Flock researcher, wrote: "Mr. (Joseph W.) Tkach, a self-made apostle, put in a false doctrine regarding healing and caused many people not to be healed because he shattered their faith." The following is from his research:

From the *Worldwide News*, March 23, 1987 "As Passover Approaches ... *New Understanding of the Meaning of Christ's Broken Body and the Church's*

Teaching on HEALING" by Joseph W. Tkach:

"(When we read in Isaiah 53:5, 'with his stripes we are healed' we need to realize that, the context is spiritual healing. Of course, sin carries with it physical penalties which may include sickness or disease among any number of others, in addition to the ultimate penalty of death. Jesus paid the full penalty of sin. Peter also, when he quotes from Isaiah in I Peter 2:24 is speaking in a spiritual context.

"The healing booklet will have to be temporarily withdrawn while edits and revisions are reflecting this new

understanding Jesus Christ has given to His church can be made. References in our literature to physical sin and Jesus being broken for the limited purpose of paying the penalty for 'broken physical laws' will also have to be revised."

Mr. Tkach said there is no such thing as physical sin and removed Mr. Armstrong's booklet on healing from the Church. Sadly, many

COG leaders have adopted this false teaching of Mr. Tkach's view, saying sin is sin – there is no difference between physical sin and spiritual sin. No wonder healings are rare in the corporate Churches of God!

In Mr. Armstrong's book *The Plain Truth About Healing*, 1979 edition, page 29 under "**Forgiveness of Physical Sin**": "**And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?**" This incident (Luke 5:17-26) reported in all three books of Matthew, Mark and Luke, confirms, in the words of Jesus Christ Himself, that physical healing is indeed '**the forgiveness of sin.**' **Sin is defined** (I John 3:4) **as 'the transgression of LAW,'** as correctly translated. Physical sin is the transgression of



GOD OPENED TREMENDOUS DOORS FOR MR. HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG



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KING JOSIAH RIPPED HIS CLOTHES AFTER LEARNING WHAT WAS IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW

physical law operating in the human body. To pay this penalty in our stead, Jesus was scourged, chastised, beaten with stripes. On the other hand, spiritual sin, which imposes the penalty of the second death – eternal death – is the transgression of the spiritual law (Romans 7:13-14), the law summed up by the Ten Commandments. Jesus paid the penalty for both. Doctors, medicines and drugs can no more forgive physical sins than spiritual sins. They cannot heal!”

As we approach the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread 2008 and see prophesied events fulfilled in our nation and the world around us, *it behooves God's people to keep a Passover like Josiah* – correctly, urgently and solemnly. It is imperative that we get back to the full truth of God and keep these days with the same attitude as ancient King Josiah as unfaithfulness and disobedience worsen throughout the nations and scattered church (Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 28).

JOSIAH'S GREAT RESURGENCE

When the book of the law was read to King Josiah, he was greatly humbled and tore his clothes. He knew they were in trouble with God, but he didn't know how

much until hearing the words from God through the prophetess Huldah speaking of the calamity that was to come upon them (II Kings 22:13-20; II Chronicles 34:21-28).

Although he began to seek the God of his father David when he was 16, he didn't begin purging Judah and Jerusalem of the high places and wooden images until he was 20. Then in the 18th year of Josiah's reign at the young age of 26, he began to fully purge Judah, Jerusalem and parts

of Israel of all paganism. He was now fully convinced God was with him and, if Judah and Jerusalem were to be saved, it would take a great revival of God's truth. Disaster was right on the doorstep for Judah and Jerusalem, when this very good king repented in deep humility to rid the nation of the abominations of idolatry and totally restore God's truth (II Kings 22:16, 17, 20, II Chronicles 34:3-7, 24, 25, 28).

Josiah stopped the child sacrifices to Molech. He removed all the pagan idols installed by past kings of Judah. He boldly tore down the altars of the evil kings, Ahaz and Manasseh, which had been set up in two courts of the temple. He even removed the high places east of Jerusalem, which King Solomon had built for Ashtoreth and also the altar at Bethel and the high place which Jeroboam had built.

Imagine the valor, the boldness, the strength of character it would take to tear down monuments that had stood for more than 200 years and had been set up by such famous kings (II Kings 23:4-19, 20; II Chronicles 34:4-7)!

THE GREAT RESURGENCE IN OUR DAY

God used Mr. Armstrong for more than 50 years as a very strong, dynamic leader. He was used by Jesus Christ to build and hold the Philadelphia Church steady and stable through many attacks by Satan the devil. Though Mr. Armstrong is no longer around today to keep the Church on track, his writings and his recorded messages are yet intact.

Now we can make a difference by emulating Godly leaders having gone on before us. Of course, Jesus Christ is the chief example of Godly leadership, and above all we must follow His perfect example (I Peter 2:21).

God used Joshua after the death of Moses, admonishing him to be strong and of good courage, and He expects the same with all of us with His Holy Spirit today ***“to be strong and very courageous ... to do according to all the law ... to not turn from the right hand or to the left ... ”*** (Joshua 1:6-9).

Satan hates us with a passion and will do anything to destroy us and take our crowns. (II Timothy 4:1-8, Revelation 3:11) Therefore, we must be willing to *stand in the gap* where others have failed (Ezekiel 22:30).

JOSIAH DIDN'T COMPROMISE AN IOTA

Josiah became king at the very early age of 8, and he reigned 31 years in Jerusalem. ***“And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD and walked in the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left”*** (II Kings 22:-2; II Chronicles 34:1-7).

Josiah not only kept the entirety of the law, he made all the inhabitants of the land around him keep it also (II Kings 23:1-3, II Chronicles 34:29-33). Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong would not compromise either, though

he often was pressured to do so (*Good News* article, December 1976). One of the most valuable lessons we can learn from God's true leaders is ***NEVER, EVER*** compromise even on the smallest of matters. Jesus Christ, our Savior, tells us to live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God (Deuteronomy 8:3, Matthew 4:4, Luke 4:4).



KING JOSIAH SMASHED THE PAGAN IDOLATRY OF HIS DAY

These words make known we are not to turn away from His truth either left or right, but to stay on the straight and narrow path (Matthew 5:17-19, Matthew 7:13-14, II Timothy 3:16-17).

The apostle Paul also was inspired to warn us about compromise (II Thessalonians 2:10-12) and the results of it: ***“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”*** (II Timothy 4:3-4)

He also understood how important God's instruction book was for the people. ***“But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them.”*** (II Timothy 3:14)

While we often must exercise patience and forbearance with one another, we must **NEVER** confuse that with compromising God's precious truth (Matthew 5:17-19, 15:7-9; I Corinthians 5:6-8).

True Philadelphians have God's full truth and have not denied His name nor compromised His word (Revelation 3:7-11). It is therefore vital we keep the **Passover** as taught by Mr. Armstrong with sober respect and love for our Father and His Son Jesus Christ. The parallels of Josiah's time and the one we find ourselves in at the very end of this age are amazing. Now it is incumbent upon us as we see major events beginning to happen day by day that will lead right into the **Great Tribulation**. Should we not also shake ourselves out of our drowsiness and wrong teachings to return to the truth?

