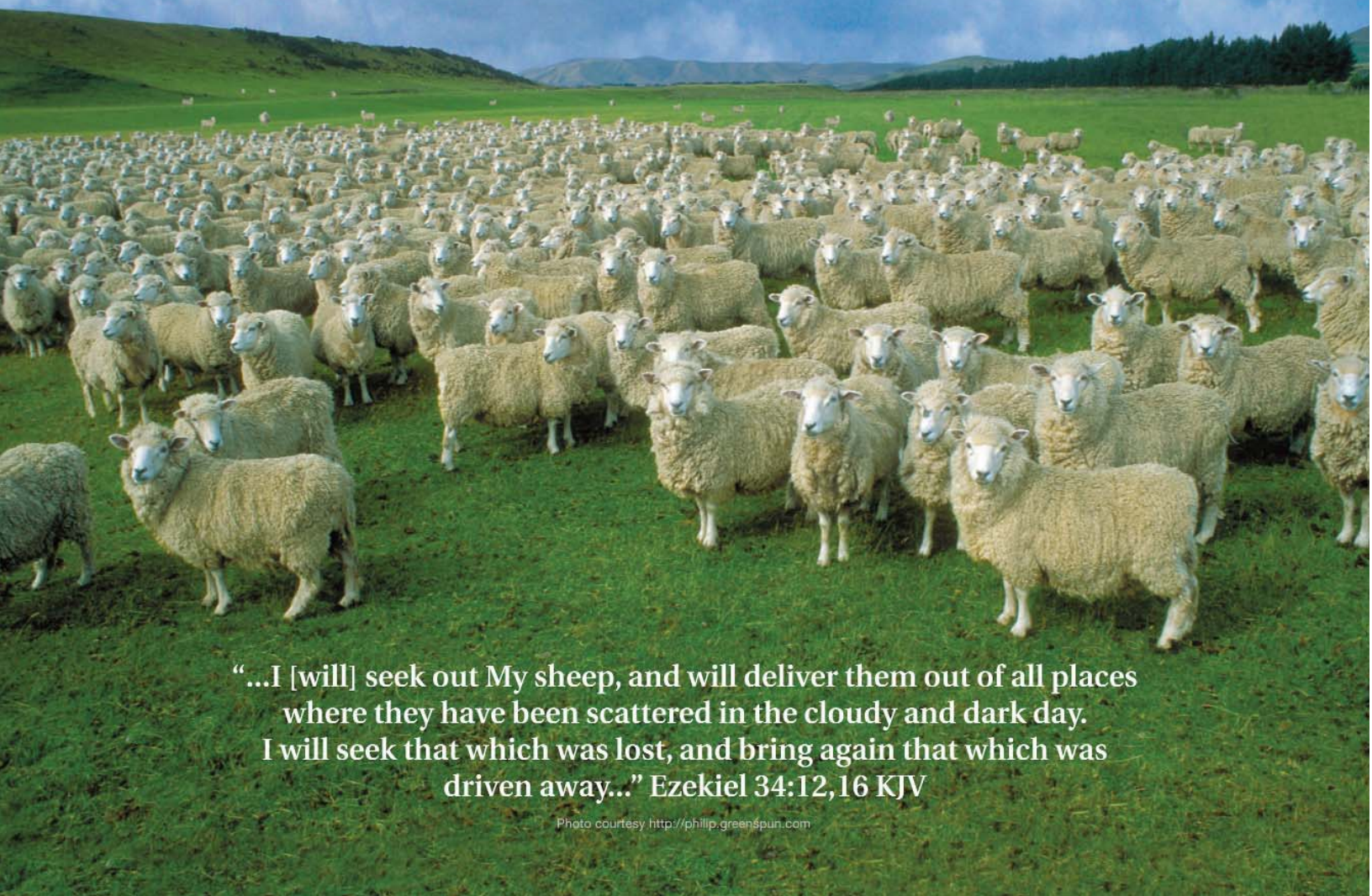


The _____ Philadelphia Remnant

Sept/Oct 2008



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

Photo courtesy <http://philip.greenspun.com>

The Philadelphia Remnant

SEPT/OCT 2008

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

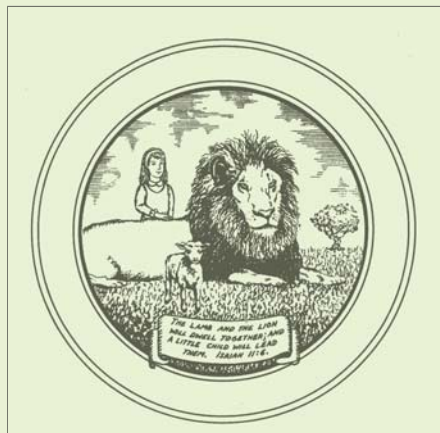
The Church of God Faithful Flock, with headquarters in Modesto, California, humbly presents this magazine – The Philadelphia Remnant, which continues to provide a conduit for the work Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong spearheaded, the work of reaching out to people worldwide with the message of the soon-coming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

