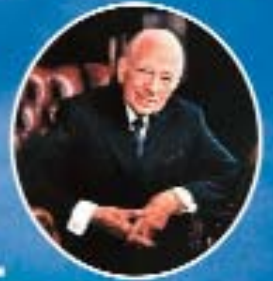


May/June 2008

The Philadelphia Remnant



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



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

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

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

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

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Building the Temple

By Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong
(February 1981)

I have a message for you that I could not have delivered some years ago. Sometimes we wonder about things; and we don't know just how to size up, or judge, certain things and how to know. Jesus told us one way we may know. He said **by the fruits** you may know. Until the fruits had proven certain things, and the fulfillment of certain Scriptures, *I could certainly never have had said some of the things I'm going to say to you here today. But the fruits now have made certain things very evident – very, very, plain indeed. But the time has come now that we need a new, clear, concise explanation.* An updated explanation: Just what is, and why is, the Worldwide Church of God? Why this particular Church? And why **the Work** that we call the Work of God? And what is the Work? I want to begin at the very beginning.



MR. HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

Jesus said, in Matthew 16:18: “***I will build my church, and the gates of hell*** [which should be translated “**the gates of the grave.**” That's what He meant. And the word “hell” there is *hades*, which simply means the grave. It doesn't mean the kind of hell that Dante thought it meant.] **shall not prevail against it.**”

Satan has done everything he could to destroy this Church. He tried to destroy it before it got started, by destroying the Christ child right after Jesus was born. He tried to kill the very Founder of the Church again, when Christ reached the age of 30, just before He began His mission. As a matter of fact, He had to **qualify** before He could begin to preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God; and Satan's attack is the very thing that qualified Jesus Christ. You'll read of that in Matthew 4, beginning with the first verse – the great temptation, when Jesus was tempted as no man on the face of this earth ever has been in all history.

The Church has been persecuted. This Church has been **persecuted** the last two years, since just a little over two years ago, *by the State of California*; but the gates of the grave have not prevailed against it. The Church has been drawn closer together. Satan, of course, will continue to try. I have been persecuted ever since I gave myself to God.

I visited Seattle a great many times. I used to be on the air there 8:30 every Sunday morning; and that was *the start of the Work* up here. That is *the start of this Church*. It started on radio in Eugene, Oregon. Jesus said that He would build His Church and that it could never be destroyed. Now, why did He build it? For what purpose? Why should there be a Church?

GOD: TWO PERSONS

And so now I want to begin at the beginning. I want to begin back **BEFORE** God had created anything – before God even started creating; and you read of it not in Genesis 1:1. That's not even the first event in time sequence begins. But, if you want to know the *first historic record* in the Bible, **in time sequence** it is, John 1:1: “***In the beginning was the Word ...***” Now, there is a person who is called **the Word**. The Greek word that is translated into the English word “**Word**” means “**Spokesman**.” It means Revelatory Thought. There was a person called the Word, who was the Spokesman: John 1:1: “***... and the Word was with God.***” Now God is another person. There are two persons. And the Word is a person who was with another person, who is God: John 1:1: “***... and the Word was God.***” The Word also is God. So They were both God, and there are two persons there. John 1:2-3: “***The same was in the beginning***

with God. All things were made by Him [by the Word. All things were made by the Word.]; and without Him was not any thing made that was made."

Now we find if you turn over to verse 14: ***"The Word was made flesh*** [In other words, became a human being; was born as a human being. Why? I'm going to read you that a little later, why He was born as a human being.], ***and [He] dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."*** Now there we find that God started out with Two – not three persons, not a Trinity. When you go back to Genesis you read: Genesis 1:1: ***"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."***

But there the word for God is ***"Elohim,"*** which is a uniplural meaning more than one person. Church is a uniplural word. It takes more than one person to make a Church. Family is a uniplural word. It means more than one person.

HOW GOD CREATES

In Ephesians 3:9: ***"[God] created all things by Jesus Christ."*** Jesus Christ is the Word. Jesus, when He was on earth said, ***"I haven't spoken anything except what the Father told Me to speak."*** Everything He did is what God the Father told Him to do. God created all things; but Jesus, the Word, is the one He used to do it.

God created everything. Jesus Christ is the Workman that He used to do the work. Well, what was the work of Jesus? He is the Word. He spoke. So there is a Psalm that says: Psalm 33:9: ***"He spake, and it was done."*** Jesus just speaks. Now there is a **POWER**. That's not a third person; but it's a power that emanates from God the Father, and it emanates also from Jesus Christ – ***the power of the Holy Spirit***. Jesus is the Word. He does what the Father tells Him. The Father says, "Do this." He speaks. The Holy



MR. ARMSTRONG MET WORLD LEADERS, PUBLISHED AND PROCLAIMED THE GOSPEL

Spirit is the power that does it. That's the way God has created all things.

CREATING GODLY CHARACTER

Now, let's go the next step. What was God's purpose as the Creator? Well, what does He create and why? ***God is the Creator of spiritual, righteous, holy character.*** Now, get that. A lot of people don't know that. ***God is the Creator of holy, righteous, spiritual character. God is the perfect, holy, righteous, spiritual character Himself.***

Now, through human beings, ***He's reproducing Himself***; but His first creation was not man. He was not creating Himself through angels, but His first creation was angels. Everything that God does, or nearly ... I won't say everything, but pretty much the way God works is in **a plan of duality** – a first and a last. For example: There's the first Adam, about 6,000 years ago. About 2,000 years ago the second Adam, Jesus Christ, came. There was the Old Covenant made at Mount Sinai. Christ is going to make the New Covenant, and came to announce it 1900 years ago. You're going to see a lot about **dualities** as I go through this sermon now. All right, the first thing that God created was angels, and there was **duality** even there. They had to have their part in receiving that character, and having that character created in them. They had to make a decision.

Now God put either all of the angels or a third of them on the earth. The Bible doesn't say which. But one-third of them went wrong. If He put them all on the earth, two-thirds stayed right and one-third went wrong; but I believe He only put a third on the earth. Anyway, the other two-thirds are holy, righteous angels. But the angels He put on the earth we find (in the 14th chapter of Isaiah, the 28th chapter of Ezekiel) that they were led by one put on a throne on the earth. Now we come back to Genesis for it says: Genesis 1:1: “**God** [Elohim] **created the heavens and the earth.**”

Now let's stop right there, because a lot of other things go in before you get to verse two. He put angels on this earth before He put man on this earth. But He put one angel, a super archangel, of a higher status; higher in the way he was created than the other angels. He was a cherub. His name was Lucifer, meaning shining star of the dawn, or a bringer of light – light and truth, and everything good. He was set on a throne of this earth, and it was a throne over the whole earth. And, incidentally, he is still on that throne right now. And he's there trying to get to you and to me, and to destroy us if he can, because now he has become Satan.



THE LAW OF GRAVITY

He was there to *administer* the government of God. Now, every government is based on a constitution or a basic law. And the government that God put on this earth and He set Lucifer here to administer, it was based on the law of God. That law is **love: Outflowing love**, away from yourself – not incoming lust, or coveting, or desire, or selfishness.

Now there are the *two basic ways of life*, and the law of God is the spiritual law. It is inexorable, as the law of gravity. I raise something; I let loose of it; and something drew it down. I didn't push it down. The law of gravity is there, and it works. The law of God has a penalty. If you break it, it'll break you. Well, this Lucifer decided he didn't like just ruling over this one little earth down here, where God had the whole universe. **He became a rebel**. He decided that

"give" was not the best way, that "get" is the best way. God gave you yourself. That's a human body and a human mind to protect and to take care of and to use. By loving it, you take care of it.

ANGELS THAT SINNED

Well, now then we turn to II Peter 2:4: “***For if God spared not the angels that sinned ...***” They did not keep the law of ***outflowing love***. They violated it by Satan's way of incoming coveting and lust. They started a different way of life.

God's law is a way of life! It's a way of life that will bring us all peace and happiness, if we would only live that way.

II Peter 2:4: “***If God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to [tartaroo] ...***” The "hell" here is "tartaroo" and it's the only place in the Bible that it's used in the Greek language, and it just applied to angels only. It's a place of holding angels until their judgment. II Peter 2:4-6: “***... and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment:***” [Then it goes on, he...] “***spared not the old world, but saved Noah***”, [in the time of the Flood. And then, after the next verse.] “***turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them***” [for their sins].

In other words, it shows that God *punishes sin*. Well, this Lucifer who sat on the throne, you read of him in Isaiah 14 from verse 11 or 12 to verse 18, and also in Ezekiel 28 you will find him described; and he started just the opposite way. He refused to enforce or to administer the law or the government of God. So the government of God was taken away as a result of that; the sin was physical to the earth.

Now, they were spiritual beings; and they were on a physical earth. When they disobeyed God, they had ***not*** built the **character** that God had put them here to build. And so *Lucifer became Satan*, and he is now *Satan the Devil*; and all of his angels became *demons*. They are immortal. They live forever. They always will. They are the most unhappy creatures in all of the wide, wide universe that God has created. Now then, you go back to Genesis 1:2: “***And the earth was***

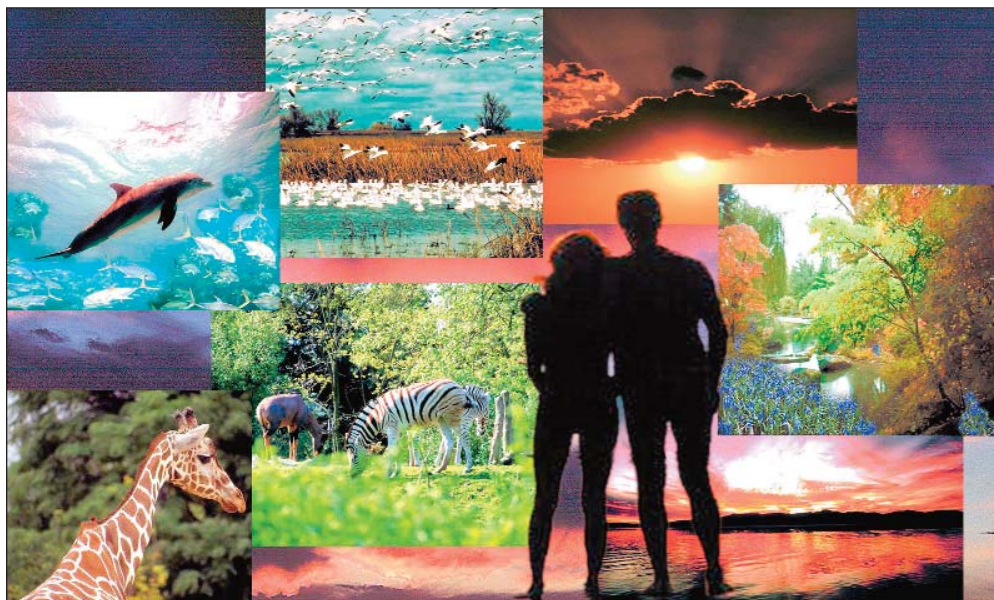
without form, and void." "Without form, and void." The Hebrew words are "tohu" and "bohu." And it means it was all desolate, and waste, and empty; and had become, well, decayed – in a state of decay, because of the sin of the angels. And light had been turned to darkness. Then Christ, the Word, begins to speak: Genesis 1:3: "*And [He] said, 'Let there be light.'*" He spake, and it was done; and the light came. In six days, He renewed the face of the earth. That is not the original creation, as nearly everyone thinks. That was only a renewing of the earth after the angels had sinned.

Now, the government of God was the big thing. It was given to develop that kind of spiritual character. But the angels didn't do it. At least those angels didn't. Apparently two-thirds of the angels did, but they probably weren't even on the earth at that time. The Bible doesn't say whether they were or not.

Going back to Genesis the first chapter again, it was the uniplural God who created the heavens. It should be plural and not one heaven, but "*heavens and the earth*" and every other translation has it "*heavens.*" Genesis 1:2: "*The earth was [tohu and bohu, or decayed condition]; and darkness was upon the face of the deep [or the ocean face]. And the spirit of God moved upon ... the waters.*" Psalm 104:30: "*Thou sendest forth thy spirit ... thou renewest the face of the earth.*" All right, here's the Spirit He sends forth; and here is the Word speaking: Genesis 1:3: "*And God said [The Word said], 'Let there be light: and there was light.'*" And light came. The Holy Spirit caused it to come. But it was Christ, before He was ever born as Christ. He was then the Word. And He said: Genesis 1:3: "*Let there be light: and there was light.*"

GOD'S PURPOSE THROUGH MAN

In six days, He renewed the face of the earth **for man**. Why was God going to create man? He had created angels. He had set His government over them. His government was gone. Now, God's purpose through man is to recreate Him-



GOD CREATED ALL THINGS BY JESUS CHRIST

self, to **REPRODUCE HIMSELF!** That is the most wonderful, the most great, thing that even God can possibly imagine and undertake to do.

Now then, in Genesis, He recreated the earth. And He created then the vegetation, and then the sea life, and then the animal life, and the bird life. Genesis 1:25-26: "*God made the beast of the earth after its kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after its kind* [Cows after the cow kind, dogs after the dog kind, elephants after the elephant kind; and so it goes.] *God said, 'Let US make man in OUR image, after OUR likeness.'*"

In other words, "*Let's make man after the God kind.*" And it didn't say, "Let me." It's more than one person because the word for "**God**" there is **Elohim**; and **Elohim** is a uniplural, meaning more than one person. That **Elohim** (more than one person) said, "**Let us make man after OUR kind, in OUR likeness.**" Man was formed and shaped like God. Genesis 2:7: "*And the [ETERNAL] God ...*"

Now the word "**LORD God**" comes in, and the word **LORD** is translated from the Hebrew word **Yahweh**; and that means Christ, or the One that was the Word. Wherever you see **LORD** in the Old Testament in capital letters, it nearly always refers to the One who was later born as Christ – or who was the Word that was with God from eternity. There never was a time when They did not exist. Now, the Eternal God or the LORD God "... *formed man* [Out of what? What did He form man out of? Out...] *of the dust of*

Continued on Page 28

Personal from the Editor

By Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley

Sunday, June 8, 2008, is the *Feast of Firstfruits* in God's Master Plan. It also is named Pentecost – meaning, *Count Fifty!* Brethren, once again God's true people will be graciously blessed by our ever-living God to have the opportunity to observe this wonderful and most meaningful Festival.

And further, the added blessing to observe it on the correct Day and Month by the use of His Sacred Calendar.

Through its observance, we *refresh our memory* of who we are and our destiny. And in the closing time of this age, we should be greatly encouraged and strengthened by it for we are now very close to its realization.

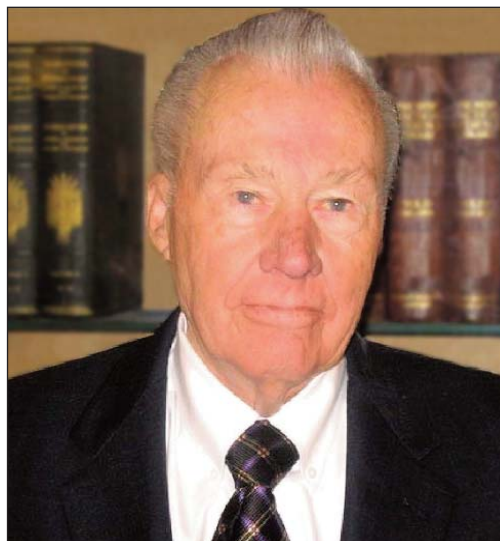
It is incredible to really think in depth what this most wonderful Day pictures! It is a soon coming time when the *rich harvest* of the called and selected people of God of this age will take place! And then to try and visualize our instantaneous change into *the very image and complete likeness of God* at the soon coming of Jesus Christ is *brehtaking!*

Please think deeply about the Scriptures that pertain to this Day and be sobered to realize how wonderfully blessed we are to be among the true people of God who will number at least 144,000 people (Revelation 14:1, 4). Men and women who have been called and selected from among the masses of humanity almost 6,000 years ago!

THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH OF GOD

Though the prophets of God were *graced* with *God's Holy Spirit*, there were very few in number compared to the larger number who received this awesome blessing on the *Day of Pentecost* in 31 A.D. This was the beginning of the establishment of the New Testament Church (Matthew 16:18).

Upon observing the utter astonishment and perplexity of the assembly of people before him on that eventful Day, after having witnessed the *miracle* of the *tornado-like wind*, and the individual *flames of fire* settling down on each of the 120 disciples, the apostle Peter by way of explanation quoted from the writing of the prophet Joel:



Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will **POUR OUT** of My **Spirit** on ALL flesh ... And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will **POUR OUT MY**

SPiRiT in those days. The sun shall be **TURNEd** into darkness, and the moon into *blood*, **BEFORE** the coming of the great and notable day of the LORD. And it shall come to pass that *whoever* calls on the NAME of the LORD shall be saved ... For the **PROMISE** is to you and to your children, and to all **WHO ARE AFAR OFF**, as **MANY** as the LORD will call” (Acts 2:17-18, 20-21, 39; Joel 2:28-29; John 6:44, 65).

Mr. HWA: “This was only fulfilled in part at that time.” It has been ongoing ever since that time to where we are today; and it will selectively continue *in a measured number until* the return of Jesus Christ back to this earth (Revelation 7:4). It will be at that time that Christ will bring about the beginning of what will become the Wonderful World Tomorrow. The calling and selection will then begin to be greatly increased to include *ALL* the peoples of the tribes of Israel.