A CALL TO REPENTANCE

“‘Now, therefore,’ says the Lord, ‘Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.’ So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm’ (Joel 2:12, 13).”

Humility is the key to our success with God. **God re-sists the proud but gives grace to the humble** (Proverbs 3:34; II Peter 5:5).

Because King Josiah had humbled himself and had set the nation back on track, God promised that the calamity would not come until after his death (II



KING JOSIAH PURGED JUDAH OF IDOLATRY FROM GEBE TO BEERSHEBA (II KINGS 23:8).

Kings 22:20, II Chronicles 34:28). Josiah reigned 31 years in Jerusalem. After his death, Josiah's son Jehoahaz reigned three months. Jehoiakim, another son of Josiah reigned 11 years, then Jehoiachin the son of Jehoiakim reigned three months and 10 days. After him, his uncle Zedekiah, another son of Josiah, reigned 11 years. Jerusalem fell on his watch. All four of these kings did evil in God's sight. **They failed to heed the warning!** (II Chronicles 36:2, 5, 9, 11) The total of these reigns after the death of Josiah was 22 years, six months and 10 days.

IS IT A COINCIDENCE?

There are some very obvious parallels with then and now! During this 2008 Passover season, Mr. Armstrong will have been dead for slightly more than 22 years. Consider: Here at the end time, God sent Mr. Armstrong to revitalize his truth. In a sense, the book of the law was rediscovered. For more than 50 years, we were taught as a Church what was right and good, but since his death the Church, the spiritual nation, has been derailed! It now has more than 400 splits! And with time running out now as then, Christ wants to see a resurgence in each of us before it comes to be too late. **Will we fail to see and heed the warning?** The handwriting is scrawled on the wall for all of us to see.

As we approach this Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread, let's examine our lives more thoroughly than ever before, and take God's Passover with renewed hope and full dedication to obey God and bring every thought into His captivity (II Corinthians 10:5, Ecclesiastes 9:10).

Just as King Josiah and his people did, let us put our whole heart and soul into *taking our stand for the true faith once delivered to us* (II Kings 23:3, II Chronicles 34:31-33, Jude 3)!





BUILDING SUITABLE HABITS

By Gary Liebold

Have you ever heard the old saying, "Human beings are creatures of habit?" Consider that statement for a moment. Is it true? And if it is true, what kinds of habits might that saying imply? What causes us to develop a habit, and what can we do to make sure we develop *good* ones?

Let's look at a story by James S. Hewett, from *Illustrations Unlimited*, to show an example of how human beings can become so entrenched in certain habits, and how those habits can actually affect our lives each day.

"A man who flew his own plane got tired of the long auto trip from the airport to his country place, which was situated on a lovely lake. So, he had the idea of equipping his plane with pontoons so he could land right in front of his cottage. However, on his first trip

up to the country with his newly-equipped plane, he headed for a landing at the airport just as he always had done in the past. Old habits are hard to break. But, as he was going in for the landing it dawned on his wife what was happening and she hollered, 'What do you think you're doing? You can't land this thing on the runway. You don't have any

wheels; you've got pontoons on it!'

... her warning shout was in time and he pulled up from his landing pattern and swung the airplane around and headed the plane for a landing on the lake. After the plane landed safely on the lake, he heaved a really big sigh of relief and turned to his wife and said, 'That's about the

stupidest thing I've ever done!' Then he turned, opened the door, stepped out and fell directly into the lake."



Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

What an excellent illustration of the basic fact that old habits are hard to break! The *American Heritage Dictionary*, lists various definitions for the word



SAMUEL JOHNSON

habit, including "a recurrent, often unconscious pattern of behavior that is acquired through frequent repetition; an established disposition of the mind or character; customary manner or practice;" and "an addiction..." Samuel Johnson (1709-1784), as one of England's best-known literary figures, declared, "The chains of habit are too weak to be felt until they are too strong to be broken."

In reproducing Himself, God requires righteous character development. That necessitates that we *evaluate* our lives and make **changes**. As we approach Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread, we understand through I Corinthians 11:28 that we are to **examine ourselves**. We as individuals must consider the *depth* of our faith, the *amount* of spiritual fruit being produced in our lives; the *magnitude* of our spiritual understanding of God's Master Plan; our responsibilities in that plan, and the *extent* to which we are eliminating sin and replacing that sin with the righteousness of God. Perhaps we have never thought about or considered in this self-examination process, the inclusion of discovering and examining *habits* that influence the way we live our lives each day. If we don't *conquer* our habits, they WILL conquer us!

SO JUST WHAT IS A HABIT?

A habit is a learned pattern of acting, thinking or feeling. We have some good, some questionable and some plainly bad ones! Although not genetically inherited, we begin developing patterns of behavior almost immediately after birth through association – *praise* and *rewards* for good behavior, or *scolding* with perhaps unpleasant consequences for bad behavior. If we think about it, we can notice that it is often easy to acquire **WRONG** habits, because they lie within our natural-born tendency toward **selfishness**. The more frequent

the occurrence, the more firmly established the habit or behavior becomes. The longer our habits endure (good or bad), the more they *defy* change. The *Plain Truth* magazine (October/November 1980), in an article titled, "Me? A Creature of Habit?" shows us:



"Learning patterns, at first, go into the brain's short-term memory system. As they become more established, they move over into the brain's long-term storage center. ... Then the brain activity at which humans excel – memory – goes to work so that a specific message or stimuli triggers an automatic response, thought, or feeling. We call a lesson that the brain's cells have learned well enough to accomplish automatically, without thought, a habit. Good habits and bad habits are formed essentially the same way."

We have numerous physical habits, such as the time we eat dinner, which streets we use to go to work each day, which day we decide to do the laundry, or even the position in which we fall asleep. Obviously, some of our acquired habits are good. For example, eating the right kinds of foods, making sure we exercise daily, as well as showing the proper love and respect for our family members on a daily basis are all illustrations of excellent habits. But, other habits we develop are *bad* ones, such as becoming junk food "junkies," eating only snack foods and drinks with dubious nutritional contents.

Likewise, we also have spiritual habits, both good and bad, in our day-to-day lives. Proper spiritual habits



DISCIPLINE YOURSELF TO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICES

would include close, daily contact with God through abundant prayer, Bible study, meditation and occasional fasting; or a genuine eagerness to serve God's people. Bad spiritual habits could include going to work each day without praying, or fasting only on the Day of Atonement, or perhaps a reluctance to serve any of the brethren unless you are "in charge."

As we enter into the Holy Day season, we must *examine* our spiritual habits. What are those habits in our lives like? Let's look at them honestly, discover the bad ones, root them out and replace them with habits that produce growth, abundance and joy!