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

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The Meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles

By Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong

October 13, 1981

Greetings, brethren, all over the United States, Canada and Britain (and besides the mainland of the United States) in Alaska and in Hawaii. What a marvelous thing it is that we can **all** be together, and that we have this wonderful setting here at the headquarters of God's Work. That is, the temporary headquarters now because these headquarters are going to be moved very soon when the real Feast of Tabernacles begins at the Second Coming of Christ over to Jerusalem.

This Church has been busy building or rather digging over there in the largest excavation, so far as I know, in archaeological history. Digging down, clearing off the debris of the throne of David where Jesus Christ will soon come and will reign over **all** the nations of this earth and will bring us finally peace.

But we don't have peace now. Just one week ago today, in a matter of moments, the entire course of modern history was changed with the assassination of President Anwar Sadat of Egypt. President Sadat, incidentally, had risked his life when he made the extraordinary visit to speak to the Knesset in Jerusalem. And, instead of declaring war as he had previously done on the Holy Day War, he now went over to declare peace. He had changed his mind, and now he



MR. HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

started to dedicate his life to peace; and indeed he gave his life for peace – as I sent in a condolence telegram to his widow, the First Lady of Egypt, on the day of the assassination. However, he was not able to bring us peace. No man, no leader, in the world **can**. They've striven for peace. They've fought for peace. They've worked for peace, but we have no peace, and we cannot have peace **until we change our way of life**.

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ was the Messenger who brought the **message** of the Gospel. The Gospel is the message He brought – the message from God the Father; and they ignore God the Father today in the religion known as Christianity.

Oh, how terrible it is, brethren, that the world doesn't know **WHY WE ARE HERE!** THEY DON'T KNOW THE **PURPOSE** OF LIFE! THEY DON'T KNOW THE PURPOSE OF GOD ALMIGHTY. But this Church is beginning to **tell them**; and we've been telling them now for about 48, 49 years. And the only voice in the world that is telling them the real truth of WHO AND WHAT GOD IS, OF THE REAL MESSAGE OF GOD AND THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST which is the Gospel OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD, OF WHAT AND WHY MAN IS, HOW DID WE



ANWAR SADAT ADDRESSES ISRAELI KNESSET

COME TO BE HERE? WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF LIFE? WHY WERE WE PUT HERE? The world does not know those things.

Oh, it is so much more than just knowing that Christ died for us. Why did He die for us? What was the purpose? What does that have to do with us and our lives? There's something we need to do besides what He did for us. We need to let Him come into our lives and live our lives for us, and that's something else again.

WORLD EVENTS HELD UP

Well, it had seemed in the last several years (the last 15 years) that God had been holding up the sequence of world events in this world leading to a climax that is prophesied. Some of us who understand the prophecies of the Bible

tions of President Ronald Reagan of the United States and Pope John Paul II, should be **a warning** to the world (and I believe it is) that perhaps the holding up of events in the world is about over; and God is going to let things speed up very quickly from here on. If not now, when it does happen *it will happen suddenly – so quickly it will take your breath*, and the whole world will gasp in awe and wonder when they see the things that are prophesied.

For example, **10 nations in Europe** – probably five of them in Western Europe and five in Eastern Europe – reviving, resurrecting the so-called **Holy Roman Empire** of the Middle Ages; and that is going to happen very soon now. Satan now is sitting on the throne of this world. Now people don't understand that. We have governments all over the world. The different nations have their governments.



MR. ARMSTRONG, ANWAR SADAT

President Anwar Sadat governed the nation of Egypt. I talked to him about it. In my talk with him, I told him why we do not have peace. The two ways of life: The one is the way of **get** and that's the way the world is living; and the other is the way of **give**. He sat there smoking his pipe, and nodding, and agreeing with what I said. And I said that we won't bring peace, but the God that we believe in will. The God, we call Him God. And I said, "I believe you call him, Allah." And he nodded, "Yes." "He will intervene and bring us peace, and we will yet have the peace that you have been striving for." I gave him that assurance less than a year before he died.

know what is coming, and we expected it to come sooner than it has. It hasn't come yet. But the event that happened a week ago today, I believe, has triggered and is a signal that the time has come.