GOD'S TRUE FLOCK

What effect does the receiving of God's Holy Spirit have on a person after having received it? Mr. Armstrong wrote: “The receiving of the Holy Spirit makes one a different person than what one was before in life. It gives one a different spirit – attitude – a different outlook and approach to life.” And further, it is *a new lease on life* that offers with it the goal of eternal life in the Family of God. And the vital importance of having received God's Holy Spirit by those

DRAWN by our Father can be understood by what Jesus said to His disciples:

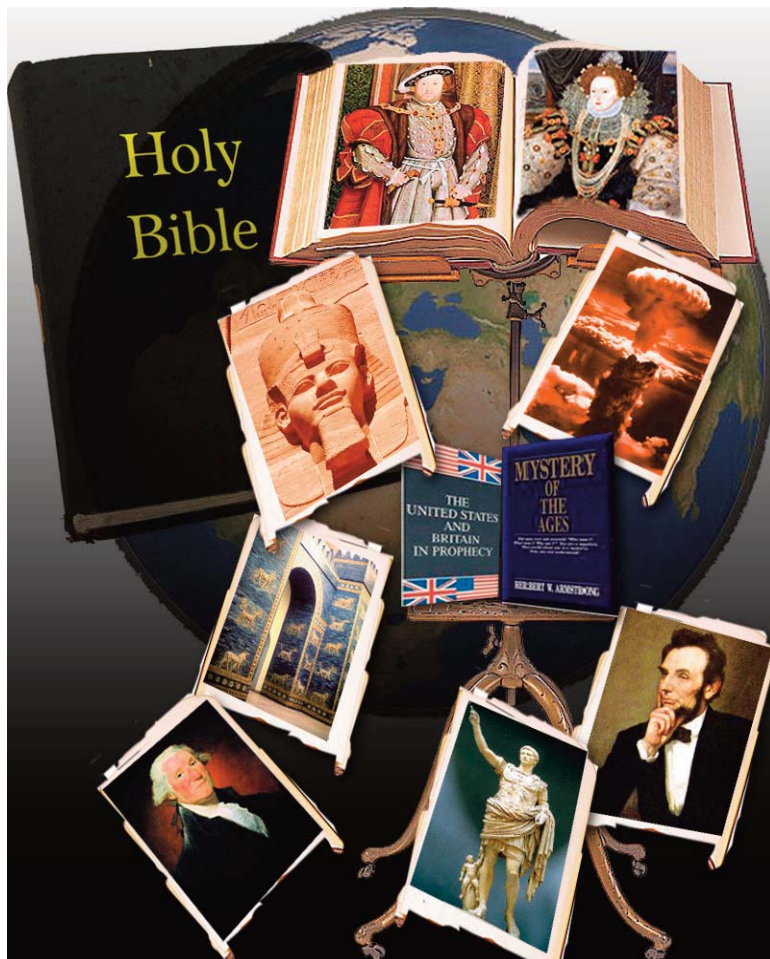
“To him the doorkeeper (Christ) OPENS, and the sheep HEAR His voice; and He calls His own sheep BY NAME and LEADS them out. And when He brings out His own sheep, He goes before them; and the sheep FOLLOW Him, for they KNOW His voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will FLEE from him, for they do NOT know the voice of strangers. My sheep HEAR My voice, and I KNOW them, and they FOLLOW Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall NEVER perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has GIVEN them to Me, is greater than all; and NO ONE is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand. I and My Father are one” (John 10:3-5, 27-30).

THE FIRSTFRUITS OF GOD AND CHRIST

“These are the ones who were NOT defiled with women, for they are VIRGINS (having separated themselves from the false corporate Churches of God). These are the ONES who follow the LAMB wherever He goes. These were (had been – verse 1) REDEEMED from among men, being FIRSTFRUITS to God and to the Lamb” (Revelation 14:4; Romans 11:7-8).

THE ABSENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In contrast, Jesus Christ spoke of those who are members of the Synagogue of Satan the devil (Revelation 3:9). Meaning both individuals within the true Church of God, and also the corporate Churches who claim they are God’s people. They even have the name of God within their corporate

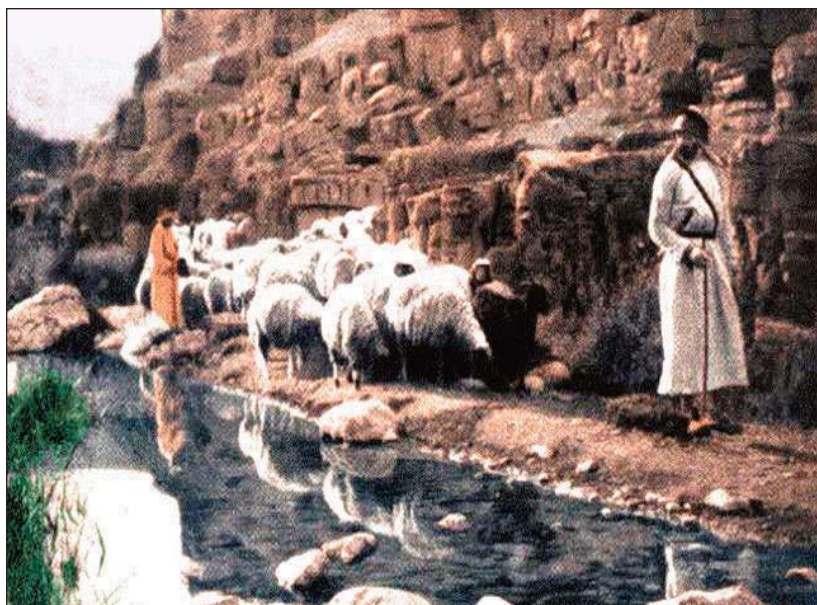


THE PAGES OF HISTORY

name – representing themselves to be God’s Churches, but in reality, have never been converted, or are ministers and members who have gone by the wayside (Matthew 13:18-22).

To come to recognize who they are often requires time, but eventually they come to be known by what they really believe and teach (Matthew 7:15-20). *Sooner or later the carnal attitude manifests its **BAD FRUITS** by their refusal to accept the authority of the Scriptures, and what they say. They will*

reason, argue, twist the Scriptures and then say they do not mean what they say, yet Jesus Christ said, “**We are to live by every word of God** (Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4; II Timothy 3:16-17; 4:3-4; Revelation 22:18-19).



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SHEEP FOLLOW A SHEPHERD

RESURRECTION, CHANGE OF THE FIRSTFRUITS

This wonderful earnest or down-payment of the Holy Spirit from God our Father continuing to abide in all of His true people (Ephesians 1:13-14), will make possible *the opening and casting out of the graves the*



GOD'S LAW, MOUNT ZION

sleeping saints who will awaken in the first resurrection (Isaiah 26:19). Almost immediately afterward, there also will be an *instantaneous change* of the *living saints* at the coming of Jesus Christ (I Thessalonians 4:13-18). The change from mortal to **SPIRIT LIFE** will be made possible by God's **Holy Spirit abiding** within each one:

“But IF the Spirit of Him who RAISED Jesus from (among) the dead DWELLS in you, He who raised Christ from (among) the dead WILL ALSO GIVE LIFE to your mortal bodies THROUGH HIS SPIRIT who DWELLS in you” (Romans 8:11).

The angels of God will be with each one at that momentous time. They will rise with the saints to meet Jesus Christ in this earth's atmosphere and direct each of us into our pre-assigned places (Matthew 24:31; I Corinthians 14:33). Then Jesus Christ with His new wife will descend and set foot on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem in that very same day (Zechariah 14:4).

As the devoted and dutiful Bride of Jesus Christ, we will then have the added blessing of aiding Him in the establishment of His Government and rule on this earth (Genesis 2:18). Our responsibilities will begin with delivering *the peoples of Israel* from slavery.

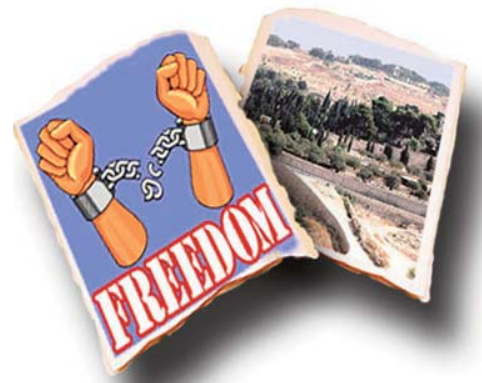
We will then begin teaching them God's wonderful truth and way of life with the objective of them also being changed into the complete likeness of God and Jesus Christ after some years of mortal life (Ezekiel 37:15-28; Jeremiah 31:1-14).

GOSPEL TO GO FORTH FROM JERUSALEM

Jesus Christ will establish His throne on Mount Zion in Jerusalem. It is from there His law and teachings will go forth into all of the earth: **“Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain (Kingdom) of the LORD'S house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will TEACH us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’”** For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word (teaching) of the LORD from Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:2-3; Micah 4:1-2).

“... I will POUR OUT My Spirit on All Flesh ...”

In view of key Scriptures found here and there, the prophecy of Joel that the apostle Peter made reference to can be understood from its beginning on that Day of Pentecost to its final fulfillment: **“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will POUR OUT of My Spirit on ALL flesh ... And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the NAME of the LORD shall be saved”** (Acts 2:17, 21; Joel 2:28-29, 32).



MOUNT OF OLIVES, FREEDOM

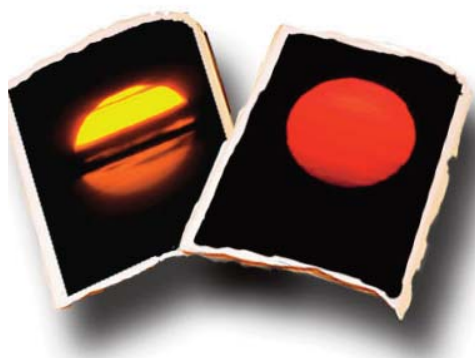
With these and other key Scriptures in mind, we can *piece-meal* them together to form a better picture of the time-frame for the graduated scale of the *pouring out of God's Spirit* from the **Day of Pentecost** in 31 A.D. toward its final fulfillment in the **Great White Throne Judgment period of time**.

THE MILLENNIUM

The Nations of Israel: The calling and selection of people to be added to God's growing Church *inside* the millennium will be greatly enlarged from the selected few this side of it to include all of the Tribes of Israel with the

promised blessing of receiving God's Holy Spirit (John 6:44, 65). For the teaching of the knowledge of God will begin to reach out into the earth to all of the peoples of Israel by Christ and aided by His Bride.

“And it shall come to pass (after Christ returns – end of 6,000 years, and the beginning of the millennium) that



SUN DARKENED, MOON RED

WHOEVER calls on the Name of the LORD shall be saved (veil of darkness removed, Isaiah 11:9-11; 25:7; Revelation 20:3). ... For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there

shall be deliverance as the LORD has said, among the remnant [the survivors of liberated Israel] whom the LORD calls” (Acts 2:21; Joel 2:28, 32; Romans 11:7-8).

“... That whoever calls on the Name of the LORD shall be saved ...” Though the calling is greatly enlarged *inside* the millennium it is still selective for it will be limited to the Tribes of Israel – *not* the Gentile nations.

And for the most part the peoples of Israel will be very receptive to the teachings of Jesus Christ; and they will become very repentant and will then receive God's Holy Spirit.

THE PRINCIPLE OF DUALITY

The principle of duality can be understood at work here by Jesus Christ bringing the **MESSAGE of salvation (GOSPEL)** to the Jewish people **FIRST** (Romans 1:16; 2:9-10). It was sometime later on that Jesus Christ revealed to the apostle Peter in VISION that the GOSPEL was then to go to the Gentiles (Acts 10; 11:1-18).

The Gentile Nations: The veil of spiritual darkness for the most part will *not* be removed from the Gentile nations *until* after a few decades inside the Millennium. In the interim time of perhaps one hundred years or so they will make war against peaceful Israel. It will require quite a few years for the prosperity of Israel to have reached the level

that would cause the Gentile nations to lust so much as to make war to plunder and take the riches of booty from them (Ezekiel 38:1-23).

They do not see and recognize the dread Divinity, the might and power, of the Eternal Christ even after He has returned. Jesus Christ has to teach them **in a very corrective manner** that He, and only He, is the Eternal God (Ezekiel 38:23). Enough years have gone by they will have forgotten what they should have learned and remembered from the **Battle of Armageddon** when Christ first returned to this earth (Zechariah 14:12-15).

For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea (Isaiah 11:9; 25:7). The knowledge of the law and teachings of Jesus Christ will then have filled the whole earth (Isaiah 2:2-4; Micah 4:1-8). Both Israel and the Gentile nations as a whole will then have become submissive and will actually want to be taught and receive **God's Holy Spirit**.

The Great White Throne Judgment: The implication from Scripture is that in this **GREAT RESURRECTION**, perhaps 50 billions of people, or more, from the creation of Adam and Eve will then have their physical



WARFARE, MEGIDDO RUINS

lives *restored* to them (Isaiah 65:20; Ezekiel 16:5; 37:1-14; Matthew 10:15; 11:22; 12:41-42; John 5:28; Revelation 20:11-12).

By this time many millions of peoples will have been added to ***God's growing Family as Spirit Beings*** from this age and during the millennium, and will be used together with Christ and His wife to be teaching the laws of God and His teachings to these many billions of people.

BILLIONS ADDED TO GOD'S FAMILY

Though the Holy Bible does *not* explicitly say, there are

Scriptures that indicate that most of mankind from both the Tribes of Israel and Gentile nations will be receptive, repent, *cut to the heart*, and will receive

God's Holy Spirit:
"And so ALL Israel will be saved (meaning the majority) ..." (Romans 11:26).

Regarding the Gentile nations, the prophet Jeremiah wrote: **"O LORD ... The Gentiles shall come to You from**

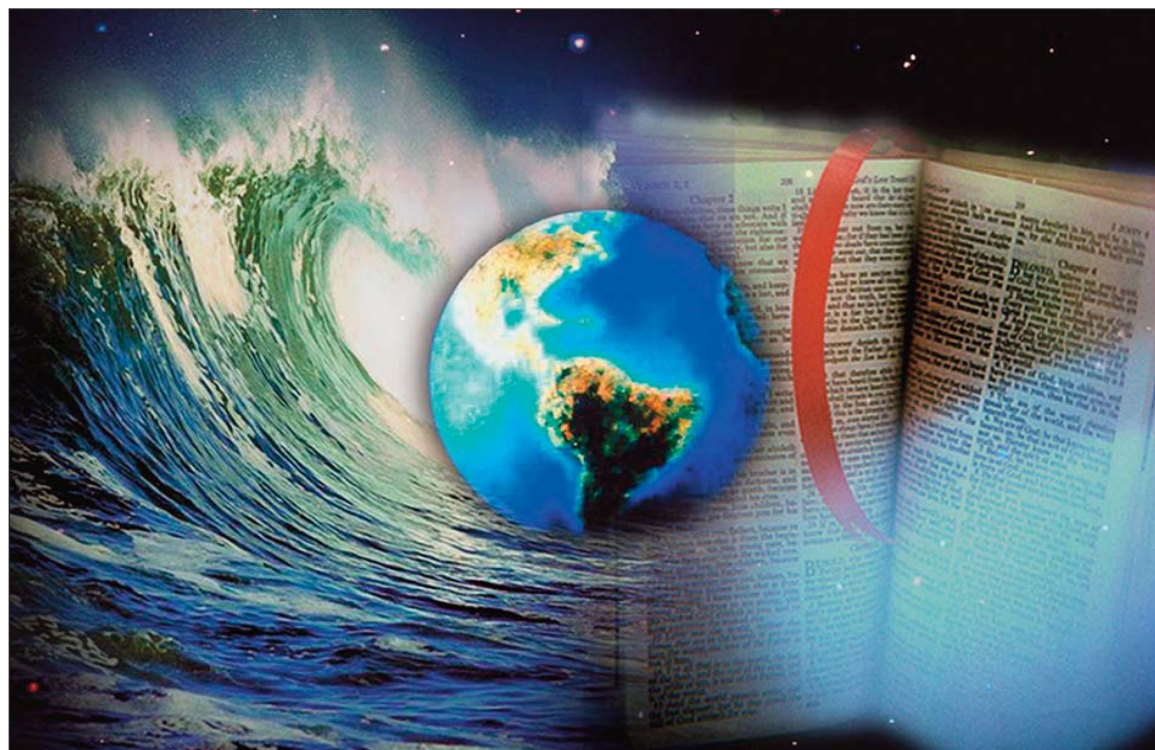
the ends of the earth and say, 'Surely our fathers have inherited lies ...'" (Jeremiah 16:19-21).

It will be at this time that the prophecy in Joel will be completely fulfilled: **"... I will POUR OUT My Spirit on All Flesh ..."** The chosen **Firstfruits** by God in this age will have a direct individual part after Christ returns to the earth in *sharing* the continued awesome and wonderful blessing we have been given in this age with all of the future generations during the millennium and on into the

Great White Throne Judgment – in fulfillment of the **Holy Spirit** being given to all **"WHO ARE AFAR OFF"** (Acts 2:39). It is in this *progressive manner* that God inspired His prophet Joel to speak of all His people who have been so wonderfully blessed



THE WAVESHEAF OFFERING



GOD'S KNOWLEDGE WILL FILL THE EARTH

with the desire and involvement of seeing that **FIRST LOVE** enter into the lives of billions of people as made possible by **God's Holy Spirit** (Romans 5:5).

God speaks in a wonderful way of all of His people through *the pages of ongoing history* who have given themselves to SERVE Him and His people: **"How beautiful upon the mountains (nations) are the feet of him who brings GOOD NEWS, who proclaims peace, who brings GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS, who PROCLAIMS salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'"** (Isaiah 52:7; Romans 10:15).

To those gathered before him in the Temple in Jerusalem on that Day of Pentecost, the apostle Peter said: **"For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all WHO ARE AFAR OFF** (*this age, millennium, and the Great White Throne Judgment*), **as many as the LORD our God will call"** (Acts 2:39).

And that calling will have reached into the lives of all of mankind that is revealed by **God's Master Plan of Salvation**, as *pictured* by the **Holy Days**, in complete fulfillment (John 3:16-17). The **Feast of Firstfruits, or Pentecost**, truly has wonderful far-reaching meaning **"... being FIRSTFRUITS to God and to the Lamb"** (Revelation 14:4).



Pentecost and the Power of God!

‘But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you ...’ (Acts 1:8)

By Gary Liebold

There are literally thousands of people in various corporate Church of God groups who will be assembling together on the Day of Pentecost this year.

The real question is: Just how many will *truly* remember or understand with *real depth* what this Holy Day means?

God’s TRUE people must NEVER lose sight of what God has established.

Pentecost, the *third step* in God’s Master Plan, follows after the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread. We see biblically documented that, **“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.**

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:1-4).