RECOGNIZE, ADMIT YOUR WRONG HABITS

We cannot change anything in our lives if we don't recognize what is wrong. This is the *first key* in our ability to make changes. Do we realize that our spiritual attitude is plainly indicated by the excuses we make? We can all become complacent, ignoring the signs and begin downplaying the seriousness of poor habits. BUT, GOD DOES NOT. In Jeremiah 17:9-10, we read, "*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit*

of his doings." We need to make it our goal to see ourselves as God does and to recognize the same flaws He sees. Weak and wrong habits are the enemies of change and *hinder* spiritual growth. Once a habit becomes ingrained in us, it becomes virtually invisible to our minds. We begin to become comfortable with our incorrect habits, ignore them and simply co-exist. Where Job could not recognize the weakness lying deep within him (Job 13:23), the apostle Paul *did* recognize the battle taking place in his mind (Romans 7:13-25).

As we examine ourselves, we should consider our programmed, or habitual, responses to stress, emergencies, correction, criticism, authority of others,

and the everyday encounters we all face daily, in an unconverted world. Here are some questions we should ask ourselves. Just how DO I react to stress, for instance? Do I eat several chocolate bars, or do I go to God on my knees for help? Does my normal response revolve around physical gratification? Or, do I respond positively, using the power of God's Holy Spirit? Do I go to God for strength and deliverance, in earnest prayer? The custom of both King David and Daniel was to go before God three times in prayer each day (Psalm 55:17, Daniel 6:10). Recognizing and admitting our wrong habits is the first step in building right habits!

GET MOTIVATED!

Once we recognize our "less than perfect" habits, we must find ways to change those unacceptable patterns of behavior! **Motivation** is paramount! Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in the *Good News Magazine* (August, 1985), "How to Be an Overcomer":

"... perhaps you are struggling with some habit that holds you as its slave – struggling, wrestling, always fighting it, yet somehow never able to conquer it. These things are serious. We *must* overcome these sins, these habits, these sudden temptations – be

cleansed from them thoroughly – if we expect to get through to the Kingdom of God and inherit eternal life.”



BE MOTIVATED TO TAKE ACTION

In the booklet, *The Seven Laws of Success*, (Pages 28-29) Mr. Armstrong again wrote:

“Half-hearted effort might carry one a little way toward his goal, but it will never get him far enough to reach it. You will always find that the executive *head* of any growing, successful organization employs *drive*! He puts a constant *prod* on himself. He not only drives himself, he drives those under him, else they might lag, let down and stagnate. He may feel drowsy, and hate to awaken and get up in the morning. But he refuses to give in to this impulse. I remember the struggles I once had with this situation. ... I was having quite a struggle with drowsiness. Yet I acquired the habit of sleepily answering the morning telephone call and promptly going back to bed and to sleep. Then I bought a ‘Baby Ben’ alarm clock which I carried with me. But I found myself arising to turn it off, then plunging back into bed. I was too drowsy to realize what I was doing. I was not sufficiently awake to employ willpower and force myself to stay up, get under the shower and become fully awake and alert. It had become a habit. I had to break the habit. I had to put a prod on myself. I needed an alarm clock that couldn’t be turned off until I was sufficiently awake to get going for the day. So one night

at the Hotel Patton in Chattanooga, Tennessee, I called a bellboy to my room. In those days the customary tip was a dime. A half dollar then had about the same effect that a \$20 bill would have today. I laid a silver half dollar on the dresser. ‘Do you see that half dollar, son?’ I asked. ‘Yes, Sir!’ he answered, eyes sparkling in anticipation. After ascertaining that he would be still on duty at 6:30 next morning, I said, ‘If you will pound on that door in the morning at 6:30, until I let you in, and then stay in this room and prevent me from getting back into bed until I am dressed, then you may have that half dollar.’ I found those bellboys would, for a half dollar tip, even wrestle or fight with me to prevent my crawling back into bed. Thus I put a prod on myself that broke the morning snooze habit and *got me up and going!*”

We can see through example that Mr. Armstrong realized his bad habit. He was **motivated** to take strong action in order to break it. And in order for us to have spiritual success, we, too, must be motivated – **CONTINUALLY** motivated.

Proverbs 12:24 shows us that “The hand of the diligent will rule. ...” Without energy, drive, and constant propulsion, a person need never expect to become truly successful. We must motivate ourselves to realize our goal of developing righteous character!



DON'T BE A COUCH POTATO

USE THE POWER OF GOD’S SPIRIT

In order to be effective in overcoming wrong or bad habits, we need the power of God’s Holy Spirit. We cannot do it alone. We must beseech God in earnest



GET RID OF BAD HABITS AS YOU REMOVE LEAVEN

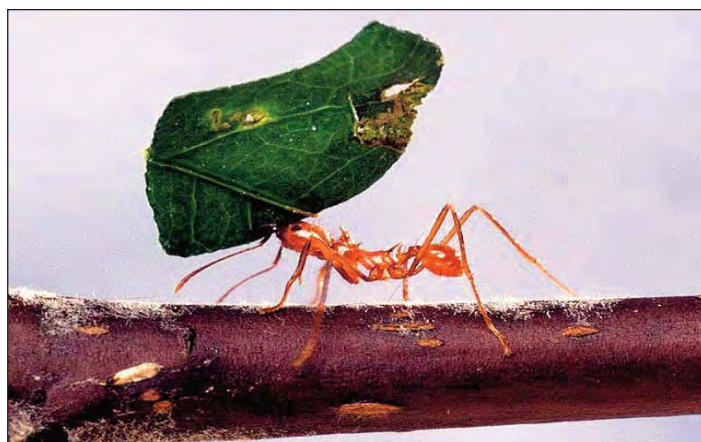
prayer for the help and spiritual power to overcome. With His help, we can grow in spiritual knowledge, develop character and overcome the incorrect habits, weaknesses and faults. We are talking about true spiritual SUCCESS here!

Romans 12:2 shows us to "... not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." We know that God's Spirit imparts power and a sound mind (II Timothy 1:7). It will help us in obeying God's laws (Ezekiel 36:27) and helps us in developing the fruit of righteousness (Galatians 5:22-23). God is ready and willing to fight our battles for us. We need the power of God's Holy Spirit to eliminate undesirable habits. All we have to do is ASK Him!

Finally, we practice through repetition at intertwining the right habits in our lives that will bring about happiness and joy. Just as we remove the leaven from our homes during this time of year and replace it with the unleavened bread, which symbolizes the righteousness of God, so should we start to work *immediately* to eliminate habits God would consider improper, and replace them with good, suitable and uplifting ones. Root out the bad spiritual habits; habits such as repeated sins, lack of prayer, lapses in fasting, uncontrollable anger, gossip, vanity – the list is virtually endless! Bring every thought into the obedience of Christ (II Corinthians 10:3-6).

In conclusion, applying these four keys to building suitable habits will help us to overcome and develop spiritually, the way we should. Start working immediately, like the industrious ant of Proverbs 6:6-8. In Matthew 24:45-47 we read, "**Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, shall find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.**"

As we approach Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread, let each and every one of us *examine ourselves* even more deeply this year than any other year before. With God's help, we can eliminate wrong spiritual habits and begin to build suitable and godly ones!



GO TO THE ANT ...