You know, a thousand years is as a day with God and a day is as a thousand years. He doesn't consider time as we do. He has held up events for a little while. But when the time comes, then SUDDENLY things will go to pieces. They'll fall into place in a hurry, and very quickly everything will fall into place; and the end will come. Jesus Christ will come and set up world peace.

Now this assassination of President Anwar Sadat (whom I knew well), on the very heels of the attempted assassina-

But Satan is sitting on the throne of the earth, and for 6,000 years he has been ruling in the governments of this world. He sits on a throne. The world is being governed, and people's lives are being governed.

Now in the 12th chapter of Revelation we read beginning with verse 7, and this is a prophecy that probably has just recently been fulfilled in our time. It's a prophecy for this approximate time right now.

Revelation 12:7-9: "**And there was war in heaven: Michael** [a great archangel] **and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels** [another great archangel, the dragon] **and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the**

great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

SHORT TIME LEFT

Revelation 12:12: "*Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.*"

He knows that he has but a short time. But what is **all** of that triggering? Satan cast out of heaven, down to earth and beginning to persecute the Church as the next verse said, which I didn't read. And we have been persecuted; and it does show that, after that, we're going to be taken to *a Place of Safety*.

Then there will be another persecution of the **remnant** Church – known in the Bible, and in the third chapter of the book of Revelation, as the **Laodicean Church** – a still greater Church but *a lukewarm one* that will come out of the **Great Tribulation**, which is now just ahead of us. ...

Revelation 12:10: "*And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, 'Now is come salvation ...'*"

When Satan is cast down, *he knows he has but a short time*. And how does he know it? Because Jesus Christ (in giving His disciples the sign of the end of this age and of the coming of the World Tomorrow, the coming of Christ and setting up a **different** world) said, "***This GOSPEL of the KINGDOM shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.***"

Brethren, THIS CHURCH HAS BEEN PREACHING THAT GOSPEL TO THE WHOLE WORLD, AND NOBODY ELSE HAS DONE IT. NO OTHER CHURCH HAS DONE IT! NO OTHER VOICE HAS DONE IT! I WONDER IF YOU CAN REALIZE IT! It is the FULFILLMENT of the very prophecy of Jesus in Matthew 24. The Gospel of the KINGDOM, THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD!

Of course, the Kingdom of God is the divine Family of God. But that Family is a **ruling** Family, that Family is the



PUPPET RULERS

Family that will be **governing** the world with the government of God, instead of the governments of man as they have been influenced and completely led by Satan the Devil.

Satan is sitting on the throne of the whole earth. *He has many, you might say, puppet leaders sitting on thrones of different nations*; and that is the kind of world we're living in. **People are governed**, and there is government to regulate our lives. Now let's understand this thing.

Revelation 12:10: "*And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, 'Now is come salvation...'*"

People think that when you say, "I receive Christ," you have received salvation. The Bible does not teach that, my brethren. The Bible teaches that **he that endureth unto the end the same shall be saved**. Salvation comes with the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and not until then. Oh, how **deceived** this whole world is! Satan the Devil has **deceived** them. He is the god of this world. He has his religions. He has his governments. He has his social structure. He has his business and economic structure. He has everything in this world! It's his world. ...

Revelation 12:10-11: "*... the kingdom of our God and the power of His Christ [the rulership of Christ]: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them*

before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."

That doesn't mean that everybody dies that loves God and has His Word. In fact, this Church is to be protected from that sort of thing. But you have to love God and love peace and love things like that more than your life



PRESIDENT SADAT, EGYPTIAN FLAG

Now President Anwar Sadat didn't know the whole truth of God. I gave him a little bit of it. I'm sure he didn't completely comprehend it because Jesus Christ said, "*No man can come to me except the Father, which sent me, draws him.*" And God is only drawing a very few – one here, and one over there, and one somewhere else – out of the millions and the billions of the people here on the earth today. Only a very, very few are being drawn by God. But Satan is now **wroth**, and he is going to stir up the time that we know of as the **Great Tribulation**. This Church is to be protected from that **Great Tribulation** – those of us who are faithful especially, and that does not unfortunately include every one of us. I hope it includes you, and you, and you.