In *Mystery of the Ages*, page 275 (original hardbound edition), Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong wrote:

“Finally, we come to a brief history of the Church from its foundation in A.D. 31 to the present. The Church started on the day of Firstfruits called Pentecost, in June of A.D. 31. The Holy Spirit came from heaven upon the 120 disciples assembled in Jerusalem with a miraculous display such as has never before nor since occurred. The 120 were all of **‘one accord.’**”

On this very day, the Church of God began with 120 disciples gathered in **“ONE ACCORD.”** They were assembled together in **one place**, being *unified*. In Jesus’ final prayer just prior to His crucifixion, we can see the oneness of mind that God’s TRUE people must have. **“Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are”** (John 17:11). What does God’s Holy Spirit mean to us individu-

ally and collectively as a Church, and why has God chosen to give it to us?

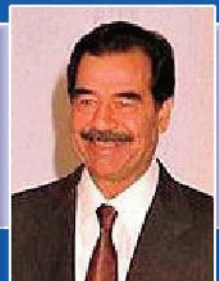
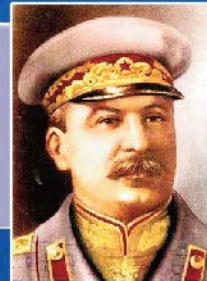
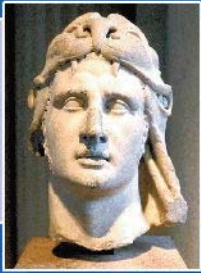
A STATUTE FOREVER

“And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts. Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath ... And you shall proclaim on the same day that it is a holy convocation to you. You shall do no customary work on it. It shall be a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations”’ (Leviticus 23:1-2, 16, 21).

God commanded His people to observe these High Holy Days each and every year, and to never lose sight of what **HE established**. God’s TRUE people will be “tuned in” to the Holy Spirit of God as His Holy Spirit is very much a part of understanding this day! As Christ says to each Church era in the book of Revelation, **“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches ...”** (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22) The Day of Pentecost is not just for “Old Testament times” (Acts 2:1, 20:16; I Corinthians 16:8). The **“Comforter”** (God’s Holy Spirit) was promised to God’s people in John 14:26 and John 15:26: **“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father ...”** (KJV). This is the same Holy Spirit spoken of in Acts 1:8 – a SPIRIT OF POWER! **“But you shall receive power, when the Holy Spirit has come upon you ...”**

MAN’S HISTORY AND A WRONG ‘POWER’

All throughout the ages, men have sought power, but mostly on a purely physical plane. Many individuals, famous (often infamous) and ambitious, have desired to rise to the high echelons of fame and power by any means necessary, and can easily be remembered through the many pages of history (both Biblical and secular). Men from ancient Biblical times, such as Nimrod, Ahab and Nebuchadnezzar; men of later times, such as Julius Caesar, Alexander the Great and Napoleon; and even men from more modern times, such as Hitler, Stalin or Saddam Hussein, along with



Selfish, egotistical dictators have abused power for thousands of years, causing millions of people to suffer throughout the world. From left to right are Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Napoleon Bonaparte, Adolph Hitler, Joseph Stalin and Saddam Hussein.

countless others, displayed a burning LUST for a *wrong power mentality*. They each had a selfish desire for individual “**control**” over men.

Historically, we can find much written about men who would view themselves as “great” in *their own eyes*. Biblically, Simon the Sorcerer deceived people of his day into believing his display of “power” was from God (Acts 8:9-11).

Once Simon saw the real POWER of God demonstrated through God’s apostles, he sought to **buy** that “power” and subsequently was rebuffed by the apostle Peter (verses 18-23). In more secular history, Napoleon, for example, was described as one of the *most brilliant* of world leaders. He was considered to be a “masterful soldier” and a “superb administrator.” But, on the flip side, he was *utterly ruthless* in his quest for power!

In the book, *HITLER 1936-1945 NEMISIS*, by Ian Kershaw, (page ‘xli’), we read:

“For most dictators, the acquisition of unrivaled power over the state would have been enough. For Hitler, this was no end in itself. In his thinking, power served a twin ideological purpose: Destroying the Jews ... and, through their destruction, acquiring mastery over the entire continent of Europe – a platform for subsequent world dominance.”



MILITARY GENERALS HAVE USED THEIR POWER FOR BOTH GOOD AND EVIL

Hitler is one of the most diabolical and infamous examples of an individual lusting after wrong (**satanic**) “power”! (Shown in part in Daniel 7:7, Revelation 13:1-2.)

When Jesus Christ brought Saul (who became the apostle Paul) to conversion, he revealed to Paul the *two types of power*.

“But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of



MAN'S PHYSICAL STRENGTH IS LIMITED

Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me" (Acts 26:16-18).

THE POWER OF GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT

God, in His mercy, has promised to give us real, *lasting* 'POWER.' A power that's so unlike the world's knowledge or view of it! God's Holy Spirit produces a power the world can neither grasp nor understand, a miraculous power overflowing with ability, abundance, might, deep meaning and strength! **"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit"** (Romans 15:13). *This is the power our Spiritual Head, Jesus the Christ, promised His people!*

Again, reading from *Mystery of the Ages*, page 275:

"The Holy Spirit came from heaven upon the 120 disciples assembled in Jerusalem with a miraculous display such as never before nor since occurred. ... Have you ever been in a tornado or a hurricane? I have. Wind can make a very loud sound. This sound filled 'all the house where they were sitting.' Next 'there appeared unto them *cloven tongues like as of fire*, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy [Spirit], and began to speak with other tongues [languages] ..."

Most of humanity cannot even begin to comprehend, for they are *unknowingly blind* and have not yet been given access to His Spirit (II Corinthians 4:4, Revelation 12:9). God

the Father has chosen to call only a small few at this time as "firstfruits" (John 6:44, 65; Ephesians 1:11; Revelation 14:4). Acts 2:38 shows us the *formula* available to those whom He calls, a process in which we can be given access to the Holy Spirit. God's Holy Spirit is a miraculous power and strength that emanates **directly** from God. Man's *physical weakness* is no *hindrance* to God, nor is man's *strength* an *aid* to Him. He works out His purposes by and through His Holy Spirit.

God's end-time apostle and Elijah, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, succeeded spiritually in the Philadelphia era of God's Church **ONLY** through the power of God's Holy Spirit

(Malachi 4:5-6, Matthew 17:11, Revelation 3:7-8). That which was accomplished during his life was not his own doing, any more than it was for the apostles of A.D. 31.

EVIDENCE OF GOD'S SPIRIT WITHIN US

To have the power of God, one must be connected to the source of that power through daily prayer and Bible study, as well as fasting and spiritual meditation. In this way, we are "plugged in," so to speak, to that power. But how can we *know* we have the Holy Spirit working in us? Where is the evidence in our individual lives of the power of the Holy Spirit?

In Christ's parable of the sower, located in Mark 4:20, we read, **"But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."**



GOD'S SPIRIT LIKENED TO STRONG WIND

Notice that those who hear the word and receive it bring forth FRUIT!

In Luke 19:12-19, we can read of key evidence of the Holy Spirit in the parable of the pounds. The first servant had gained 10 pounds while the second had gained five pounds. These individuals used the Spirit and POWER of God in their lives to produce spiritual FRUIT! God's spirit will be producing the right fruit in our lives! **"But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law"** (Galatians 5:22-23). This verse gives us a crystal clear accounting of the results of true conversion and of God's Holy Spirit within us.

We also read in II Timothy 1:6-7 about the fruit, or evidence, of the power of the Holy Spirit. **"Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my**

hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." God's Spirit produces *a sound mind*, a mind like that of Jesus Christ, producing visible fruit in our lives!

OUR DUTY TODAY

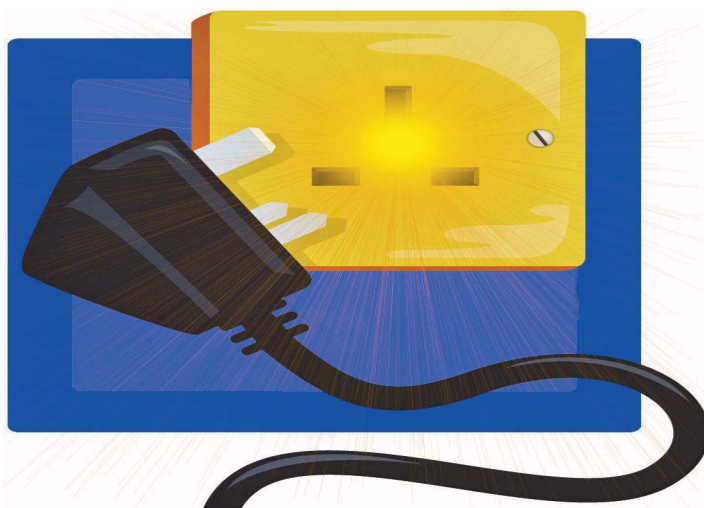
We, as members of God's TRUE Church, were given the responsibility of holding up the end-time Elijah's hands, spiritually, during his (Mr. Armstrong's) life, while he set forth to accomplish the work of God; much in the same way that Moses' hands were held up.

In Exodus 17:11-12 we read, **"And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands became heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun."**

We, too, spiritually held up Mr. Armstrong's hands when he was alive, as he used the power of God's Holy Spirit. We still hold up his "hands" today! This is our duty as we strive to finish God's Work in this end time, through this magazine, and through the many web sites tied to our main web site (www.cog-ff.com)! (Please see a more complete listing of web sites available on the back cover of this issue.)

This little flock is producing FRUIT through the POWER of God's Holy Spirit. The Church of God-Faithful Flock still follows the government structure God established through His end-time apostle. As God's people, we don't

"re-invent the wheel" by *re-writing* what God inspired Mr. Armstrong to write. The pastor of this Church (COG-FF) will **NEVER** take on the title of "That Prophet," for **that title belongs to Jesus Christ alone!** (Please see the article "That Prophet" in the July/August 2007 issue of the Philadelphia Remnant.) Mr. Billingsley is not an "apostle," as others *in a confused state of mind* may falsely claim themselves to be. **God's only end-time apostle was Mr. Herbert W.**



PLUG INTO THE POWER OF GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT

Armstrong! We will continue to hold up his hands through that power – God's Holy Spirit – and not our own!

We must use that power to do the WORK God has given us to do through the leadership of Christ. As we can see in Zechariah 4:6, we will not achieve anything by might or by physical power, but by the Spirit of God. God has promised to give us real POWER, a power the world doesn't (as yet) understand!

Again, in Acts 1:8 we read, **"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you"**

Through the power of God's Holy Spirit, we will be growing on a personal level and following Jesus Christ in the Work of God. We can be thankful for the POWER OF HIS SPIRIT and the Work we've been given to do. It is the *true way* set before us as God's people – *achieved* ONLY through the POWER OF HIS HOLY SPIRIT!





Effectively Use God's Holy Spirit

*'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts.'
(Zechariah 4:6)*

By Ron Wilcoxson

As we approach Pentecost – also known as The Feast of Weeks or the Feast of Firstfruits (Exodus 34:22, Leviticus 23:10, 15-22) – it is a very appropriate time to examine our spiritual growth as firstfruit Christians and check our progress, as well as how effectively we are using the power of God's Holy Spirit in overcoming sin in our daily lives.

We know God's New Testament Church was started in 31 A.D. by the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit. God's people were given the power of God's Holy Spirit to overcome Satan and the carnal world in which we live so we can qualify to teach and rule in the new world ahead (Acts 2:1-13, James 1:18, Revelation 1:6; 5:10; 14:4). But we can only do it through the power and right use of God's Holy Spirit, not through our own might or power (Zechariah 4:6).

A PRECIOUS COMMODITY

We must hold God's Holy Spirit in high esteem and with great respect. One of the most important things we learn by growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ (II Peter

3:18) is how vital the Spirit of God is for overcoming all obstacles in our daily Christian lives (Philippians 4:13). We must never take God's Spirit for granted and willfully mistreat it with disrespect or abandon (Ephesians 4:30) for the consequences are very terrifying (Matthew 12:31-32, Mark 3:28-29, Luke 12:10, Hebrews 6:4-8, 10:26-31). When we truly understand the power of God's Spirit, it should bring a special fear and reverence for God Himself for this power is God's mind, His intellect, His love and mercy, and His way of doing things (I Thessalonians 1:5). ***"The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding"*** (Proverbs 9:10).

REMEMBER WHY WE RECEIVED GOD'S SPIRIT

We can never forget where we originated and the utter futility in our lives before our calling and receiving of God's Holy Spirit. Not that we are to remember the sins of our past because God has forgiven all our past sins once we have repented and has removed them as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12, Ephesians 2:1-10). But when God decided to call us out (John 6:44, 65, Acts 2:39, I Corinthians 1:26, 27), we had a choice to make whether we would accept His call or if we would continue to make

wrong choices that lead to death (Matthew 22:14, Deuteronomy 30:19, 20). God was now showing us a new way to live, and we could accept it or reject it.

We received God's Spirit after repentance (Acts 2:38) and began a changed way of life from the way we were going. Once baptized, we started to live by God's instruction book, the Bible, the true Word of God (Psalm 119:140, 151, 160, Proverbs 30:5, John 17:17). We then began to develop the very living faith of Christ Himself living in us (Galatians 2:20, Revelation 14:12). We actually received God's Spirit because we were willing to obey Him and follow His instructions (Acts 5:32).

WE MUST KNOW WE HAVE GOD'S SPIRIT

We can't use the power of God's Spirit if we don't have it. Paul wrote: "... those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His" (Romans 8:8-9). Scripture states we must prove (or test) all things and hold fast what is good (I Thessalonians 5:21). If we have God's Spirit and really know Him, we will be keeping God's commandments, statutes and laws (Genesis 26:5, John 14:15, 21, John 15:9-10, I John 2:3-4). We will be keeping all of God's laws from our heart and not in a spirit of disdain. These precious truths will be written in our minds, and we will want to keep them with all our being. "... *I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people*" (Jeremiah 31:33-34, Ezekiel 36:26-27, Hebrews 8:10-12, Hebrews 10:16-17).

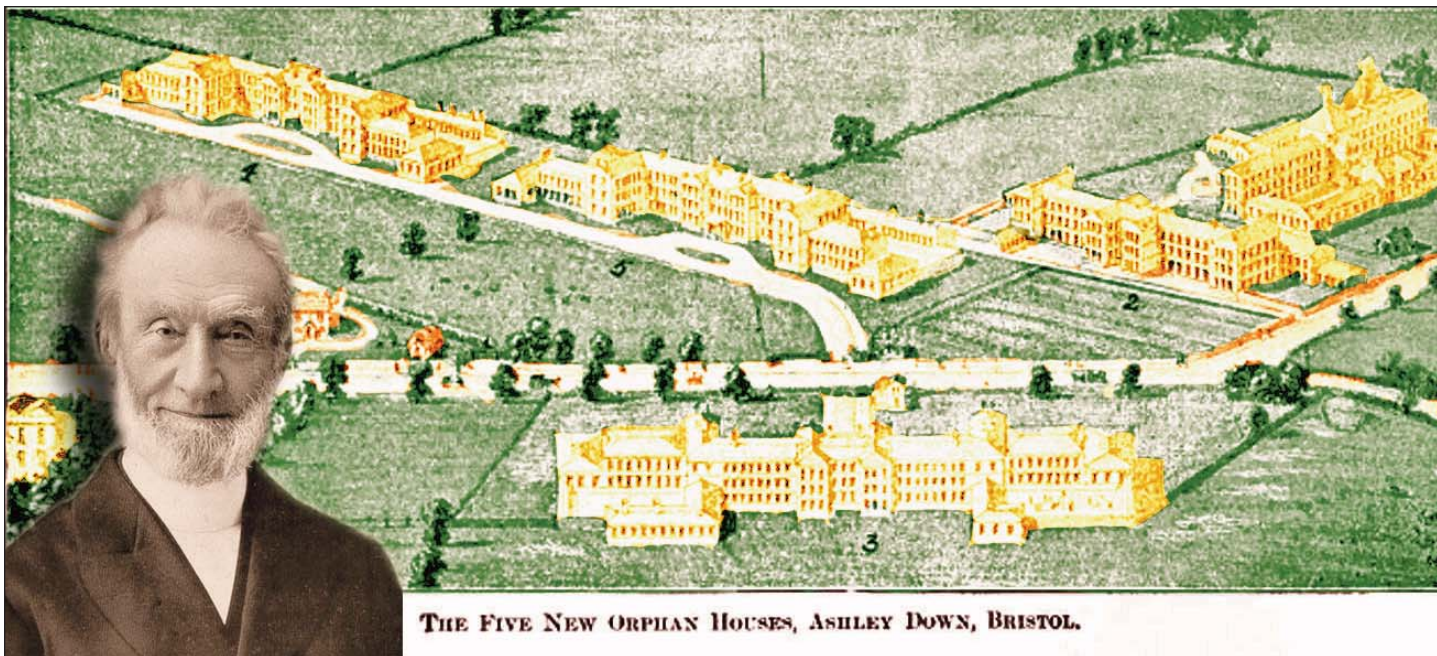


LOVE: A FRUIT OF GOD'S SPIRIT

Another way of knowing we have God's Spirit is because it is manifest in us. When we are truly being led and guided through our life by His Holy Spirit, it will be evident (John 16:13, Romans 8:14-16). Notice the fruits of God's Spirit in Galatians 5:22, the first one named is "love." That is because if any one word could describe God, it would be the word LOVE. God has an outgoing concern for all of His creation, creating and designing all things with His special selfless nature.

"He who does not love does not know God, for God is love" (I John 4:8, 16). If we have God's Holy Spirit, we will be exemplifying (first and foremost) Godly love and compassion for all people, but especially our brethren in Christ. *"If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar ..."* (I John 4:20, John 4:7, 12-13, 21). *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another"* (John 13:34, 35; John 15:12-13).





THE FIVE NEW ORPHAN HOUSES, ASHLEY DOWN, BRISTOL.

GEORGE MUELLER FOUNDED FIVE ORPHANAGES, CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS IN ENGLAND

“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (I Corinthians 13:4-7). “And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love” (I Corinthians 13:13). “Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 22:37-40).