USDA

Growing in Compassion

‘Finally, all of you be of one mind, having COMPASSION for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous ... ’(I Peter 3:8)

By Tom Cooper

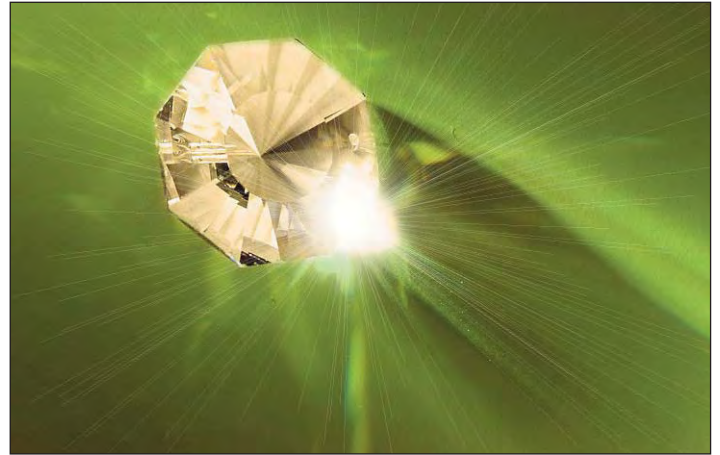
Like a *many faceted diamond*, compassion is one of the essential and wonderful fruits of God’s Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Without compassion, there is no godly outpouring of love that touches the lives of others in their sufferings as can be seen continually in the life of Jesus Christ. And, as His people, we are to emulate His wonderful example.

Living virtually in a loveless age, the elect of God are to rise above it and be a living example of the wonderful world to come by being **A LIGHT** to this present world while having the fullness of the flavor of **SALT** to season its blandness, to freshen and sweeten it (II Timothy 3:1-5, Genesis 18:26-32, Matthew 5:13-16).

Scripture reveals that soon Christ will be returning for His bride. And she will be prepared. **“His wife has made herself ready”** (Revelation 19:7). However, we still have work before us in preparing ourselves to be among those counted worthy. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong often said the bride had not yet made herself ready to be received by Christ for there are blemishes yet to be removed from our bridal garments. In other words, this shows Christ’s bride must take action.

It is important for individuals to consider how prepared they are for this marriage. Like humility, compassion is one such facet to understand when following in Christ’s footsteps! Removing every spot and blemish from our character requires inspection and repentance. This is significant, due to its impact on each of us.

The pastor of the Church of God – Faithful Flock often exhibits compassion. Looking at this very subject as we approach the Passover season (with God’s Church having been scattered into many, many pieces), it is an important aspect that each individual Christian should consider closely. It could even make



A MULTI-FACETED DIAMOND

the difference for us being a part of the spiritual bride of Christ, or not. That aspect each of us must focus on is compassion toward others.

In *Webster's Dictionary*, we find a definition of compassion: "To sorrow for the suffering or troubles of another or others, accompanied by an urge to help." We should each consider how compassionate God has been with us and our personal sins. **"But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth"** (Psalm 86:15). Do any of us personally know examples of God bringing individuals with questionable past behaviors into His Church? Saul, later renamed Paul by God, was just such a hard case. An apostle who, before conversion, willingly stood with the crowd that stoned Stephen to death (Acts 7:58 -8:1). And yet, God looked upon Saul with compassion, knowing that he had a better future ahead, serving God's people.

Where would each of us have stood if we had been actual Jews living in Palestine during that time? Where did we stand in recent times when members of God's Church were scattered? Did we think of or treat them with compassion? Did we pray for them earnestly, with love? Do we have compassion on our scattered brethren today, as Christ did? **"And Jesus, when He**

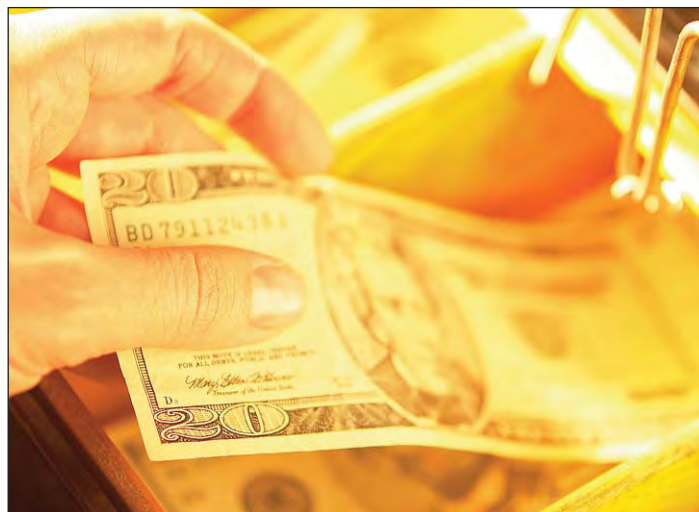
came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion towards them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and He began to teach them many things" (Mark 6:34).

Although most of the news we hear in this day and age revolves around concerns in this crumbling world, we can look around for inspirational stories of compassion to consider as we take stock of our personal character development during this Passover season.

A young army corpsman was on duty when a horribly injured soldier his age was brought into a hospital ward crying out, **"Just let me die!"** While the doctors and nurses began to tend to the wounded soldier, a thought of compassion caused the corpsman's mind to race. He turned and found another young soldier in the ward, a reclusive bilateral amputee. "Roberts, I need you to come with me – NOW," he called out. Roberts followed in his wheelchair, trailing the corpsman until they entered the room of the young man who was still crying by himself. Upon seeing each other, they each felt pity and became friends. This simple act was a turning point for both young soldiers.

The point is many times we hold a key in our hands to help a fellow human being in various ways. None of the soldiers mentioned above involved had God's spirit. Compassion is a "law" unto itself. It's also a part of God's love for us, a subject that King David wrote many of his Psalms about. It's something to be a part of us if we are to become God's resurrected children.

As another example of how we can exhibit compassion in our daily lives, we can look at a common type of occurrence many of us might have actually experienced. A purchase is made at a department store, and a few seconds later, the customer discovers that change for the purchase was made for a \$20 bill, instead of a \$10 bill that was paid. The customer returns to remedy the matter, knowing the cashier will need to make up the difference at the end of her shift. Something like this has happened to most of us at one time or another. Returning the proper change shows simple compassion for a fellow human being. Consider the following classic example of compassion: **"Then Jesus answered and said: 'A certain man went down**



RETURNING PROPER CHANGE

from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?' And he said, 'He who showed mercy on him.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise' (Luke 10:30-37)."

"The Good Samaritan" story is one in which Christ admonishes everyone to **"go and do thou likewise."** How we evaluate our level of compassion is understanding that the lawyer who triggered Christ's story wanted to wiggle out of looking out for "his neighbor." We need to consider how we would react in such a case as we prepare for the Passover. Within the many years of the **scattering** of God's people, we have experienced a demonstration of a very Laodicean characteristic – *self righteousness*. The whole Church was affected by this spiritual malady, as various corporate groups position themselves as being "better" in

some way or another than the others, while at the same time they departed from God's TRUTH, as taught through His end-time apostle. Has what happened to any of us left us short of compassion for those TRUE brethren still scattered within the various groups? Are we concerned for them and express real compassion and love toward them? In reviewing Christ's examples of compassion, we find important principles involved.

God shows such mercy and compassion. **"Nevertheless they flattered Him with their mouth, and they lied to Him with their tongue; For their heart was not steadfast with Him, nor were they faithful in His covenant. But He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and did not destroy them. Yes, many a time He turned His anger away, and did not stir up all His wrath"** (Psalm 78:36–38). He wants all of humanity to come to a point of true repentance (II Peter 3:9).

We have ALL done something we wish we hadn't – and being Christians examining ourselves, we must repent and move forward. Being able to look back and remember our own mistakes (often, in ignorance) allows us to avoid the same mistakes and grow. Eventually, every person will be called by God and have the same opportunity to see those mistakes and repent, developing Godly character (John 6:44). What a kind, caring and compassionate God we have to have such a plan for all of mankind!

In each of our hands, we hold keys which can turn something wrong into something right, something ugly into something beautiful or someone who could die spiritually into someone who will live. This wisdom of being compassionate is brought out in Luke 6:27-38 by Christ, who explains a principle at the very end of verse 38, **"For with the same measure that ye mete (use) withal it shall be measured to you again."**



KEY OF COMPASSION

In the months ahead, some severe trials may come our way. Some unusual people (brethren) we never expected to see again may cross our path. God, in His wisdom, knows every heart. Compassion on our part could very well make a trial for someone into something extraordinarily good in the end. This would really please our heavenly Father and benefit everyone. Each one of us would no doubt like to have a large dose of compassion extended our way the next time we stumble, and that is guaranteed by Christ, as we're also extending it to others now (Matthew 7:12, Luke 6:31).

The *ultimate example* of compassion toward mankind was the sacrifice that Jesus Christ Himself set for us by **dying for our sins** as part

of God's Master Plan for everyone. Even during His crucifixion, Jesus Christ displayed such compassion toward his mother, Mary. **"Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, 'Woman, behold your son!' Then He said to the disciple, 'Behold your mother!' And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home"** (John 19:25-27).

In Luke 23:34, we read, **"Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.'"** What tremendous examples of compassion, even upon those who so viciously wrought excruciating pain upon our Savior!

Just as God the Father and Jesus Christ have showered us with love and compassion, we also must show compassion at every available opportunity by being a light to others. Compassion is an attitude of outgoing concern or love for everyone around us, regardless of when they are called. By doing this, we will be grooming ourselves to be part of Christ's very beautiful bride and be embraced by Him with caring love.



HOW TO FIGURE PASSOVER!

*Passover is on the 14th of the first month, ABIB (Nisan).
The problem is to figure when is the first day of the month Abib.*

By Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong
(Published in 1940)

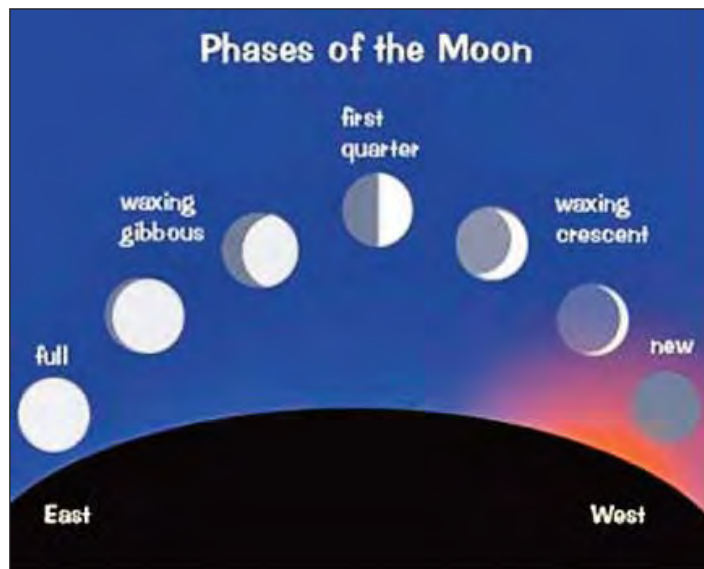
Because the Catholics and Protestants figure "Easter" a month earlier than the Hebrew calendar sets Passover this year – and because Brother Dodd has published the date March 22 as Passover, while both Stanberry and Salem organizations have published the date as April 21, many of the brethren are in doubt, and want the FACTS.

Briefly, after very exhaustive study, and counsel with brethren who also have made thorough study of the question for years, the facts are these:

1) The Bible **YEAR** is solar, while the Bible **MONTH** is lunar.

2) **PROOF** the Bible month is lunar; that is, each month begins with a new moon: By studying Numbers 28 and 29, we learn offerings were held **DAILY** (verses 3-4), **WEEKLY** on every Sabbath (verse 9), **MONTHLY** on the 1st day of each month (verse 11) and **YEARLY** on the annual holy days (verse 16 and on through chapter 29). Compare with I Chronicles 23:31; II Chronicles 2:4; 8:13; 31:3; etc., where the same sacrifices and meat and drink offerings are mentioned, and in each case the **MONTHLY** offerings are on the **NEW MOON**. Since Numbers 28:11 says this is in the "beginnings of your months," or the first day of each month, we have Bible proof the first day of each month is calculated by the New Moon.

3) The Bible **YEAR** is solar. This is proved by the festivals and holy days. A month is between 29 and 30 days. A 12-month year, or lunar year, is approximately 354 days, whereas a solar year is a little more than 365 days. Thus a lunar year is about 11 days less than a solar year. If the Bible year were lunar, always 12 new moons, Passover would come about 11 days earlier each year. Thus, in about nine years it would come in the **MIDWINTER**; in another nine in the **FALL**, and a few years later Passover would come in the **SUM-**



NASA

MER. In 34 years, it and all the holy days would make the round of all four seasons. But Passover **ALWAYS** comes in the **SPRING**, at time of the early grain harvest. On the morrow after the Sabbath during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the priest waved the wave sheaf, and none of the early Spring grain could be used until this was done, Leviticus 23. Pentecost **ALWAYS** came in the summer, Tabernacles always in the Fall at time of, or right after, Fall harvest, Leviticus 23:39. These were **SET** feasts, set for **DEFINITE SEASONS** of the year, Exodus 23:14-17; 34:18, 22-23; Deuteronomy 16:9, 13, 16; Leviticus 23:4; Numbers 28:2; Exodus 13:10.