The Apostle Paul tells us that God’s love is the fulfillment of God’s law (Romans 13:10). *“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us” (Romans 5:5).* If we have God’s Spirit, we will be growing into more mature Christians day by day. With each passing year, as we produce more and more fruit, we glorify our Father in heaven. *“By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples” (John 15:8, John 15:1-7).* If we are exuding the Spirit of love, then the other eight fruits of God’s Spirit also will be present in our life as well for Christ taught,

“Therefore by their fruits you will know them” (Matthew 7:20, Matthew 7:16, 12:33-37).

LIVING FAITH NEEDED

Hebrews 11, the faith chapter, is full of examples of the heroes of faith. Verse *“Now faith is the substance (realization) of things hoped for, the evidence (confidence) of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1).”* It becomes obvious if faith cannot be seen, then it must be a spiritual substance. God tells us through the Apostle John that He is spirit and that true worshippers must and will worship the Father in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24). In Hebrews 11:6, God tells us that without faith it is impossible to please Him. Therefore, we must diligently seek Him with our whole heart while exercising living faith if we are to use the Spirit of God effectively.

In an article from the *Plain Truth*, August 1952, Page 15, titled *“What is Faith?”* Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong uses a definition of faith by George Mueller, a founder of five great orphanages and other charitable institutions in Bristol England: *“Faith is the assurance that the things which God said in His Word are true: and that God will act according to what He has said in His word. This assurance, this reliance on GOD’S WORD, this confidence, is FAITH.”*





Mr. Armstrong goes on to explain that the work of God all during his ministry was based on faith in God, and from the beginning, without material means, the work grew. The great work God used him to build was a result of sheer faith in God's promises and a result of answered prayer. Looking back, we can see that it is a proven fact of reality. The power of God's Spirit was used effectively by all those past heroes of faith and by those who chose to follow in their footsteps.

The Work is now being revived through Mr. Armstrong's writings, sermons and telecasts and through the Church of God-Faithful Flock web sites. But we are a very small flock (a Gideon's army). It is a part of the tiny remnant remaining of a GREAT WORK that was suppressed after the death of the one and only modern day Apostle. Not by might,

nor by power, but by the Spirit of God, it continues to move forward now as a result of answered prayer and faith in God's promises because it is the work of the living Christ-The people of God truly live by faith, using the awesome power of God's Holy Spirit, for the Word of God shows the just MUST live by faith (Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, Hebrews 10:38).

JESUS CHRIST-A PERFECT EXAMPLE

The ultimate example Christ set on this earth in His 33½ year physical life is an awesome example of strength, courage and full confidence and faith in God the Father to perform miracle after miracle through the power of God's Holy Spirit. He truly gave His Father all the credit (John 5:19-21, 26, 30, 6:32, 44, 65). One of the most important attributes that Jesus Christ displayed as our Master and Savior was humil-

ity. The Word of God reveals Moses was the meekest man, the most humble man on all the earth (Numbers 12:3). The Eternal God, the Everliving One, the I AM, prophesied of Himself to come as a prophet through Moses

(Deuteronomy 18:15, 18, 19). In reality, when this great personage emptied Himself of His awesome glory and became a human being like one of us, He became the most humble man who ever has or will live on this earth (John 1:1-5, 10, Acts 4:10-12, Philippians 2:5-11).



As we approach Pentecost 2008, so very close to the end of this age, and looking forward to the New World Christ will bring about through the awesome power of His Holy Spirit, let us make our calling and election sure by learning to effectively use the power of God's Holy Spirit and developing the divine nature and character of our loving and merciful God.





A Tale of Two Seas

The Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea in the Palestine region are studies in geographical contrast that hold important lessons for us at this time of Pentecost. God's Holy Spirit must be flowing into and out of us. Otherwise, we will stagnate and die spiritually!

By Mark Mendiola

Geography plays an important role in our understanding of conditions at the time of Jesus Christ and the apostles on the earth. Among the most prominent features in what is called **Palestine** are [the Sea of Galilee](#) to the north and [the Dead Sea](#) to the south – which are connected by [the Jordan River](#).

When contrasting these two bodies of water, significant spiritual lessons about **Pentecost** can be learned about [the need for God's Holy Spirit to flow like water](#) and not stagnate. [The Sea of Galilee](#) is alive and vibrant because water flows into it and out of it.

However, [the Dead Sea](#) stagnates because no water flows out of it. There is no life around it because of its briny, salty, acrid water.

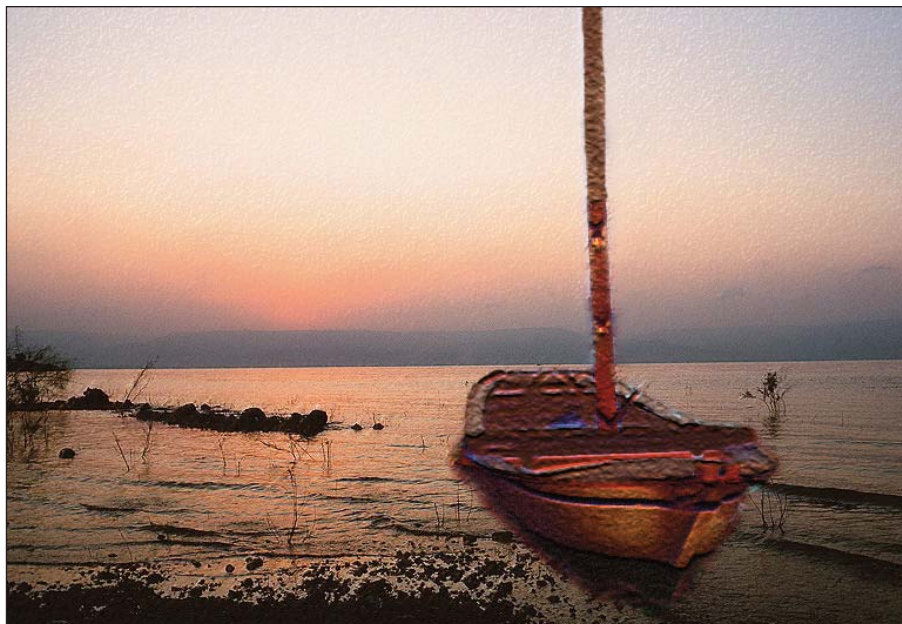
THE SEA OF GALILEE

[The Sea of Galilee](#) is mentioned in the Bible under three other names. In the Old Testament, it is called the “[Sea of Chinnereth](#)” (Numbers 34:11, Joshua 12:3, 13:27). In the New Testament, it also is called the “[Lake of Gennesaret](#)” (Luke 5:1) and the “[Sea of Tiberias](#)” (John 6:1, 21:1).

Most of Jesus Christ's life was spent in the environs of this thriving region. It was teeming with fish at the time and provided livelihood for many people, including fishermen who would become His disciples and apostles. It was where He walked on water!

The [Galilee](#) region was the northern district of **Palestine** and its most densely populated area, with no less than nine cities sitting on the shores of the lake. Christ was familiar with all these communities and traveled extensively throughout the area.

Smith's Bible Dictionary describes it as follows: "The bed of the lake is just a little lower section of the Great Jordan Valley. Its more remarkable feature is its deep depression, being *no less than 700 feet below the level of the ocean*. ... It is exposed to *frequent sudden and violent storms*. The great depression makes the climate of the shores almost tropical. ... The water of the lake is *sweet, cool and transparent*; and as the beach is everywhere pebbly it has a beautiful sparkling look. *It abounds in fish now as in ancient times*. There were large fisheries on the lake, and much commerce was carried on upon it."



THE SEA OF GALILEE

The Sea of Galilee is 60 miles northeast of **Jerusalem** and 27 miles east of the Mediterranean Sea. It is 12½ miles long and from four to seven miles wide. It ranges from 80 feet to 160 feet deep. *Easton's Bible Dictionary* states: "The great variety and abundance of the fish in the lake attracted to its shores a larger and more varied population than existed elsewhere in **Palestine** ... And this large and varied population, with access to all nations and countries, attracted the Lord Jesus, and induced Him to make this spot the center of His ministry."

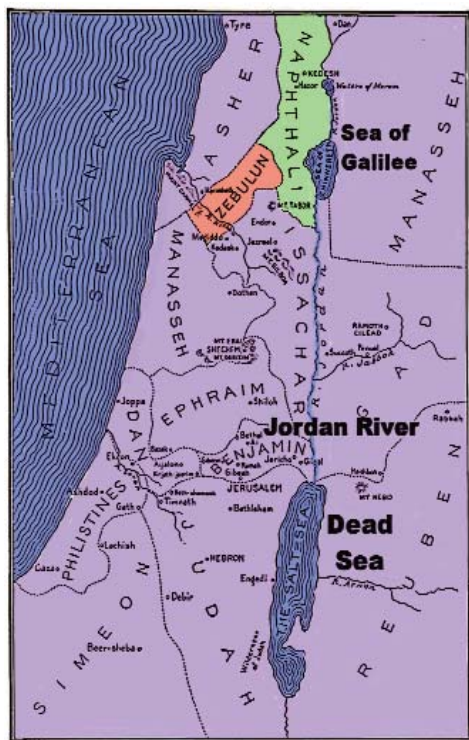
the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined (Isaiah 9:1-2)."

Jesus Christ, the Light to the world, explicitly fulfilled this prophecy. "Now when Jesus heard that John had been put into prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet ... (Matthew 4:12-14)."

Christ then walked by the Sea of Galilee and saw Peter and Andrew casting a net into the sea, and James and John in a boat mending their nets. All four of these business partners immediately left and followed Christ (V. 18-22).

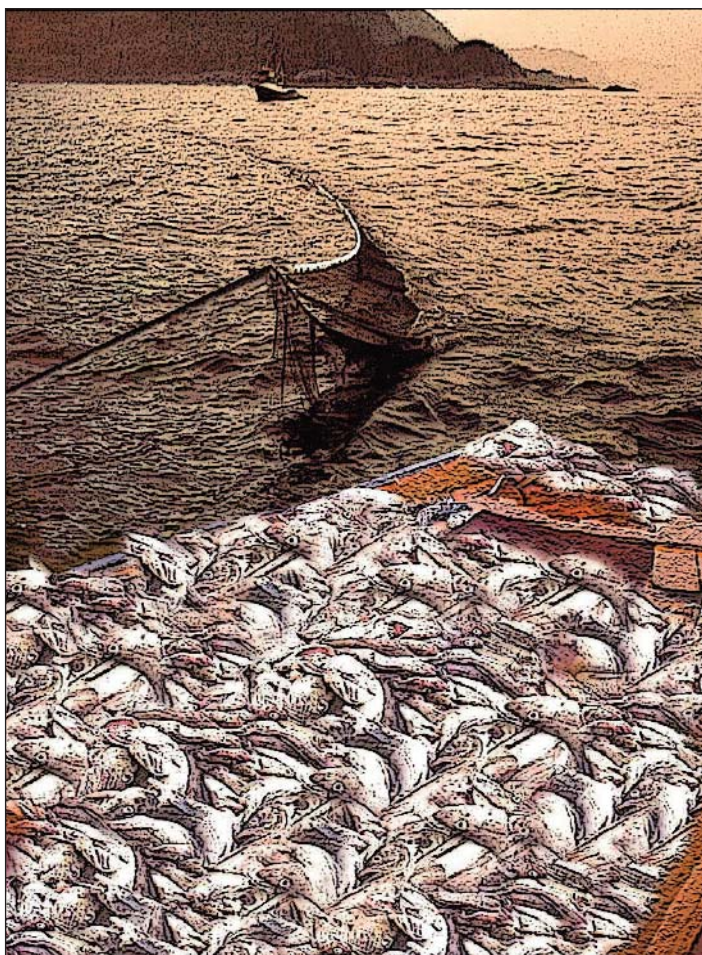
"Now Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sicknesses and all kinds of disease among the people. Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him *all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments*, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics and paralytics; and He healed them.

"And great multitudes followed Him – from Galilee, and from Decapolis, **Jerusalem**, Judea and beyond the Jordan (v. 23-25)."



LAND OF ZEBULUN, NAPHTALI

The prophet Isaiah prophesied the Messiah would come to **Galilee**, the area allotted to the Israelite tribes of **Zebulun** and **Naphtali**. "Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed, as when at first He lightly esteemed the land of **Zebulun** and **Naphtali** ... by the way of



A LARGE CATCH OF FISH IN BOAT

Jesus Christ performed tremendous miracles [around the Sea of Galilee](#) (Matthew 15:29-31). “Now after John was put in prison, [Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God](#), and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and [the kingdom of God](#) is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.’ ... [And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee](#) ... And He was preaching in their synagogues [throughout all Galilee](#), and casting out demons (Mark 1:14-15, 28, 39).”

Christ also used [the Sea of Galilee](#) as a platform where he preached to the crowds thronging Him. It was a spectacular backdrop to amplify His sermons.

“Now so it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the Word of God, that [He stood by the Lake of Genneserat](#), and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets.

Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, and asked him to put out a little from land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat (Luke 5:1-3).”

Luke then describes what convinced Peter, Andrew, James and John to drop everything and follow Christ at [the Sea of Galilee](#).

“Now when He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, ‘Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.’ But Simon answered and said to Him, ‘*Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing*; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.’ And when he had done this, [they caught a great number of fish](#), and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. ... Simon Peter ... and all who were with him were *astonished at the catch of the fish which they had taken*; and so also were *James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon*. And Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do not be afraid. *From now on you will catch men*.’ So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him (V. 4-11).”

Forty days after Christ’s resurrection from death or 10 days before [Pentecost](#), He told the disciples not to depart from [Jerusalem](#), but to wait for the Promise of the Father. “But you shall receive power when the [Holy Spirit](#) has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in [Jerusalem](#), and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth (Acts 1:4, 8).” Christ then ascended [from the Mount of Olives](#) in a cloud. Two angels asked the disciples as they stared upward, “[Men of Galilee](#), why do you stand gazing up into heaven (v. 11)?”

Those disciples who gathered in [Jerusalem](#) on that momentous [Pentecost of 31 A.D.](#) primarily were from



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ACTUAL FISH CAUGHT IN SEA OF GALILEE



REMAINS OF SYNAGOGUE IN CAPERNAUM

Galilee. “Now when **the Day of Pentecost** had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ... And they were all filled with the **Holy Spirit** and began to speak with other tongues (languages), as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in **Jerusalem** Jews, devout men from every nation ... Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, ‘Look, **are not all these who speak Galileans?** And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?’ (Acts 2:1, 4-5, 7-8)” **Galilee** was looked down upon by many in **Jerusalem** as a backward, less cultured region. **Galileans** were considered “hicks from the sticks.” Even **Nazareth** had a poor reputation (John 1:43-46).” **Galileans** had a distinct dialect that distinguished them. Peter’s accent revealed he was from **Galilee** (Matthew 26:69-72). Yet, Christ launched His ministry in **Galilee**, the lowly esteemed land of **Zebulun** and **Naphtali**, because He could work with the people in that region.

THE JORDAN RIVER

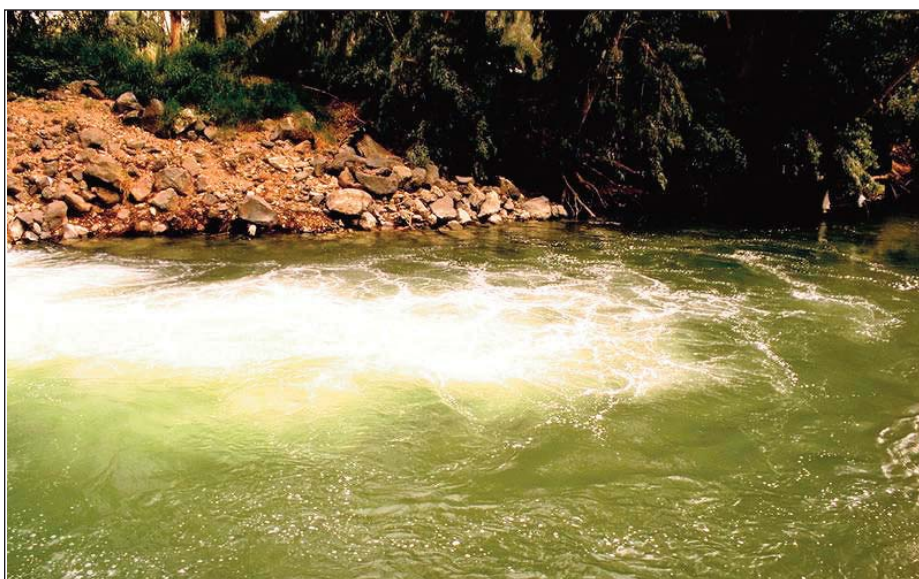
The Sea of Galilee and **the Dead Sea** are connected by **the Jordan River**, which is

where the Israelites crossed into the **Promised Land** and where Jesus Christ was baptized. That river is frequently mentioned in the Bible as a boundary. From its source to **the Dead Sea**, it rushes 3,000 feet down a deep valley. Between **the Sea of Galilee** and **the Dead Sea**, there are 27 rapids. It varies in width from 45 feet to 180 feet, and it’s from three feet to 12 feet deep, according to *Smith’s Bible Dictionary*.

In Hebrew, “**Jordan**” or “**Yarden**” literally means “the descender.” It has a swift current that flows through a rapid, rugged, tortuous course. The region of **Jordan** is a fertile, sunken plain. The first Biblical account of the **Jordan** is the separation of **Abraham**

and **Lot** (Genesis 13:10). Jacob crossed and re-crossed “**this Jordan**” (Genesis 32:10). The Israelites passed over it as “on dry ground” (Joshua 3:14-17, Psalm 114:3). Its waters were miraculously divided twice later at the same spot by both **Elijah** and **Elisha** (II Kings 2:7-8, 14).

The Jordan River is mentioned 180 times in the Old Testament and 15 times in the New Testament. Much of John the Baptist’s ministry was spent along **the Jordan River**, where he baptized many people, including Jesus Christ.



FLOWING, RUSHING WATERS OF THE JORDAN RIVER

“It came to pass in those days that Jesus came down from **Nazareth of Galilee**, and was baptized by John in **the Jordan**. And immediately, *coming up from the water*, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. Then a voice came from heaven, ‘You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased’ (Mark 1:9-11).”

Christ refers to **God’s Holy Spirit** as a mighty, flowing river just like **the Jordan** rushes downward through **Palestine**. “On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If anyone thirsts let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will *flow rivers of living water*.’ But this He spoke concerning **the Spirit**, whom those believing in Him would receive; for **the Holy Spirit** was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified (John 7:37-39).”

At the time of **Pentecost**, Christ encountered a Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well and used the *living water* analogy.

Pentecost was the time of the harvest of the firstfruits. It came four months before the great fall harvest of the **Feast of Tabernacles** (John 4:34-36).

“Jesus answered and said to her, ‘If you knew the gift of God (Acts 2:38), and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you *living water*.’ The woman said to Him, ‘Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where do you get that *living water*?’ ... Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him *a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life*.’ (V. 10-11, 13-14)”

Jesus Christ plainly compares **God’s Holy Spirit** to *flowing, living water*, which is not stagnant, but has a current. It’s active, not passive. He says **God’s Spirit is to flow into us and out to others**. We are not to dam it up, but allow it to flow through us and generate light and power like volumes of water that rush through the turbines of hydroelectric dams.



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THE SEA OF GALILEE AT SUNRISE

THE DEAD SEA

If we neglect **God’s Holy Spirit**, we can stop the flow of it and become stagnant like **the Dead Sea**, which has water flowing into it, but none flowing out of it. In the Old Testament, it’s called the “**salt sea**” (Genesis 14:3, Numbers 34:12), the “**sea of the plain**” (Deuteronomy 3:17), the “**Sea of the Arabah**” (Joshua 12:3), the “**east sea**” (Ezekiel 47:18, Joel 2:20) and simply “**the sea**” (Ezekiel 47:8). Greek writers are credited with calling it “**the Dead Sea**” in the second century. The Arabs call it “**Bahr Lut**” or “**Sea of Lot**.”

It’s believed **Sodom and Gomorrah** were on its shores, and when fire and brimstone destroyed those ancient wicked cities, the sea turned dead. In the Talmud, it’s called the “**Sea of Sodom**.” Josephus calls it the “**Asphaltic Lake**.”

The Dead Sea lies about 16 miles directly east of **Jerusalem**. Covering about 300 square miles, its surface is about 1,290 feet below the surface of **the Mediterranean Sea**. Its depth varies from 11 feet to 1,310 feet. It’s about 53 miles long and averages about 10 miles in width.

“It has no outlet, the great heat of that region causing such *rapid evaporation* that its average depth, notwithstanding the rivers that run into it, is maintained with little variation. **The Jordan** alone discharges into it no less than six million



MINERALS ARE EVIDENT IN THE DEAD SEA

tons of water every 24 hours,” *Easton’s Bible Dictionary* states.

Smith’s Bible Dictionary describes [the Dead Sea](#): “There is something in the prevalent sterility and the dry, burnt look of the shores, the overpowering heat, the occasional smell of sulfur, the dreary salt marsh at the southern end, and the fringe of dead driftwood round the margin, which must go far to excuse the title which so many ages have attached to the lake, and which we may be sure it will never lose.”

There’s a very important spiritual lesson in the topography from [the Sea of Galilee](#) via [the Jordan River](#) to [the Dead Sea](#). We

must continue to allow **God’s Holy Spirit** to flow into us and out to others. If we’re not careful, we can neglect it and allow it to *evaporate like the water on [the Dead Sea](#)*. We can dry up spiritually and stagnate. The Bible shows [the Dead Sea](#) will be healed by *living, flowing waters* (Ezekiel 47:8).



DEAD SEA MINERAL FORMATIONS

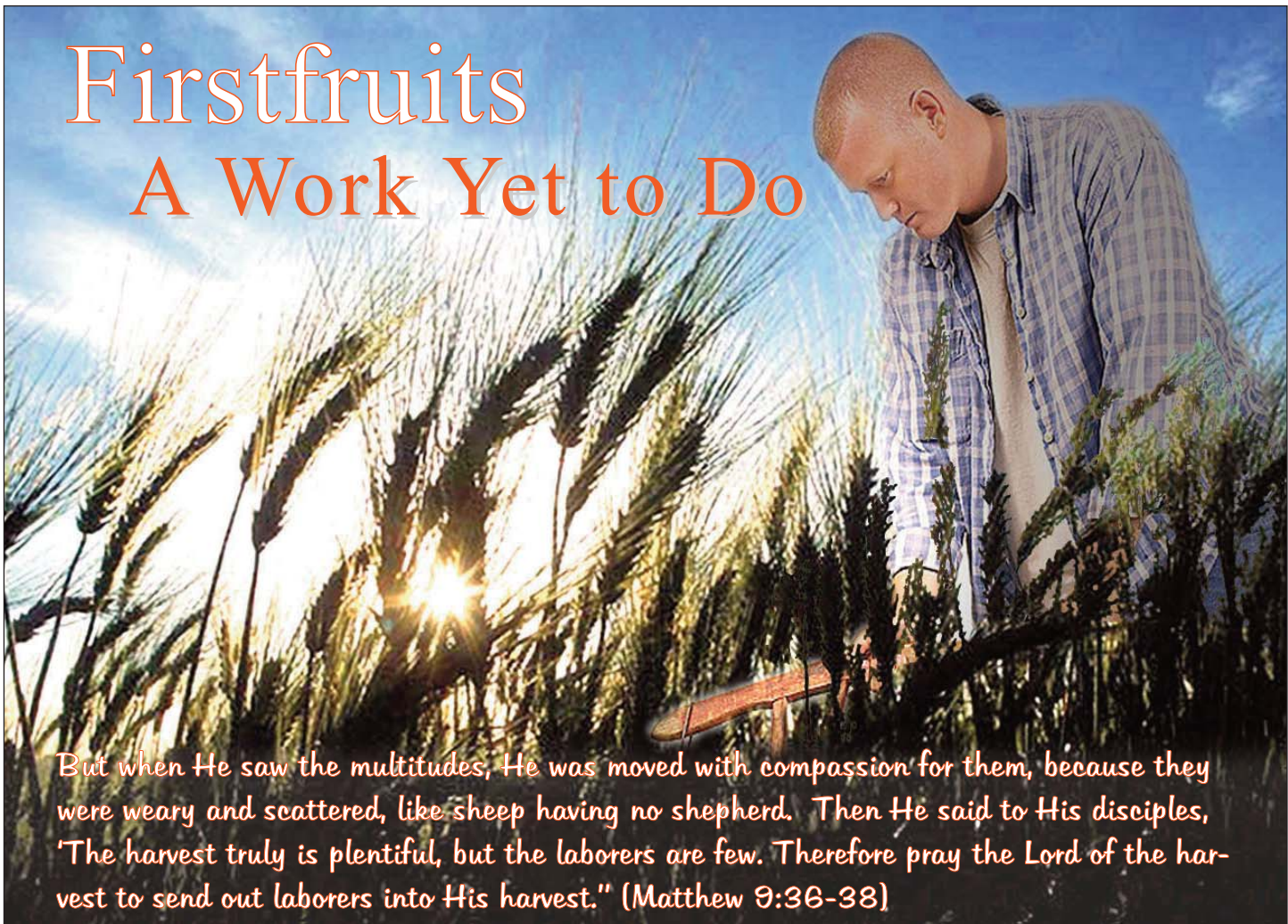
After **God’s Holy Spirit** was poured out on them on **Pentecost**, the men of [Galilee](#) who were looked down upon as uneducated, untrained laborers boldly went out from **Palestine** and **preached the Gospel of the Kingdom of God throughout the world**, following Christ’s command and example. They were **energized** by the current of God’s flowing **Holy Spirit**. We, too, can do the same and be lights to the world, bearing the fruits of **God’s Holy Spirit**, if we tap that **tremendous source of power** and the **rivers of living water that flow from Jesus Christ, the wellspring and fountain of eternal life!**



MINERAL STALAGMITES HAVE FORMED ALONG THE DEAD SEA

Firstfruits

A Work Yet to Do



But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.' (Matthew 9:36-38)

USDA, Jupiter Images photos

By Tom Cooper

The Feast of Firstfruits, or Pentecost, is now very close to the reality of its fulfillment at the harvest of Jesus Christ's return! It is to be a time of great rejoicing for all of the true people of God and Christ who have faithfully endured the trials and tests of this mortal life! They will rise to meet Jesus Christ in this earth's atmosphere as Spirit-born members of the Family of God. All signs are now pointing to this as being only a very few short years away from now.

Between now and then is much **work** yet to be done. There are many Church of God members, as well as people in general in the United States, Canada and all other nations, who **yearn** for the **help** that only Jesus Christ can give them. An example of this can be found during the apostle Paul's ministry when Christ gave him a vision to make known he was to go to Europe with the gospel message:

"And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.'" (Acts 16:9)

PENTECOST'S SYMBOLISM, MEANING

Pentecost, an annual Holy Day, symbolizing the event of **receiving God's Holy Spirit** and **the harvest** of the firstfruits of God's Family, has tremendous meaning for every Christian. This is especially meaningful at this time when thousands of scattered members are yearning for help, while many other thousands are content and slumbering unaware of the closeness of **the Great Tribulation** and **the lack of oil** in their lamps.

When we focus on our own spiritual condition, checking our lamps for spiritual oil, do we remember why we were called now? Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong often reminded us that we were not called just to save our own lives. In fact, our purpose in the future is to help bring the rest of the human family into the God Family! In order to accomplish



THE APOSTLE PAUL WAS BECKONED TO MACEDONIA

this goal, we who are being trained during this lifetime must be tested, corrected and overcome our old selves in order to learn a new way of life. The end result is to provide Christ with a wife who can teach the many children who will be called in the future.

This is no ordinary job. It is the most important job God ever offered a human being. It is critical because it is literally a life-and-death occupation. The rest of humanity is on hold until the bride makes herself ready and the marriage takes place. Are we individually ready now?

What does God expect us to do with this fabulous, once in a lifetime opportunity? Christ said, “***My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.***” (John 5:17 KJV) It is plain to see that we who have God's Spirit are to be followers of God the Father and Jesus Christ's example to do His work.

A WARNING WORK

Before God's Church flees to the place in the wilderness that He will have prepared for those Christians who are faithful, there is a two-fold work that needs to be accomplished. That is the work of **warning** the nations (primarily Ephraim and Manasseh), and also God's own Church of the

traumatic events about to unfold on the world scene.

In past ages, God used Israel again and again to show other nations His majestic power in terms they understood – physical terms, to be exact.

In Jonah 3:10, God chronicles one specific and important lesson for all of humanity: “**Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.**” By this example, God wants mankind to know that upon real repentance He will mercifully spare mankind from His **wrath**. So any **warning work** to be done for the world should include the wondrous news

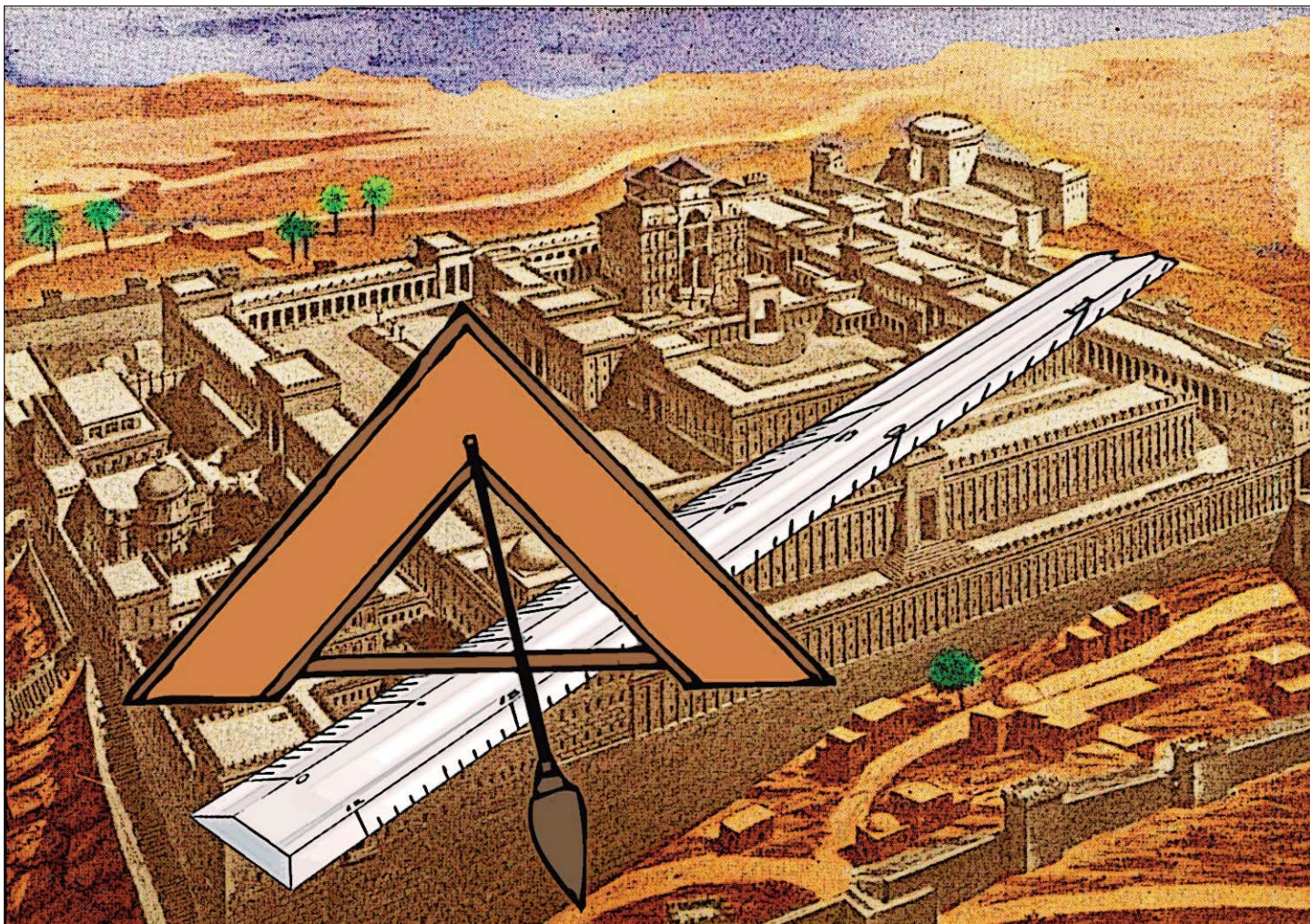
that God wants to see repentance so He can extend mercy and not allow evil to occur!

The work of warning the Church is another matter. In both instances, the work must be done “... **by MY SPIRIT.**”

(Zechariah 4:6)

This chapter indicates that the one in the end time, referred hereto as Zerubbabel, receives this instruction. Zechariah 4:9 indicates his hands would finish something, while verse 10 points to a “plummet,” or plumbline, in his





GOD'S TEMPLE AND ITS FOUNDATION WERE MEASURED SO THEY WERE EXACTLY PLUMB, NOT CROOKED

hand. These chapters focus on the task of building something and making it exactly plumb, not crooked. For the last eras of God's Church, this should be both exciting as well as **a warning**, depending on an individual's view of the end-time Elijah's significance to God. Using God's Spirit to **warn** those who take God's view of this end-time Elijah too lightly is a work in itself, as God's Word shows them to be sleeping.

OBEDIENCE TO THE COMMANDMENTS

Pentecost teaches us that God's Work has always been done through His Spirit. The book written by Mr. Armstrong, *"The United States and Britain in Prophecy,"* 1980 edition, chronicles modern Israelite nations past, present and into the near future. God used this book produced by the Church more than any other to introduce prospective members to His way of life.

The prophecy of blessings and curses for Israel shows a principle that is applicable to all nations and to God's own

Church. It involves cause and effect as referred to on page 18. This book has been a mainstay in warning Israel for more than 50 years to not stray from their Creator and Savior. Applying the principle that God remains the same now and forever points to God using the information within this book again – and based on the *crumbling* society all around us – perhaps very soon!

In principle, there is **a warning** for God's Church also in this book. Many of God's people understand that the Fourth Commandment, the commandment that teaches about the Sabbath, is a test commandment for the members of God's true Church. This commandment magnifies that reverence to and obedience of God is a top priority and is of prime importance to His people.

Page 164 of this booklet mentions Exodus 31:12-17, emphasizing the keeping of God's Sabbath. This sign (the Sabbath ordained by God) identifies those who worship God. The test, as with all of the Ten Commandments, is about

obedience. But notice what else God says about this in Exodus 31:13 (KJV): “*Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, ‘Verily My Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a SIGN between Me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you* (set you apart).” So it is that God's True Church keeps His Sabbath and knows that it is God who sets us apart for a special purpose: Firstfruits, the first of God's children who will be (re)born with a spirit body.

As the Sabbath points us towards worship of God on a specific day, the first commandment specifies that we are to worship God alone, and *avoid* “other gods.” These commandments distinctly have to do with “faith in and loyalty to God” (p.133 of the *United States and Britain in Prophecy*, last paragraph). According to Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, one definition of “worship” reads, “Courtesy or reverence paid to worth; hence honor; respect.” So consider what real worship of God means. If you were in the military, would you obey only some of the orders a commanding officer gave you? What would happen if everyone in an army had that idea? We must pay careful attention to God's laws and strive to obey each and every one laid clear before us in the Bible!

In one particular block of very memorable scripture, Jeremiah 35:1-17, God lays before the nation of Judah how He thinks. This chapter covers an unusual duty that God assigns Jeremiah so Judah might really get the point about their obedience to Him. But they don't.