4) These facts prove there had to be an intercalary, or 13th, month **ADDED** to the year **SEVEN TIMES** in each 19 years. *God had set the sun, the earth and the moon in motion so that once every 19 years the sun and moon come into conjunction.* That is, once in 19 years there will be a new moon on March 21, for example. There are **SEVEN** more new moons in each 19-year solar-lunar cycle than there are solar months (12 to the year). Thus God's great time cycle, written in the heavens, is based upon **SEVEN** – God's complete number, signifying Sabbath – added to **TWELVE**, the number of Tribes of Israel, number of Jesus' original apostles, etc.! Since this is true, the



ONLY POSSIBLE METHOD by which months can begin on new moons, and yet the solar year can be retained, is to add a 13th month every two or three years, seven times in 19 years. Nowhere do the Scriptures specifically mention an intercalary month, yet these facts of astronomy and these Bible facts **PROVE** it was used.

5) Now, our problem is, **WHEN**, and **HOW OFTEN**, did God ordain these intercalary months should be added?

Research reveals two basic points on this question, first, **GOD DID NOT RECORD IT IN THE BIBLE**, which gives us absolutely NOTHING more to go on than I have stated above. Second, history is vague on the subject, shedding little light that can be accepted and trusted. Yet we know God gave **HIS PEOPLE** a fixed rule for calculating **TIME PERIODS**, and for figuring **WHEN** to hold the Festivals of Jehovah. Otherwise, the prophecies, so full of definite time periods, can never be understood. Otherwise God's people could not obey Him!

We learn in the Bible the men of old did have understanding of the times. They knew how to figure time. "Of the children of Issachar, which were men that **HAD UNDERSTANDING OF THE TIMES**, to know what Israel ought to do," I Chronicles 12:32. See Esther 1:13.

In Daniel 7:25, the "**little horn**," or papacy, was to "think to change **TIMES**" as well as laws. Notice, only to **THINK** to change them – to deceive the world in general, but not God's people. Thus with the **LAW** and the Sabbath, the world is deceived. But have **WE** lost "**TIME**" in respect to the Sabbath? No! This Scripture, then, indicates **TIME HAS NOT BEEN**

LOST! The true sacred calendar is no more lost than the weekly Sabbath. Then **WHO HAS PRESERVED THIS TIME**, this sacred **CALENDAR**? To whom did God give it? To whom were "the oracles of God **COMMITTED**?" To **ISRAEL AND JUDAH**, of course!

Israel LOST the Sabbath, LOST time, LOST even her national name and identity. But **JUDAH NEVER DID**. Judah has kept **TIME** in respect to the weekly **SABBATH**. The Jews rejected Christ. They apostatized in doctrine, **BUT THEY WERE STRICT, STICKLERS FOR THE LETTER**. Would such a people have lost their **CALENDAR**? If so, **TIME IS LOST!** There is no other source through whom God could have committed **AND PRESERVED** His calendar. He did **COMMIT** it to them. Therefore it must be through them He has preserved it! They had the calendar correct at the time of Christ. They figured Passover, all the feasts, as He did.

In 70 A.D., the Jews were scattered into every nation. The present "Jewish calendar" has come down intact without change since 100 A.D. – that much is proved by history. Could they have changed it, and all changed it exactly in the same ways, while scattered all over the world, and that within a 30-year period between 70 and 100 A.D.? **IF THE PRESENT JEWISH CALENDAR EVER WAS CHANGED FROM THE WAY GOD COMMITTED IT TO THEM, IT HAD TO BE DURING THOSE 30 YEARS**. The Jews in one part of the world, without knowing what the Jews in other parts of the world were doing, all had to get it changed in exactly the same way! That, of course, was utterly **IMPOSSIBLE!**

Further **PROOF** comes through the continuous observance of Passover by one Jewish sect, going by the name of "Samaritans." In the Encyclopedia Britannica, 14th edition, Vol. 17, page 357, we read:

"The Samaritans have throughout their history observed the Passover with all its Pentateuchal ceremonial and still observe it down to the present day. They sacrifice the paschal lamb, which is probably the oldest religious rite that has been continuously kept up." Here are the **ONLY** people who have kept Passover, continuously, through all generations without a break, exactly as God gave it to them under the Old Testa-

ment form. They have **NEVER** made any change in their doctrines regarding Passover, or the manner of observing it. Could **THEY** have lost the calendar – the way of figuring **WHEN** to take it – as God committed it to them? Hardly! Yet they use today the same calendar all the Jews use – the sacred original Hebrew calendar!

Interesting, too, is the fact they observe Passover on the eve, or night part, of the 14th, not on the 15th. They kill the lamb between sunset and dark, at the very beginning of the 14th. They observe the **FEAST** the night of the 15th. Also they have continued to figure Pentecost from the morrow after the **WEEKLY SABBATH** during the days of unleavened bread, the true Bible way – instead of from the first annual Sabbath.

In conclusion, unless God has preserved His sacred calendar through the Jews, then **WE DO NOT KNOW** how to figure Passover or ANY of the holy days this year. For there is **NO AUTHORITY** for any other way. There is **NO BIBLE AUTHORITY WHATSOEVER** for figuring the first day of the first month from the new moon **NEAREST** the Spring equinox!

As soon as I learned of Brother Dodd's published dates for the festivals this year, I sent him a telegram asking his authority for his dates. He replied that he based his method of figuring on certain statements of profane history found in encyclopedias. He replied, "In some Bible dictionary, or Encyclopedia, or Jewish encyclopedia, I read something like this: The ancient reckoning of Passover was from the actual sight of the New Moon nearest the Vernal Equinox ..."

But, we ask, (though Brother Dodd is quoting from memory, and was unable to find the clipping or reference, or state **WHERE** he had read this), how did the man who wrote that article in the encyclopedia **KNOW** this was the ancient method of reckoning? Did **HE** offer proof? The Jews, continuing the observance of all of the seven annual festivals **EVERY YEAR** continuously, though scattered all over the

world, say it was figured anciently as they figure it today, by the Jewish calendar. What more dependable record has come down from Moses' time?

Brother Dodd also cited Josephus, Jewish historian, to indicate that Passover could **NEVER** be earlier than March 20, or later than April 19. Yet in Hastings Bible Dictionary, I find this same Josephus quoted as saying the Vernal equinox (March 21), always occurred **IN** Nisan, which means the year always began with the new moon **PRIOR** to March 21. They quote one more author to this same effect, (Muss-Arnolt, p. 77). Thus one writer says Josephus (Ant. I,x,5) to figure from the new moon **PRIOR** to March 21, another uses the same Josephus to prove we ought to take the new moon **NEAREST** the same date, or about half the time the new moon **FOLLOWING** March 21, while in the Britannica I find statements supposed to be historic that it **ALWAYS** began with the first new moon **AFTER** March 21.

Surely we can see that profane history only contradicts itself, is inaccurate, cannot be depended upon, and **HAS NO AUTHORITY WHATSOEVER**. There is no Bible authority for any of it.



CRESCENT MOON OVER SEATTLE

God did not commit His oracles, or the preservation of His **TIMES** to profane history, or to the Roman Catholics, but to the Israelites. And they have been preserved **BY THE JEWS**. The Catholics are the ones who have thought to **CHANGE** the times. They say the paschal new moon this year is the one **BEFORE** March 21, and figure Easter accordingly. The Jews say it is the one **AFTER** March 21.