Reading closely into this account about the extended family known as the Rechabites, we find that God honors them because they are obeying a family patriarch (Jonadab). God noticed this family's attitude about obedience and respect,

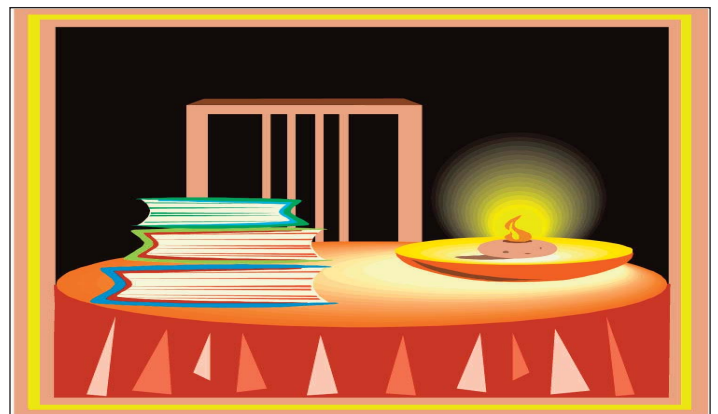


and was able to give Jeremiah a way to show Judah how He, God, viewed the nation. God's end-time church needs to take this lesson to heart. The commandments still apply as they did so many ages ago! And like the Rechabites, in order for God to use the firstfruits, they must be obedient and have faith in and loyalty to God in what He taught us through his end-time apostle.

PENTECOST A TIME TO REFLECT

Proverbs 1:33 speaks to the wise, with an admonition that reads, “**But whoever listens to me will dwell safely. And will be secure, without fear of evil.**” Are we part of those wise people God speaks to here? Do we remember what God taught us? The entire block of Scripture in Proverbs 1:20-33 describes *warnings* applicable to God's end-time Church during the last 20 years. The 23rd verse refers to those who repent at God's correction. To them God will and does pour out His Spirit! He opens that person's mind so he can understand God's word. Proverbs 1:24-32 spells out what will happen to those with a *Laodicean attitude* about God's word and correction. Again, Proverbs 4:4, tells of the blessing for those who pay heed to what God reveals is soon to come.

Applying the message about the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25:1-13, there is indeed a work for God's end-time firstfruits to do. And it starts with obedience, loyalty and faith in our Great God's Word to us through His end-time Elijah. Do you doubt it? Through the power of God's Holy Spirit, the end-time work is already under way! Pentecost is a time to reflect on how much oil (God's Spirit) is in your lamp (life), and how much your heart is in God's work! Make plans to be part of this very special harvest of the firstfruits by linking arms with us and doing His Work before the night comes when no man can work (John 9:4)! 



Building the Temple



Continued from Page 4

the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”

Now, a living soul ... *Man became a living soul.* Man was made of the dust of the ground. The dust of the ground **became** a soul. A soul then is physical. It is not a spirit. That says so right there, in very plain language; and yet the whole world has been deceived, thinking a soul is spirit. The soul is physical.

THE TWO TREES

Now, the Lord planted a garden eastward in Eden. There were **two trees** there. I'm going to skim over that very, very rapidly because it is very important. There were two trees in the garden. They were *symbolic* trees. They represented something very, very important. One was the **Tree of Life**. That represented the **Holy Spirit of God**, which imparts divine immortal life. Adam did not have immortal life. He was made of the dust of the ground. The other tree was the **Knowledge of Good and Evil**. To take of that was to take to themselves the creation of the knowledge, the manufacture of the knowledge, the producing of the knowledge of what is right and what is wrong – what is good and what is evil. They had to decide.

Now here's **duality** again entering in right here. The first

man was made physical. But man is to be made separate later, spiritual. There's the **duality** again. He starts physical, and then later he is to be spiritual. The Old Covenant was physical, national and material. The New Covenant is spiritual. There is **a principal of duality** that goes through the Bible. So God told Adam and Eve they could have everything in the garden, except the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God is the One who reveals the knowledge of what is right and what is wrong. That is **SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE**.

A HUMAN SPIRIT IN MAN

God made man to have a mind. I Corinthians 2:11: *“What man could know the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?”* There is a spirit in man; but man is made of the dust of the ground, and that man **IS** a soul. The soul is not a spirit, but there is a spirit **IN** that soul. Why is man so far superior? *There is a spirit in man.* And man couldn't have the knowledge that even a man has, except that spirit in him. I call it **a human spirit**. Now, it is a spirit that is in humans; but it is not matter. It's spirit, but it *imparts* to the physical brain of a human **the power of intellect**.

A human is made in the image of God, and man was made with that spirit; but he was made to need another Spirit – **the Spirit of God** – to go with it. Now get this. This is very important. The birth of a human being is an exact type.

God is recreating Himself. He is reproducing Himself. Humans are the material He's using to reproduce Himself.

All right, in human reproduction, every one of us was born from a mother. In that mother was an ovum, or you might call it an egg, but it's a little tiny egg no bigger than a pin-point. But that egg had no life except a very temporary life in itself. But unless that egg is fertilized, and life is imparted to it, and it is energized or given life to by a male sperm cell from a father – it is going to die in a matter of days. It has a temporary life. But it won't go on living longer, unless there is a male sperm added to it. That's the way every one of us was born.

Now then, that is *an exact physical type* (There again is your **duality**, the physical type of the spiritual.) where God is creating Himself. Each one of us is an egg. And the little egg is – as small as the period at the end of a sentence in your Bible, or in your newspaper – very small. And the male sperm cell is only one-fiftieth. It would take 50 of them to be the size of that egg. It's the smallest cell in the human body. And that had to have life added to it, or it was going to die. It immediately joins itself to that ovum, or to that nucleus. The nucleus in the human being, which is an egg cell so to speak, is the brain; and the Spirit comes. The Spirit of God is joined with our spirit in the brain, and then gives us **spiritual knowledge**.

No man could know or have the knowledge of man except **by the spirit of man**, which is in him. It's in every man, every woman. I Corinthians 2:11: *“Even so [In the same manner, or likewise] no one knows the things of God except [by] the Spirit of God.”*

He has to receive **the Spirit of God** to come and join with his spirit, to impregnate him with **divine life**; or he can't

know spiritual knowledge. He can't know spiritual things. You can only get the Spirit of God *if* God has called you, and then by *absolute surrender* to God; by *repentance*; and then by *receiving* the Spirit of God; by your belief in Christ and in God; and in *believing* what He says as well as *believing* who and what He is. Adam was made to need the Spirit of God; and, without it, he couldn't understand spiritual knowledge. Now, **the law of God** that will give you happiness and peace is **a spiritual law**. What's the cause of all of the troubles we have in this world? Why? *His troubles are spiritual in nature*. Adam and Eve could have taken of the Tree of Life; and they would have received the Holy Spirit of God, and then they would have had spiritual knowledge. They would have understood God's spiritual law. They would have lived that way, and they would have had peace and prosperity. They would have all been wealthy.

Genesis 3:24. Adam and Eve made the wrong choice. They decided they would take what little knowledge they had, and decide for themselves what is right and wrong. They refused to take of the **Holy Spirit** that would reveal the spiritual knowledge of the spiritual law to them. And so man has not known the way to peace the way to happiness, the way to prosperity, the way to success. He has never known it.



Genesis 3:22-24: “*And the [ETERNAL] God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil. [He took of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.] Now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever:* [He would have gained eternal life; and God didn't want him to have eternal life living in unhappiness, and misery, and pain, and suffering, and sorrow. So then God said:]

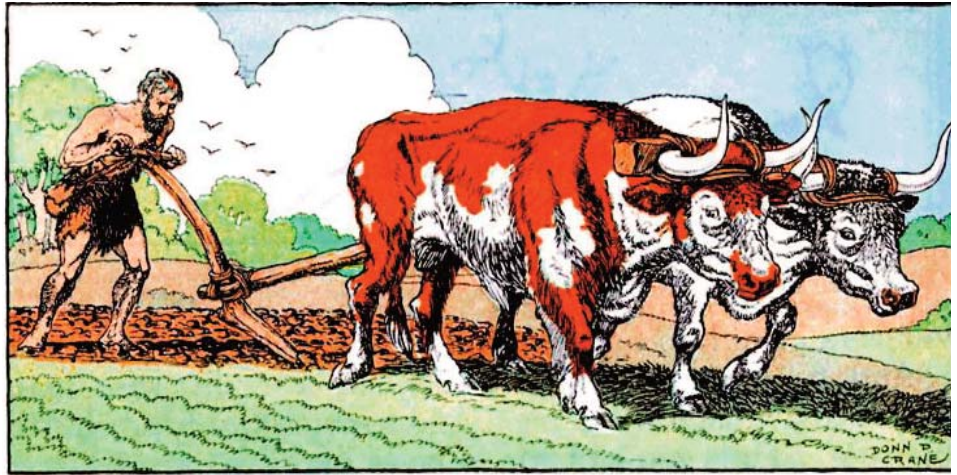
Therefore, the [ETERNAL] God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword, which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life [lest they go back, and gain this, and have spiritual knowledge].”

Man was *cut off* from spiritual knowledge, and that's why he can't solve his problems. That is why, right there. He can do wonderful things that are physical and material. But he can't solve his problems, because they're spiritual; and it's a spiritual nature, and a spiritual law.

Now, this all has something to do with the government of God. Adam had a chance to overcome Satan, to resist Satan, and take God's way, and obey God's law. Satan had *rejected* the law of God that was the constitution of the government. And now Adam *rejected* it. Adam could have had it and he could have ruled the world; and all of his own progeny, which is the world, all born from Adam and Eve.

Now, where does that leave us? That leaves humanity cut off from the Holy Spirit. Satan, through Adam, shut man off from God. Now get that. Man wasn't shut off from God. Man was only shut off from the Holy Spirit. He shut him off from receiving the Holy Spirit so he could have Spirit-knowledge. But *Satan* has been shutting man off from God for 6,000 years; and he's done a very fine job of that, and he probably pats himself on the back. But God shut man off from the Holy Spirit. God did NOT shut man off from Him. Man shut himself off from God. But God shut man off from the Holy Spirit for a long, long time.

And most men are still shut off from the Holy Spirit. Now,



TILLING THE GROUND FROM WHENCE HE WAS TAKEN

just keep that in mind right there. Man could seek God. But, as you read in **John 6:44**, God would *not* draw him unless God chose him; and he had to be one of those who are *predestinated*. That's another subject. That's a whole sermon or two in itself. But in **John 6:44**, Jesus is quoted as saying: “*No man can come to me except the Father which sent me draw him.*”

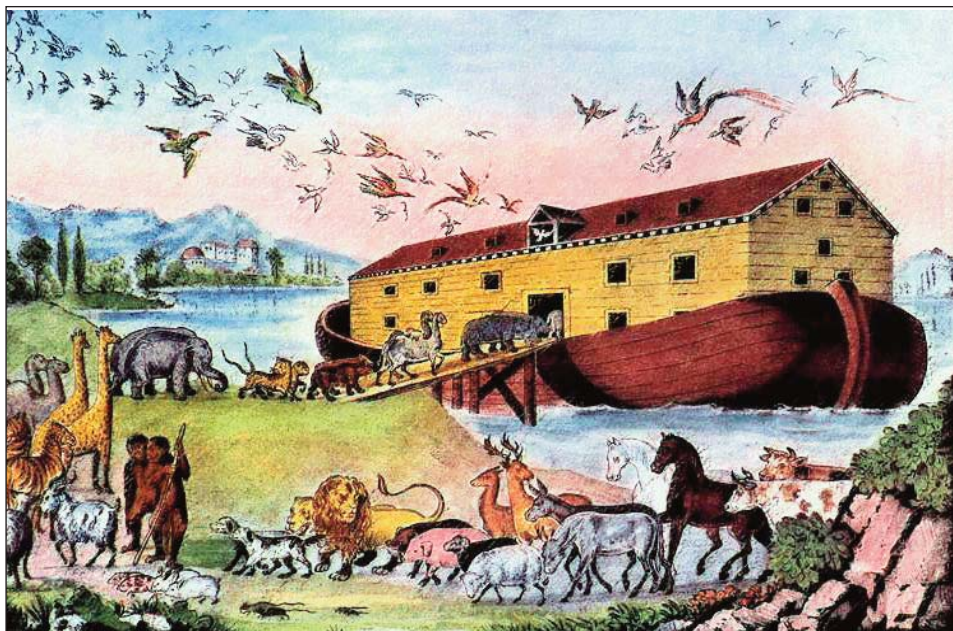
Now get that! God has to *draw* you. By the Holy Spirit, He just *draws* you to Him. But He isn't drawing people to Him, and He hasn't been since Adam. Man could have sought God. But God is not going to go after and seek man.

GOD WORKS WITH SOME MEN

We come now to the time of the **Flood**. On the way, **Enoch** is the only one mentioned who walked with God. Two can't walk together except they be agreed. So Enoch did agree with God, and he apparently sought after God; and God walked with him. Now, **Noah** was found also to be righteous in the eyes of God. Noah did not seek God. Now get this! Noah did not seek God, but God *sought* Noah. And God found that Noah already was righteous, and he was “*perfect in his generations.*” That is, his physical heredity. But he wasn't perfect spiritually. No man has been, but Jesus Christ.

Now there came the **Flood**. And **Noah**, and Noah only, was saved because God found he was willing to go God's way. It doesn't say whether Noah had the Holy Spirit or not. But God did use him to keep humanity alive – his wife, their three sons, and their wives – eight souls altogether.

So then we come on to the time of **Abraham**, in the 12th



ANIMALS WERE SAVED ON THE ARK WITH NOAH AND HIS FAMILY

chapter of Genesis. God **CALLED** Abraham. God sought him. He didn't seek God. Now get the difference. Noah had *not* sought God. God sought him. And Abraham didn't seek God. But God called him and said, "**Abraham, I want you to move from where you are, and go to a land I'm going to send you to.**"

The thing is: Abraham *obeyed* right away. So Abraham got all of the promises – that are spiritual promises, as well as physical promises – that God made. All of the promises that we get from God *come through the promises* He made to Abraham. God called Abraham. Abraham obeyed. So did Isaac. So did Jacob. So did Joseph. And God blessed them all, and they were very wealthy men. Now then, we don't find anyone that God called *until* the time of Moses, 430 years after Abraham. Again, Moses wasn't looking for God. Moses didn't seek God. But God picked out Moses through the *burning bush* experience. He said, "**Moses, take your shoes off your feet. The ground where you are standing is holy ground,**" because the presence of God was there. That's what made the ground holy.

Moses didn't especially want to lead the children of Israel out of slavery. He protested. He said, "**God, I can't do it. I, I, I stutter. You know, I got an impediment of speech.**" God said, "**I'm going to give you your brother, Aaron, to speak for you. I'll take care of that. You're going to do what I tell you to do.**" And Moses did do it. God worked through Moses, and Aaron was his helper; and they took

the children of Israel to the Promised Land. They didn't take them into it, but they took them to it.

On the way, at Mount Sinai, God made them the proposition of becoming His government under the Old Covenant. But that was only a national government; and the only promises God gave them were physical, material, national promises. He did *not* promise them salvation, or the Holy Spirit, or eternal life. He didn't promise them that they'd have the Holy Spirit so that they could be happy.

But He would give them His law. And without the Holy Spirit, you can't keep

the law of God. But they said, "**Oh, we will obey everything You say.**" They were anxious to do it. So they made the deal with God at Mount Sinai, but they did *not* obey. There God established a government on this earth, He gave them His spiritual law, but He didn't give them the Holy Spirit; and, *without* the Holy Spirit, they were not able to keep it. They disobeyed God.

God told them in **Leviticus 26**, if they would obey him, He gave them material promises. "**Your land will yield its increase the year around – not just in season, but the year around. You will be the wealthiest nation on earth. You'll be the leading nation. You'll take one hundred. One hundred of you will put ten thousand to flight.**" That's a very powerful nation that can do that.

That's what God promised, but they didn't obey. That was all conditioned on their obedience, and they did *not* obey. God said, "**If you don't do it, I will delay the promises for 2520 years.**" But God had already made the material promises to Abraham, and God had to keep it. But He said, "**I won't keep it in you. I'll keep it in your children, 2520 years later.**" And that's exactly what God has done. God has done just that.

ONE MAN AT A TIME

God called or *DREW TO HIM*, had the power of drawing them to Him and using, *one man at a time*. He drew Abra-

ham. He drew Moses to Him. After Moses, He drew Joshua to Him; and He used Joshua alone to lead Israel into the Promised Land, or across the Jordan River. After that, they didn't have any real leader. So every man did what was right in his own sight, or eyes. You read in the book of Judges next how, because of their sins, they would become a vassal nation. Some neighboring nation would capture them and come in and rule them.

Then they would cry out to God, and God would listen; and God would send a judge, or a hero, or some leader – **one man at a time**. God only deals through one man at a time. **GOD DOES NOT WORK THROUGH COMMITTEES**. God works through **ONE MAN AT A TIME**. I want you to notice it as we go along now. Let's understand the way of God. The world has not understood it. So God worked through one judge at a time.

Then we come to the prophet, Samuel; and God was ruling Israel through Samuel. In the eighth chapter of Samuel you'll find the people wanted a king, like other nations. They didn't want God to rule them. God says, "**They haven't rejected you, Samuel. They've rejected Me; that I shouldn't rule them, because I was really ruling them through you.**" Samuel was the man God was using, but it was God's rule. **God said, "They rejected Me that I should not rule them."** Go back and read it, in I Samuel 8.

Then came David, and God *drew* him and worked with him. He had a lot of trouble with David. David did a lot of wrong things. He disobeyed God once or twice, or three times – and pretty badly too, as bad as any of us ever did. But he repented, and God's mercy was good. David was a man after God's own heart. Then the prophets, and only the prophets of the Old Testament had the Spirit of God, but God did draw them. God did not draw the rest of the world. The rest of the world could have sought God; but it didn't, because **Satan** (II Corinthians 4:4) has blinded the world that they can't see these things, and they don't look to God.

WHY THE SECOND ADAM?

All right, now we come to *one man* again – the second Adam, or Jesus Christ. Now we're coming right along in God's plan for human beings, to **reproduce** Himself. *God shut humans off for a time and let them be ruled by Satan to learn that way doesn't pay!* For 6,000 years, men have been living Satan's way instead of the way of God's law.

And look at the unhappiness, and look at the misery, and the suffering in this world. That's what has happened.

Now, why the second Adam? In Isaiah 7:14, it says that to the children of Israel (that nation, which didn't have the Holy Spirit) that from them would be born **a Son and the government would be on His shoulders**. He would come and rule the government; **and of His Kingdom there would be no end**, and He would bring peace. His Kingdom and peace, there would be no end. That's Isaiah 9:6-7.