After thorough study of the Bible, of the Hebrew calendar, of history, and every angle – after going into the matter with all the Eugene brethren, and other brethren who have made a special study of this question, we have unanimously agreed that the Hebrew calendar has been preserved correctly by the Jews.

*The quotes above are intended
for educational purposes only*



The Passover Service

Continued from Page 4

as we take it and help us to realize the significance, the meaning of it, that we are once again affirming, by taking it, that we are accepting **the blood of Christ for the remission of our sins and to reconcile us to God** and that means that we have repented because we have no right. We cannot accept His blood unless we have repented and to repent means to turn away from sin, that we will not commit those sins, whatever they may be, again, at least that we will strive mightily never to again and that we ask God's help. He said to the Church that if we sin, if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins; and not only us, but the rest of the world too. So bless everyone in this room, Father, as they partake of this. Help us to realize the real deep significance of it and the meaning of it as we take it. We ask your blessing on it in Jesus' name. Amen.

In the 13th chapter beginning with verse 31: Therefore, when Judas had gone out, V. 34, ***“Jesus said, ‘A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.’*** Most people would not understand how that could be a new commandment. We find it quoted way back in the Old Testament. It is new because anything new never becomes old. It is a spiritual commandment and spiritual things never become old. They are continually made new. Therefore, it is still a new commandment and always will be. John 13:35: ***“By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another. ...”*** John 14:3: ***“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”***

He will come in clouds. He will receive those who have, at that time, God's Holy Spirit, whether dead or living. The dead shall rise first. We which are alive will be changed instantaneously from mortal to immortal and caught up to meet Him in the air, but we are merely going to meet Him as He is coming back here for His feet will rest that same day on the Mount



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THE MOUNT OF OLIVES

of Olives and He is going to remain here for the next thousand years and where He is that is where we shall be also.

“Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not unto myself: but the Father that dwelleth in Me” – dwelling in Him by the Spirit the same as the Father can dwell in us by His Holy Spirit – ***“He doeth the works.”*** Jesus is the Word of God. He does not speak of just His own will alone. He speaks the will of the Father, but His will and the Father's will are one. They are united. ***Two cannot walk together except they be agreed,*** so says God.

God the Father and Jesus Christ have been walking together for trillions and (centrillions?) of years because They are totally agreed and always will be. May we be agreed with Them.

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than those shall he do; because I go unto my Father.” He said it was expedient for them that He go away. If He did not go to the Father the Holy Spirit would not come, but if He went to the Father He would send the Holy Spirit. We could not do such works without the Holy Spirit. That is why it was expedient for us that He go away. He is in Heaven. He

has been alive these 1950 years. And, incidentally, it is 1950 years ago to the day that Jesus died. One century of time cycles plus 50. That is rather significant that it happens to be at exactly that time in this day. He did not die at this time of day, but it was the same day.

“And whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in My name, I will do it. But you can’t ask in His name unless you ask in, you might say, the power of attorney, of having His authority to do it. And you cannot ask something that is contrary to the will of God and expect that He will perform it.

“If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter” – meaning the Holy Spirit – ***“that He may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him; but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”***

At the time Jesus spoke that the Holy Spirit was dwelling with them in the person of Jesus, but was not in them yet, not until the Day of Pentecost after His resurrection. So He was dwelling with them in the Holy Spirit through Christ and was later on the Day of Pentecost to be within them.

“I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.” And Christ does come through the Holy Spirit. Jesus answered and said, “If a man love Me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him, and We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him.”

It reminds me of something that you will read in the first chapter of I John, that our fellowship is with God the Father and with Christ as well as with one another. Fellowship is a very, very important thing, and our fellowship is not only with one another. It is also with God the Father and with Jesus Christ His Son.

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”



VINE BEARING MUCH FRUIT

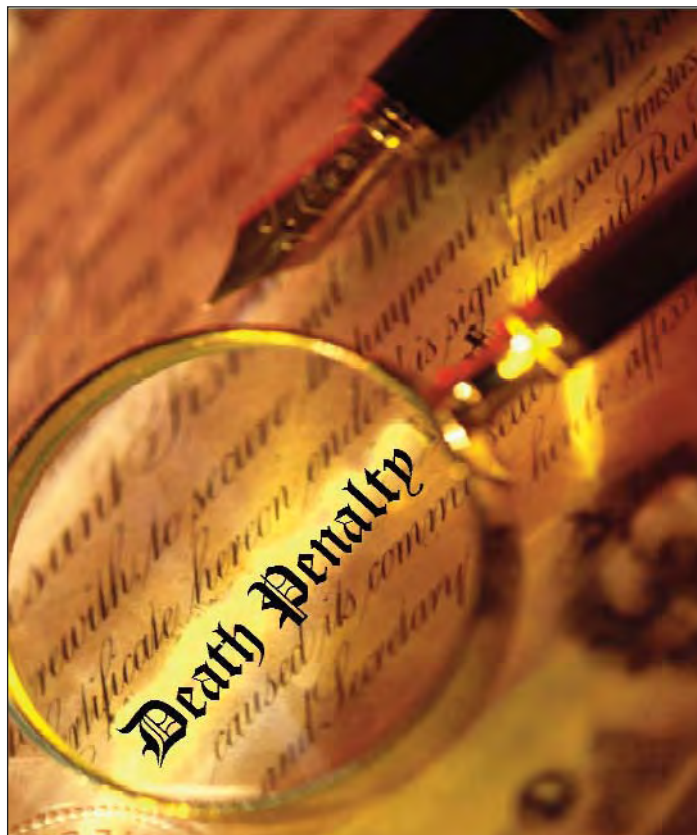
Now coming to chapter 15, ***“I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman. Every branch in Me that beareth fruit*** – correction – ***“every branch in Me that beareth not fruit He taketh away:”*** – the Father takes away as the vine dresser – ***“and every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.”***

In other words, God corrects and chastens, even punishes every Son whom He loves. God’s punishment is never revenge. God’s punishment is never making us pay the penalty of what we did. God’s punishment is always corrective. To correct us and to get us back on the track and to help us. God’s punishment is always given in love. Many people do not understand what Jesus meant when He said to pray for your enemies. ***“Pray for them that despitefully use you.”*** I pray for all such by praying that God will bless them by dealing with them in the way that He knows is for their good. Now sometimes that might be punishment to correct them, but it is never going to be with an intent to just harm or to make them pay the penalty themselves. You cannot pay the penalty of your own transgressions, well some things you can. It’s like on a blackboard or a greenboard such as they have in college classrooms. You make a mark with chalk and you

can erase it, but there are some mistakes you make you can't ever erase. If you should murder or kill a man, you can't bring him back to life. Some sins cannot be corrected. If you steal or take from a man you can give back and the Bible tells you how much to give back. But, overall, it is Christ who paid the penalty of our sins for us. If God corrects us then we won't need to sin again, but we won't need the shed blood for other sins. But if we sin we certainly will need it. But ***"He punishes every son He loves."***

Now He says, ***"You are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."*** If we are clean in this Church it is through the word of God. If I am your leader brethren and you are all my children directly or indirectly in the Lord, if there is any reason why God might have called and chosen me I can only think of one. It is because I have been willing to believe God.

Multiple thousands heard Jesus preach for 3½ years when He was on the earth. Only 120 were still believing Him after His crucifixion. It is a very, very rare thing to believe God. There are many churches, many religious organizations. They all follow a leader. Where did their leaders get what they preach and what they believe and what they teach? I know of none who got it directly from God. They all got it from other men, other people. They come up in a certain denomination. Many of them go to a seminary or a school of that denomination and they just absorb whatever the men of that denomination teach them. I was chal-



CHRIST PAID THE PENALTY OF OUR SINS

lenged. I began to study the Bible. I found it said just the opposite of what I had been taught. I had to begin to prove whether or not I could believe the Bible. I had to prove whether God exists – and I did prove that. And I have proved it to atheists and caused them to admit it. I proved that the Bible is the Word of God in its original writings. We have translations – there are a few errors or mistakes in the King James translation or any other one translation. We have many translations to compare. We have many, many copies of the original, thousands of copies. And it is possible to know exactly what is the truth. I found I did not agree with God. I agreed with what I had been taught in Sunday school and coming up in a Protestant denomination. And I found that if I was going to walk with Christ I was going to have to agree with him, and so I had to change what I believed and begin to believe what He says here. Jesus Christ in person taught the original apostles. Jesus is the Word of God in person. I read to you a while ago that He said only what the Father told Him to say. Everything He said is precisely what the Father says. He and the Father are of one mind and in total absolute agreement. The Bible is the same word in writing. The first apostles received their



CHRIST ERASED THE PENALTY OF OUR SINS

knowledge, their understanding of truth from the personal Word of God in person. He is not here in person now. He is in heaven as our High Priest and He is alive and He is the leader of this Church. He is the head of this Church, but He taught me through this Word. I found I was wrong. I was wrong about this and that and the other things again and again and again. And I had to be corrected and begin to believe what God said by Jesus Christ. That is what I have been trying now for the last 55 years or 54 years to teach you people and thousands of others like you. And it is the truth. And it is truth alone that makes sense, that explains humanity, explains the world and its conditions, explains why things are as they are, explains the evils and the problems and the troubles in the world, that the world cannot understand. And the world too often is not willing to understand. I didn't mean to preach a sermon tonight but I just felt I needed to make a comment or two as I go along on some of these things.

Well then Jesus said, ***"I am the***

vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me and I in him," he brings forth much fruit: but ***"without Me you can do nothing."*** Whatever has been done in this work in these last 54 years has not been done by me at all. It has been done by the living Jesus Christ. I have merely been an instrument that has been used. You may hear a beautiful violin number, but it isn't really the violin, it is the man who plays the violin that is giving you the music. The violin is his instrument. And I have only been an instrument.

If ye abide with Me. ***"If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glori-***

fied, that ye bear much fruit; so shall you be My disciples". ... "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. ... You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in My name, He may give it you. These things I command you, that you love one another. If the world hate you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. ... If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin."

Coming on to the 16th chapter just a few little ex-

cerpts here. ***"But now I go my way to Him that sent Me; and none of you asketh Me, whither goest thou? ... Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you."*** That is the Holy Spirit.



U.S. Air Force

WE MUST BE INSTRUMENTS IN GOD'S HANDS

Jesus Christ has been very busy for these 1950 years in heaven on His Father's throne as our High Priest guiding this Church for one thing in our lifetime. He has been guiding it. He built this college campus, the most beautiful in the United States or in the world. Another very beautiful one over in Big Sandy that will soon be restored and a third very beautiful one that is now owned by a public utilities company and their pride and joy in Bricketwood in England. They all are of the type that glorifies God. His kind of character, of stability, of beauty and of godly type of character.

Now I would like to come on to Jesus' final prayer, a little of it. ***"These words spoke Jesus, and lifted up***



CHRIST WAS BETRAYED FOR SILVER COINS

His eyes to heaven and said,” – this is in chapter 17 – *“Father, the hour is come; glorify Thy Son, that Thy Son may also glorify Thee. ... I have glorified Thee on the earth: I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do’.*” I would like to make a comment right there. He had finished the Work that God gave him to do. That is, gave Him to do in His person as a human while He was on Earth and that is what He meant on the cross when He said, *“It is finished”* just before His head dropped and He died. What was finished was the Work God gave Him to do. But He has had other Work to do and that is to guide us in the Work that we have to do and we are only instruments in His hands in doing it.

“I have glorified Thee” – He said to His Father – *“on the earth: I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Thou Me with Thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was. I have manifested Thy name unto the men which Thou gavest Me out of the world: thine they were, and Thou gavest them Me; and they have kept Thy word. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which Thou hast given Me; for they are Thine. ... And now I am no*

more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to Thee. Holy Father, keep through Thine own name those whom Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, as We are.” Kept in the name of our Father, God. That is why we are the Church of God, not the Church of Armstrong or of Luther of Calvin or of Wesley. That we may be one and united. *“While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Thy name”* – the name of the Church is very important – *“I kept in Thy name: those that Thou gavest Me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the Scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to Thee; and these things speak I in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ... Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word; That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: and that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me.”*

I think that will suffice of just some of the things that Jesus said to his disciples on that night before He was taken by an angry mob and taken from one court to another and tried by the jurors and by the courts of Caesar’s government until He was put to death and crucified. This Church has been persecuted. I have been persecuted ever since I gave myself over to Him and I expect to continue to be. I counted the cost. I knew what He said about persecution and it has happened and it will happen. I need your prayers and you do have mine, continually. And we all need to be much in prayer. So I will just give a prayer and then we’ll sing a hymn and go out.

PRAYER

Almighty God in heaven, I ask you to somehow impress the solemnity of this service and of the meaning of some of these things on all of us who are here. I ask you to carry these things in the mind in all of these lovable brethren as they leave and that we will start now to rid our lives of sin. Now we are coming on to seven days of unleavened bread of putting sin out of our lives as we shall now have put leaven out of our homes and out of our properties. Thank you almighty God for this service. Thank you that you gave it to us and for what it means. Bless all of these people as they leave. I ask it in Jesus’ name. AMEN.





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

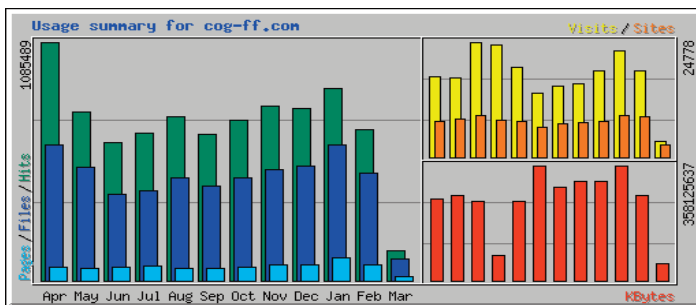
Which Day is the Christian Sabbath?
www.sabbathcentral.com

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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