You find that God said there that He was going to send Christ; and that Christ would be born as a human being, as a baby. That He was coming as a **RULER** to rule the government, and it's all about government. It all is a matter that Lucifer *rejected* the government of God, and *bolting*; and the government of God was taken away from the earth. Now, here's the government of God again. God is going to send Jesus; and He is going to have the **government, and rule**, and bring peace because it's the way of God's law.

Now, in Isaiah 7:14, **a virgin was to conceive, and bear a Son; and His name to be called Immanuel**. In Matthew 1, you read how the angel said to Joseph that his engaged fiancé/wife was to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit of God, and *not* from a man. But God would be the Father of the Son that would be born. Mary would be His mother. So He would be human through Mary; but He would be also divine and be God, through God, because God **sired** Him. God sired, **fathered, Him**. No human man ever did.

Now those are prophecies for the coming of Christ. Why did Christ come? In Matthew, which is quoting from Isaiah 7:14 – says that He would be a Savior and save His people from their sins. Christ was coming for **two main reasons**: one, to **restore** the government of God in the Kingdom of God; and, the other reason, to be **a Savior** and save people from their sins and give people **immortal life**. Those are the two reasons. There's duality again, two reasons why Christ was to come.

POURING OUT GOD'S SPIRIT

All right, now there's another prophecy for the people. Not referring to what would happen to Christ, but to the people. That's in Joel 2:28-29: "**And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh.**" Now, Joel prophesied that the time would come later that

God would pour out his Holy Spirit upon all flesh. “**And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out My spirit.**” So there is a time coming when God will start pouring out His spirit on human beings.



THE MOON SHALL BE TURNED INTO BLOOD

Now there's a prophecy of a time coming that God will open up the Holy Spirit. Notice this prophecy. Joel 2:30-31: “**And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun will be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.**” Now that is referring to the Day of the Lord, and that comes after the **Great Tribulation**. That's all ahead of us yet. That hasn't happened yet. But there is a **duality** in that even, the pouring out of His Spirit on all flesh. All right, now just keep that as we go along up to the next point – on **the Day of Pentecost**.

GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

Jesus came and preached the gospel of the Kingdom of God. He came announcing the coming Kingdom of God; and He came saying, “**Repent.**” John the Baptist *prepared* the way before Him. And John the Baptist said, “**Repent, and obey the law of God**” to establish the law which is the

basis of the government of God. All goes back to the government of God again.

*People don't want anything to do with the government of God! Men believe other men. They don't believe God! They don't want to believe God. Adam and Eve didn't believe God. God talked to them in person. They didn't believe Him. Jesus came and preached to many, many thousands. Twice there were 5,000 men; and that didn't count the women, and children that were there. How many thousands heard Him? – Probably two or three hundred thousand all together in the 3½ years. How many believed what He said? Acts 1:15: **120** – all that believed the very Creator Himself, the One by whom God created all things. They didn't believe what He said. That was the voice of God speaking. They didn't believe Him.*

They wouldn't believe Him today. ***I represent Him, and I speak for Him.*** They don't believe it. Oh no, they want to believe whatever men have been teaching; and that's the world we live in. *That's why this world is so sick today.*

Well, Jesus *proclaimed* the gospel of the Kingdom. Now, while Jesus was here, He said only those *drawn* could come to Him. He said: John 6:44: “**No man can come to me [No man can!], except the Father which hath sent me draw him.**” And, you see, very few did. They didn't believe Him. Many believed on Him, but they tried to *kill* him because they didn't believe what He said. You read that in John 8, beginning with verse 30. You'll have to read about the next 15 verses, and you'll see that they didn't believe what He said; and they wanted to *kill* Him. But they believed ON Him. Oh yes, many believe ON Christ today; but they're no more saved than a rat, or a guinea pig, or anything else.

Now, Jesus came proclaiming the Kingdom of God. Mark 1:1: “**The beginning of the gospel OF Jesus Christ, the Son of God.**” Then it talks about John the Baptist, who came to prepare the way before Him – before His first coming. Mark 1:14-15: “**Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel ...**” But, what gospel? What gospel do they preach today? ***They preach a gospel that Jesus is the Christ.*** That's all! **But** He came as a messenger, sent from God with a message. They don't preach that message! I do, but they don't. Now, wait a minute: “**Preaching the gospel** [What gospel? The gospel

...] *of the kingdom of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled ...'*"

It is fulfilled because He had just *conquered* Satan. Satan is the one who sat on the throne of the world. Satan was ruling. Adam hadn't conquered Satan. Every other man obeyed Satan, except *the few* that God had called and drawn to Him.

Christ was tempted terribly of Satan, but Christ withstood him. And Christ obeyed God and rejected Satan's way of "get" and obeyed God's way of "love." He qualified now to re-establish the government of God, which had been taken away. So He came preaching the gospel of the government – the Kingdom of God, the Family of God that will rule the government of God and re-establish the government that God set on this earth under Lucifer. Mark 1:15: "... *saying, 'the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: REPENT ye, AND BELIEVE the gospel'*".

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

He called on them to repent. They didn't; but a few, **120**, did. But now then, I read to you something in Joel. Remember? All right, on **the Day of Pentecost**, that 120 were there; and **the Holy Spirit came and filled them with the Holy Spirit**. On **the Day of Pentecost**, (after Jesus had been preaching and bodily ascended up to heaven) ... Now we're going right along in the time sequence here; and others came rushing in, and they said, "What a wonderful thing has happened!" You see they **saw** the **Holy Spirit**, like **flames of fire**, sitting on each one. They **heard** a *roaring sound*, like many waters. They heard the **Holy Spirit**. All right then, the prophecy of Joel was fulfilled on that **Day of Pentecost**. Thousands of people came running in. They were all curious because they were speaking in various languages. It wasn't the kind of "tongues" people speak in today. Every man heard them (**the 120**) speak his language. The Greek heard them speaking Greek. The Parthian heard them speaking the Parthian language. And so it went. It was in *the hearing* more than it was in the speaking actually. There is no "**tongues speaking**" like that going on today. Never has been since, never.

So those in the first century now were *drawn*. On that **Day of Pentecost**, 3,000 were baptized. Peter preached a sermon. They were *pricked* in their hearts. God began to *draw* them. Remember He said, "***I will pour out of my spirit on***

all flesh." All right, there's a duality of that. Now He's doing it to a certain number, beginning on the **Day of Pentecost**. He will do it to **ALL FLESH** when the devil is taken away, after Christ comes and the Millennium begins. But, He didn't do it for everybody then. It was just certain ones that were really sincere Jewish people that came there at that time, and there were 3,000 of them baptized that day because Peter said, "**Repent**." They said, "**Men ... what shall we do?**" when Peter preached his sermon. Peter says, "**Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved**."

But being baptized, you're baptized *into* the death, the burial and the resurrection of Christ. Going down into the water is going down into the grave; being buried is into the grave; coming up, the resurrection. It's a type of believing in Christ, and His crucifixion, and **His shed blood** for the payment of our sins. So Peter said in effect then, "**Repent and believe**." *Repentance and belief are the two conditions*. There again twin conditions, two, for receiving the Holy Spirit.

Now the Holy Spirit came on them. A day or so later, there were 2,000 more converted when Peter had healed the cripple at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, and so on. That is only a type of what is going to happen in the Millennium. But God began now to call certain people **into His Church**. Jesus has said, "***I will build My church***." And He did. Now those in the first century were *DRAWN*. Many called, but *few* were chosen and actually drawn.

APOSTLES PREACH THE GOSPEL

All right, back to the apostles. Why did God choose 12 apostles? Because they were witnesses, eye witnesses, of the resurrection of Jesus. They had been with Him 3½ years, and then they were with him 40 days after the resurrection. The apostles went out; and, while they preached the gospel of the Kingdom, they put emphasis on preaching that Jesus was the Christ. *Why?* Because the Jews at that time would *not* accept that Jesus was the Christ. *That was the opposition*. The opposition was against Jesus being the divine Christ, and so the apostles preached that primarily.

Now after a little while you don't hear anymore of Peter, and John, and James, and the original 12 apostles; but everything is the apostle Paul as you go through the book of Acts, and you get over a few chapters. Why is that?



THE KEY TO MODERN ISRAEL'S IDENTITY

There are two places where you find that Jesus said He was only sent to “**the lost sheep of the house of Israel**” (and they were over in Western Europe and in Britain at that time). He sent and He said to the 12, “**Don't go to anybody but the lost sheep of the house of Israel,**” and they were not there. It was only Jews who were there; and “the lost sheep of the house of Israel” were not Jews, believe it or not. Now, you need to read our book on *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, if you want to understand that. Well now, the apostles were witnesses of the resurrection; but they did also preach the gospel of the Kingdom. And it was Phillip that went up to Samaria, a Gentile community; and he preached. When they preached the things concerning the Kingdom of God, they all believed and they were baptized, and so on.

THE TRUE GOSPEL SUPPRESSED

Now then, I'd like to have you turn next to Galatians the first chapter. In 53 A.D., Paul was writing to the Churches up in Galatia, a number of Churches up there. That is Turkey today. He said: (Galatians 1:6-7) “**I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel.** [They were suppressing the gospel. They were preaching a different gospel, but the gospel they preached was not really a gospel. He said:] **which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.**” So the gospel was being perverted and counterfeited, and they were preaching a different gospel; and the true gospel of Jesus Christ was being *subverted* at that time.

Now then, in II Corinthians, the 11th chapter; and you will notice here beginning with verse three, where Paul said to the Church of Corinth: II Corinthians 11:3-4: “**I fear** [Now this is along in the middle of the first century. Several, 20 years or more after the Church began.] **lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that comes** [Now, a preacher is coming. Paul had some opposition. “**If he that cometh...**”] **preacheth another Jesus** [They did. They preached a Jesus that came and did away with His Father's law, where Jesus said, “**I have kept My Father's**

law” and so commanded us to do the same thing.] **whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which you have not received, or another gospel** [You see, there was a different gospel being preached. The main gospel of Christ was being suppressed.], **which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with it.**”

Then he goes on talking about these *false apostles* that were preaching a different gospel and *suppressing* the true gospel. Then we notice here, II Corinthians 11:13-15: “**For such are false apostles** [that were preaching these other gospels], **deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his** [Satan's] **ministers** [the ministers of Satan, professing to be the ministers of Christ]...”

That's what's going on today, my brethren! People are so *blinded*, and so *deceived*. They don't know it, and they don't want to know it. They want to go on believing it: “**Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers** [Satan's ministers] **also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.**” So you see there, they were going on with a false gospel.

JESUS' PROPHECY IN MATTHEW 24

Now Jesus' prophecy begins to show what they were doing. And Jesus' prophecy we find now in Matthew 24. Matthew 24, you'll find it also in Mark 13 and Luke 21; but I'll take



DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM

Matthew 24, which we always have used. It's a bit more explicit. All right, let's begin at the first. Matthew 24:1-2:

“And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and His disciples came to Him for to show Him the buildings of the temple. [Now notice what they were talking about, the buildings of the temple.] And Jesus said unto them, ‘See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.’” The temple is going to be destroyed, and its stones all thrown down. It was built out of great massive stones.

Matthew 24:3: *“As He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when shall these things be?’”* What? He'd been talking about the temple that they'd shown Him, and He said it would be destroyed. Actually that happened in 70 A.D., which was several years later than they were taking there. Matthew 24:3: *“Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?”* The end of this age this time; it doesn't mean the end of the earth. Now, they asked Him two things. When will the buildings of the temple be thrown down? And when will You be coming back to earth again to rule? Those things would actually be happening 1900 years and some apart. So notice how Jesus began to answer. They first asked Him about things in their lifetime, and He begins answering about things in their lifetime.

Matthew 24:4-5: *“And Jesus answered and said unto*

them, ‘Take heed that no man deceive you.

[That was them right there, at that time. The disciples He was talking to.] For many shall come in my name, saying, ‘I am Christ’; and shall deceive many.’” Many would come preaching **JESUS** was the Christ. He didn't say many would come saying they are Christ. Jesus said, *“Many would come saying I, Jesus, am the Christ.* But they would be deceiving the world, because they will say that I have done away with the Father's law. They won't preach the gospel of the Kingdom. They'll say the Kingdom is the Church.” Matthew 24:14: *“And this gospel of the kingdom [The gospel of the Kingdom of God, which they were doing away with. “This gospel of the kingdom”] shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all*

nations: and then shall the end come [the end of this age].”

That's the time of Christ coming, when the gospel of the Kingdom is preached. I call you to witness, my friends, my brethren up here in Seattle: *The gospel of the Kingdom you never heard until you heard it from me!* Until this Church began preaching the gospel of the Kingdom, it was not preached; and no one else is preaching it today! And you *can't* gainsay that because that happens to be an actual fact; and here are the very words of Jesus Christ. But people don't believe Christ, do they? It's about time that we do.

After that, what's going to follow? The **Great Tribulation** and then the Day of the Lord, that's coming right up. The gospel of the Kingdom is to be preached **JUST BEFORE** the **Great Tribulation** and the Day of the Lord is going to come. The **Great Tribulation**, verses 21 and 22.

I want you to get one point here. Matthew 24:21-22: *“For then [a little later than now] shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.* [A time of trouble, greater trouble than ever happened since the beginning of the world or ever shall happen again.] *And except those days should be shortened* [And cut short by God is what He's talking about.], *there should no flesh be saved* [And he means not spiritually saved, but physically saved. “No flesh should be saved ALIVE” another translation has it. No human being, no human flesh, should be saved alive.]: *but for the elect's*

sake those days shall be shortened.”

It's down at the first ... the first time, brethren, ever in the history of the world now, the **WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION** exist that can wipe out ALL HUMANITY. And there won't be a man, woman or child *left alive* on the face of the earth. What's it talking about? What is the time? Are we at that time or aren't we? Was that possible 100 years ago? That wasn't possible when I was a young man. That wasn't possible when I began preaching, but it is possible today. You bet it's possible!

‘I WILL SEND MY MESSENGER’

Now there are a few prophecies about the gospel of the Kingdom being preached now at this time. I haven't got to the main things I want to talk to you about yet. *There are prophecies regarding the preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom at this time; and then there is to be a bride ready to meet Him when He comes, because He's going to marry the Church.* That Church has to be raised up. All right, I'd like for you to turn back. *This is something I would never have preached to you even two years ago.* I certainly couldn't have preached it to you 20 or 30 years ago, and many of you have heard me preach a lot longer than that. Let's go back now to Malachi 3. Malachi 3:1: **“Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me** [Now the Word is speaking there, and that is the One who became Christ later. Well, he was to *prepare the way* before Christ, and he did prepare the way before Christ's first coming.]: **and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple ...”**

He's coming TO **HIS TEMPLE**. I want you to get that. Jesus Christ came to the temple that was built by Zerubbabel. The temple of Solomon was destroyed. Zerubbabel's temple followed that, but it was destroyed in 70 A.D. Malachi 3:1: **“...[He] shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant** [Christ is the Messenger of the New Covenant.], **whom ye delight in: behold He shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.”**

You read in the New Testament in a few places where it indicates that John the Baptist was the messenger that *prepared the way* before Christ, don't you? Let's just leave that. But, John the Baptist *prepared the way before His coming*. But if we read on, notice what it's talking about; and that's the next verse. Just keep right on now. Malachi

3:2-3: **“But who may abide the day of His coming?** [WHAT COMING is it talking about here? Read on; don't stop at that first verse, read on.] **And who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap. And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi.”**

That's sitting on a throne. **That's RULING!** He didn't rule the first time He came. He didn't do these things when He came. This is talking about **His Second Coming**. This is talking about what He's going to do when He comes again. He shall sit, as He's going to sit on a throne: Malachi 3:3-4 **“... sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the [ETERNAL] an offering in righteousness. Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD.”** That didn't happen when He came the first time. That is talking about someone coming to prepare the way for **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST!**

All right, now listen, here's duality once again. There was the first, physical; the second, spiritual. John the Baptist was in the **physical wilderness** of the Jordan River, preparing the way for the coming of the **physical human Jesus** coming to **His physical temple** made of stone. And He came for what purpose? He came to His physical people, Judah; and He came to proclaim that some day He would set up the Kingdom of God. But He didn't set it up. That was A TYPE of the spiritual, of the Second Coming of Christ, when His work would be not in the physical wilderness of the Jordan River but the **spiritual wilderness** of the whole world – a world that is in **a spiritual Babylon**. And preparing the way for a **glorified spiritual Christ** – coming with many crowns, as **King of Kings and Lord of Lords, with His face shining like the very sun in full strength; and coming to His spiritual temple** (not to a physical temple made of stone).

THE TEMPLE CHRIST WILL RETURN TO

Everybody's wondering what temple is Christ coming to? I'll show you the temple He's coming to! **YOU, BRETHREN, ARE THAT TEMPLE**; and all the rest of us. We're all over the world. Malachi 4:5: **“Behold,** [He's talking about the time at the very end of the whole world, and the time at the end of the Millennium even; and they're all part of the fourth chapter.] **I will send you Elijah the**

prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD."

Now, here again, just before the Day of the Lord – when the gospel of the Kingdom is to be preached to the world. And it hasn't been preached for 1950 years. In fact, it was *one century of time cycles (or 1900 years) when it began*. Exactly, if that means anything to you. Malachi 4:5-6: "... before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he shall turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." The word "curse" is used in the Hebrew language; otherwise translated as **total destruction, utter total destruction**. It's just before *lest* He does that, and the earth would be in total destruction if Christ didn't come.

John the Baptist was asked, "*Are you the Elijah that was to come?*" He said, "**No, I am not.**" I have been asked, "Are you Elijah?" And I have said, "No, I am not." Jesus Christ said one time, "**But if you will bear it, the Elijah has already come.**" Then they questioned Him a little further. *And then Jesus Christ said Elijah in person, the same Elijah, didn't come.* But John the Baptist came **in the power and spirit of Elijah**. That prophecy meant and referred to John the Baptist coming, but that was only the First Coming.

The prophecy is someone to prepare the way for the Second Coming. The first was physical – the physical Jesus coming to the physical temple, to a physical people. Someone to prepare the way for the Second Coming is preparing the way for **THE SPIRITUAL CHRIST to come to HIS SPIRITUAL TEMPLE for the marriage of the Lamb (of Christ) with the Church; and the Church is that temple!**

Ephesians 2:19-21: "*Now therefore you* [You people up at Ephesus, who were born Gentiles.] **are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God.** [Now they are citizens. That is like a country. But they are in a household. That is, a family. Notice, they are a family.] **And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone** [They're the Church.]; **in whom all the building fitly framed together** [The Church is a building fitly framed together.] **groweth unto A HOLY**

TEMPLE IN THE LORD."

"**Grows into a holy temple in the Lord.**" **THE CHURCH IS THAT TEMPLE**. The Church is to meet Christ in the air. The Church will be changed from human to divine. We won't be human beings. We'll be God beings. We'll be God persons, just like God is. **GOD IS REPRODUCING HIMSELF!** Now that temple has to be built for Christ's coming.

ZERUBBABEL AS A TYPE

Now let me show you *another prophecy* about building that temple. Let's go back now for just a moment in the Old Testament to Haggai: I want you to notice the time he's talking about. This is a prophecy; and duality is here again (a first and a latter; a first and a second). Haggai 2:3: "**Who is left among you ...**" This is not a history, but it's talking about the time when they were building the temple to which Christ came the first time. Zerubbabel was a governor of the colony, and he was sent there to build that temple.

Haggai 2:3-9: "**Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory?** [It's talking about Solomon's temple that was so glorious as a physical temple.] **And how do ye see it now? Is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing? Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel** [The second temple was like nothing compared to Solomon's. It was bigger, but it was not as fine.], **saith the [ETERNAL]; and be strong, O Joshua, for I am with you, saith the LORD** [That is, work in building the temple.]... **According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not. For thus saith the LORD of hosts: Yet once, it is a little while, and I WILL shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; and I will shake all nations; and the desire of all nations shall come** [Meaning, peace which will come with Christ.]; **and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts. THE GLORY OF THIS LATTER HOUSE SHALL BE GREATER THAN OF THE FORMER ...**"

The glory of the house he was building was NOT ANYWHERE NEAR as glorious as the former temple of Solomon. But he's talking about a time when the thrones of nations will be destroyed; when God is going to shake the earth, and shake nations. He's talking about our time, now.

He's talking about the Second Coming of Christ. Can you see that? It's a prophecy. It's not a history.

Malachi 2:9: "... and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts". He hasn't given that yet; but He will, at the time He's talking about. Now, He's talking of a time of building the temple for Christ to come to. That temple is a spiritual temple. Zerubbabel was a **TYPE**. He built the physical temple to which Christ came the first time. **Some-one** has got to be, not in the physical wilderness of the Jordan River, but **amidst** the spiritual wilderness and **Babylon of religious confusion** of our 20th century, **who is paving the way for the Second Coming of Christ to HIS GLORIOUS TEMPLE, a spiritual temple; and not to proclaim the coming of the Kingdom of God, but TO SET UP THE KINGDOM OF GOD and to rule it right then and there.**

Brethren, I would never have preached that to you even one year ago. But how do we know whether anything is true or not? Jesus says **by their fruits** you know! What are the fruits? **HAS ALL OF THIS BEEN DONE? IF IT HAS BEEN DONE, YOU KNOW! YOU ARE THAT TEMPLE. GOD HAS BEEN USING ME TO BUILD THIS TEMPLE.** I've said I hope that I am the one of which Zerubbabel was a type,

because it says that this is the word unto Zerubbabel.

Zechariah 4:6: "**Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the [ETERNAL].**"

It really *indicates* that anyway, if I can keep fulfilling that, then I'll go on living until it has happened. I don't know anyone who is doing the kind of job that I am at my age. I don't know of that.

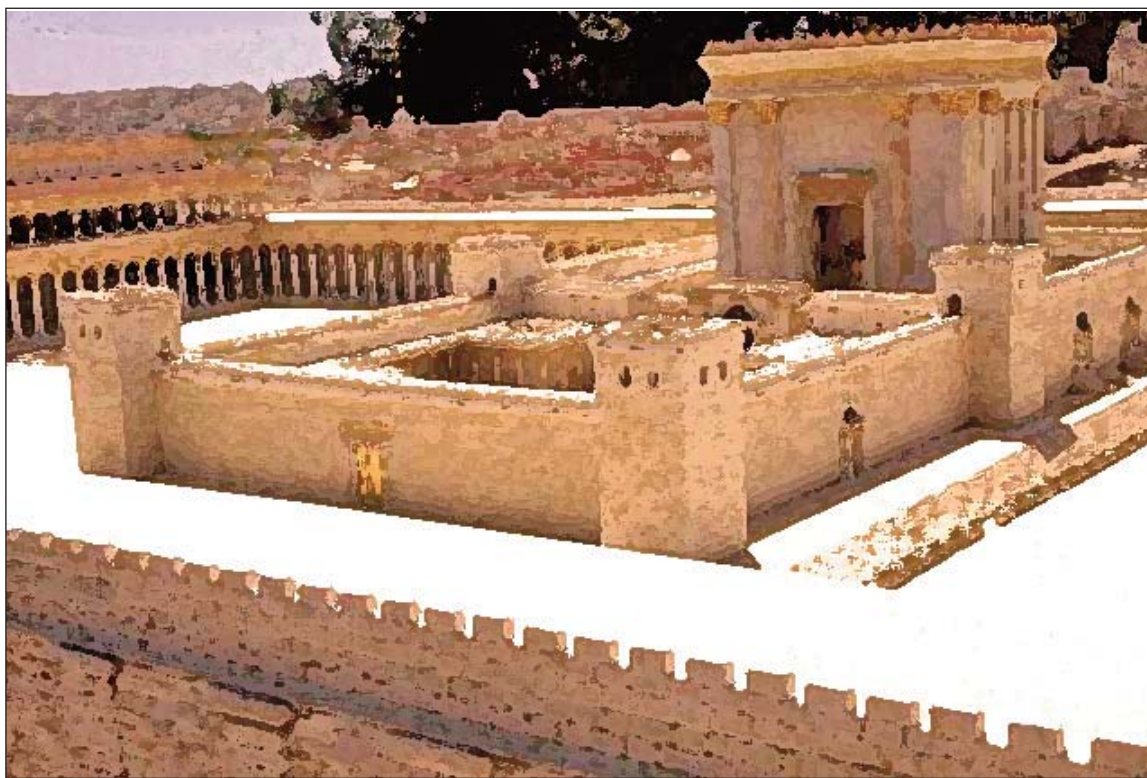
[Though he is sleeping, Christ is still using him via his Recorded Works on

our web sites to build the Temple while doing the Work.]

Who is doing a job like this? Who's writing, and turning out the amount of writing that I am, at this age? I don't know anyone, and I don't think you do. BUT THIS IS **THE WORK OF THE LIVING ALMIGHTY GOD! IT'S NOT MY WORK!** **[And it was all recorded for use today]** It isn't anything I wanted. It isn't something I chose and put myself in for. I tried to run the other way, and I want to get to that.

CALLED AND PREPARED

I want to tell you how God brought me in here. I would like to tell you now. Back in 1926, I was challenged. The wife of my youth and I had only been married nine years at that time. *But she had come to see in the Bible that she ought to keep the Sabbath.* To me that was fanaticism taught by the Seventh Day Adventists, who were a way out fanatical group anyway. I didn't know anything about them at that time. However, I was not able to talk her out of it; and the only way I could do... I said, "The Bible says 'You shall keep Sunday.'" Well, she says, "If it does, show me; and I'll go back and keep Sunday again." Well, I said, "I don't know. I've never studied the Bible." And, well, she said, "If



A MODEL OF THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM

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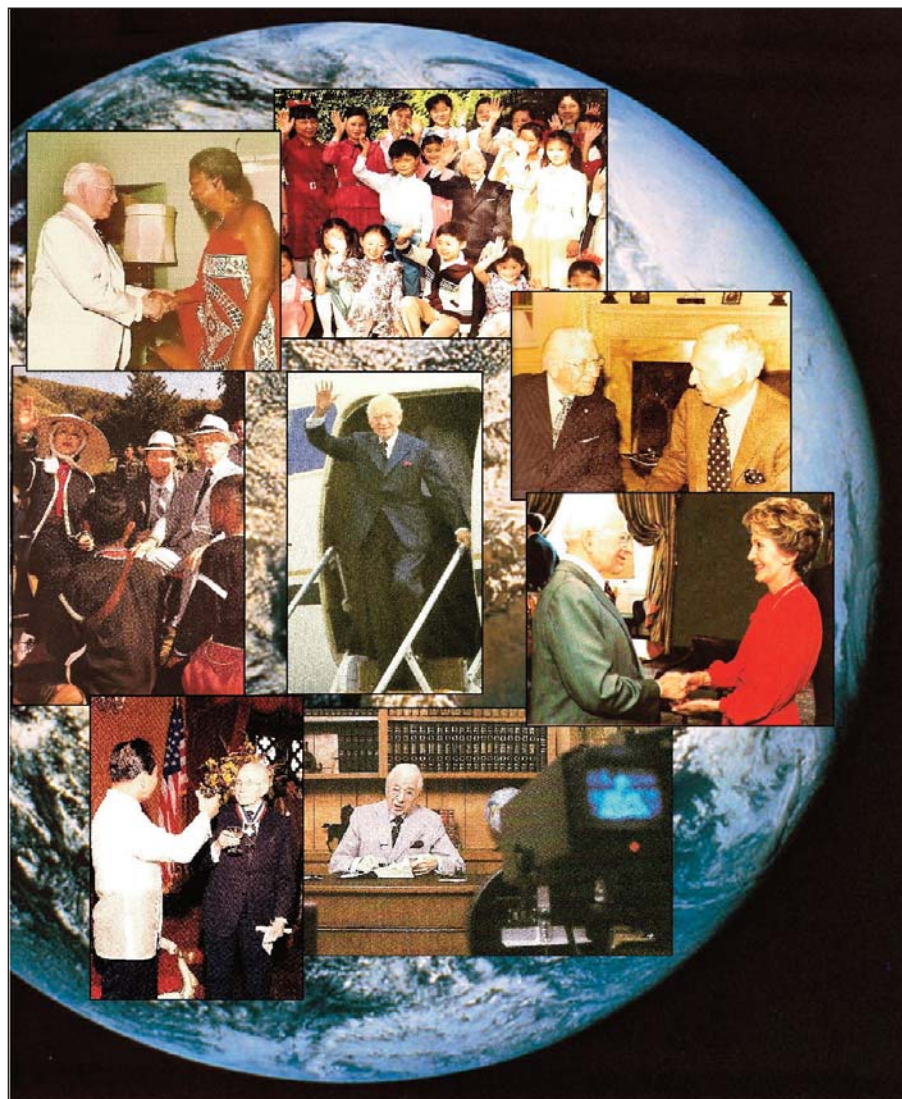
it's there, you go and find it. Maybe that's the only way you're going to get me back to it." Finally, I loved my wife and she loved me; and I was challenged to study the Bible.

I had to admit that I had always believed in God, but I had never proved it. I went into a deep research, in-depth research, day and night. Often at one thirty in the morning, my wife would call and say, "Aren't you coming to bed?" Well, I had the most intense research for that six months I've ever had in my life.

Now, God called me.

I was questioned and challenged on a point of the law of God, the foundation of the government of God. Do you get the point now? Let's go a little further. I began to read the Bible. I proved that God exists. I *proved* that the Bible is the Word of God, and that it is **infallible** in its original writings. And one thing that *proved* it to me was I found the promises God made to Abraham; and I found that the United States is Manasseh, one of the lost 10 tribes. That is one of the most amazing things! And you get it in our booklet.

I was challenged on a point of the law of God, the very foundation of the government of God. Now Jesus says the way of the Kingdom of God is to repent. I did. But I learned about **the Holy Days**. I not only learned about the Sabbath, but I found if we keep the weekly Sabbath and we did it, because I saw that the last thing ... I really didn't want to keep the Sabbath. And I found something, a booklet, an ex-Seventh Day Adventist had written against the



CHRIST'S WORK THROUGH MR. ARMSTRONG HAD A GLOBAL IMPACT

Sabbath; and he claimed that Colossians 2:16 was not the Sabbath. Well, I found that it talks about **the annual holy days**. Then I *proved* that it doesn't do away with any of the days whatsoever. Don't let anyone *judge* you in respect to **what we do on those days**. That's all it's talking about. I went to the original Greek words, and got the original meaning. *I saw that we had to keep the annual Holy Days if we keep the Sabbath*. Who else does that? No other church on earth

does that!

Now, the book of Revelation; I went into that. I went back into Daniel 2:44 about the Kingdom of God that would be set up. Then in Daniel 7 – where the saints are going to inherit the Kingdom of God. I learned about the Kingdom and the government of God, before I was even baptized, while I was studying whether I was even going to keep the Sabbath or not. I saw from II Peter 2:4, which I read to you earlier, that *the angels had sinned*. I looked into that, and I found out all about the angels that I've told you today. I found that *before* I was even baptized.

And I got to prove about the government of God, the law of God. I got **the things that count** that God wanted proclaimed today about the Kingdom of God. Then about Lucifer, who became Satan (in Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28). All of this during my conversion, you might say. In six months,

my studies had led to it; and learning about Christ's Coming.

I saw, in John the third chapter, where no man is ever going to heaven; and no man ever did. Jesus said so; and I got the proof of that, and the proof of the Millennium and the Kingdom of God on earth. Now even the Church of God at that time didn't know those things. God prepared me and gave me these things. Revelation 2:26, Revelation 5:10, we're going to reign on the earth. The Adventists say we're going to reign up in heaven; Revelation 20:1-4 – how we'll be ruling on the earth. All of those things God taught me in those early days.

I gave up what men had taught me. I found it **IN THIS BOOK**, and I know of *no one else* who believes it. It is in plain language; and I said, “**I believe what God said.**” Adam and Eve *didn't* believe what God said. The people *didn't* believe what Christ said when they heard Him. I **proved** this is what God said, and I did begin to believe it. I began to **tremble** at this Word.

WHAT IS "THE WORK"?

Now, **what is the Work**? The Work started out once I was converted. Then I started with little booklets. They weren't ordinary little tracts, but they were booklets that amounted to something. And the Work came on. It goes out on the air, and it goes out in print. You all know, many people tell me they can hardly keep up reading it. How do I find time to write it? I don't know myself; but I do, because it's not my Work. It's not a human Work! **IT'S THE WORK OF ALMIGHTY GOD! HE IS THE ONE THAT EMPOWERS ME!**

I felt I wasn't able even to come and talk to you today. But God has given me the strength to talk to you, and He always does. **THIS IS THE WORK OF THE LIVING GOD. IT'S A SPIRITUAL WORK.** Now, the Work is getting the gospel to the world. Who's getting the gospel to the world? Who's proclaiming? Who does the television program today? Who does the radio program? I expect to do four next week, if you will all pray for me that I get my sleep so I can have the strength to do it. That's what it's going to take. But it's that, and it's the writing; **and that is what is doing the Work.**

God *adds* to the Church such as He wants saved. *I don't bring you in.* I didn't ask any of you to come into the Church. *You came to us.* I didn't come to you. I didn't try to

talk you into it. God set you into the Work. God called you. God *drew* you! I didn't. It isn't a case of some human being doing it. It's divine, and it's God *drawing*; God *drew* you. But I have the responsibility of seeing that you are fed; and I have been used by God in establishing Ambassador College, to train the ministers that do feed you. Now, in a Work like this, we feed the flock. We've got all these publications. There's *The Plain Truth*. I write in it every issue. *The Good News* for the Church, I write in it every issue. There are books, and there are booklets.

Now, let's get straight: What is "**the Work**"? And **whom** is God using to do it? ***Because that's going to come up for you to make a decision on some of these days very soon, believe me.*** Can you remember what I said, when it does? Is there any work like this on the face of the earth? You don't know of any. Tell me, if you know of any. I don't. I'd like to be informed, because I just don't know. I just don't. Am I tooting my own horn up here today? I don't mean it that way. I'm trying to tell you **WHAT GOD IS DOING**. God has always worked through ***one man at a time***, not through a group! But that one man has to have a group backing him and supporting him. Look how many supported Moses. Look how many supported the men of God. ***But there was one man that God was using. I can't help it. I have noticed that. I wouldn't have said this before. But the time has come for you to know, because you are going to have to judge who you are going to follow pretty soon. Are you going to follow Christ, as I follow Christ?***

Well that's it, brethren. I've said things today you have *never* heard before. I've said many things today you have heard many times before; but I've also said some things today you haven't heard before, and even our ministers have not heard before. And it's time that we do have these things. I won't hold you longer. I've held you a long time. Thank you, brethren, very much.



Editor's Comment: This was a sermon given in Seattle, Washington that lasted more than two hours. To make it fit into an article, it was necessary to edit out a large portion from it. However, what was removed did not take away from the subject matter. I urge you to listen to the complete sermon. Please write or call and it will be mailed to you on a CD or Cassette.

Alton 'Don' Billingsley



Our web sites

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

Church of God Faithful Flock
www.cog-ff.com

Watchman for the House of Israel
www.ezekielwatchman.org

World News Bulletin
www.worldnewsbulletin.com

Lost 10 Tribes of Israel
www.losttribes.org

The Ten Commandments
www.10commandments.ws

Prophetic Events
www.propheticevents.us

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

Restored Truths of God
www.restoredtruths.net

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

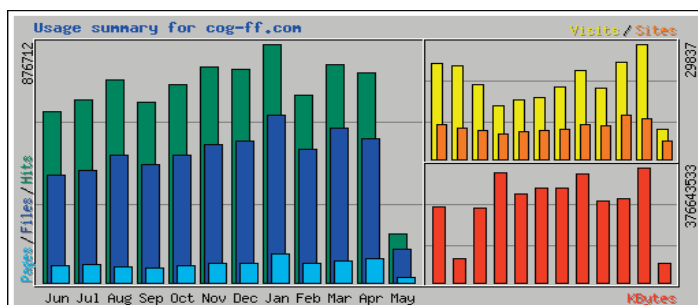
Which Day is the Christian Sabbath?
www.sabbathcentral.com

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

COGFF – Home School Association
www.coghomeschool.org

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

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



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