But finally I want you to notice in Revelation 11:15. Finally, "*the kingdoms of this world*" which Satan is ruling in the various presidents, prime ministers, kings and emperors ... And I have known all of the emperors – which only were two, and one of those is now dead. Many of the kings, prime ministers and presidents I have known and visited with them on their own thrones, so to speak, which are the offices where they do their work in the modern world like we live in today. And I've probably visited and talked with more heads of state in their own offices than any other man

in the world today. But I can't convert them. I can't. And they can't bring us peace, and I can't bring peace. I can merely tell them that the problems they face are greater than they can handle, and that God Almighty is going to intervene and handle these things and settle them for us and send Jesus Christ to rule and to bring us peace at last.

PEACE ON EARTH

Revelation 11:15: "*The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall REIGN FOREVER and ever.*"

Brethren, we're here to celebrate the time that will begin with the Second Coming of Christ. That will be **a thousand years of peace**. Now, just five days ago, we celebrated a time that really signifies and reminds us every year of the fact that this **Satan the Devil** is going to be cast into a symbolic bottomless pit. In other words, set a seal upon him that he cannot deceive the nations anymore for 1,000 years. And there will be 1,000 years of peace on this earth.

Peace is a state of positive mental tranquility, but it is more than just tranquility. It's a state of confidence. It's a state of love. It's a state of mind, an attitude of mind. And it was explained to those in the local audience here this morning, how (even though we live in a world of great disturbance and of **war** and of every evil) that we can have peace in our own hearts and our own lives even in such a world.

Today we're living in a
**SICK, SICK world. A
VERY SICK world!**



A world filled with crime, filled with violence and war, filled with immorality, and filled with starvation and ignorance and suffering and every evil and everything that we don't want – because men are living the way **they want to**

SADAT: A MAN OF WAR AND PEACE

Continued on Page 26

Personal from the Editor

By Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley

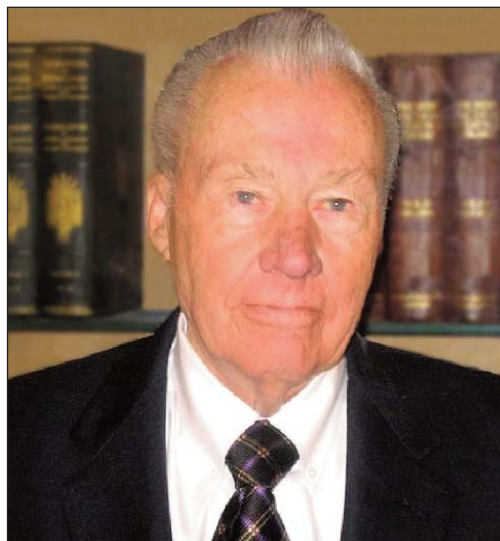
Once again we are rapidly approaching the Fall Holy Day season: **The Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day.** Though our numbers have greatly diminished, there will yet be perhaps 50,000 people, more or less, who will be traveling to various places to observe these most wonderful and meaningful days.

However, when we consider the many corporate churches with each one having **varying beliefs** from the more than **19 doctrinal teachings** that were **restored** by Jesus Christ through His late apostle from the approximate **three** within the Sardis era of God's Church, one cannot help but realize these **Holy Days** will be observed **in form** rather than in **true meaningful substance** by all but a very few thousand members.

THE FEAST SITE JESUS CHRIST CHOOSES

To realize the fullness of the meaning of this wonderful Festival that **PICTURES** the millennial reign of Jesus Christ and the beauty and glory of it, Scripture reveals we are to attend only the Feast site where Jesus Christ places His name:

"Three times (seasons) a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God IN THE PLACE WHICH HE CHOOSES: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the



Alton B. (Don) Billingsley
points made in these Scriptures:

Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall NOT APPEAR 'before the LORD' empty-handed"

(Deuteronomy 16:16; 11-12).

Consider the two major

1) From these Scriptures, one should be able to understand we are commanded to attend these Holy Days 'ONLY' in the place that Jesus Christ chooses!

2) And by so doing to realize 'at that Feast site' HIS GLORIOUS INVISIBLE PRESENCE will be there among His true and faithful people even though the numbers may be few at this time (Luke 12:32).

THE FEAST SITE GOD CHOOSES

To answer the unasked question as to how one can know where are the Feast





WHICH DIRECTION WILL YOU GO?

sites God has chosen, and where His presence will be found: One should realize that God will only be where ***His TRUE TEACHINGS*** are both fully and sincerely ***believed*** and ***taught*** by His true and faithful ministers who are yet following in the footsteps of God's late apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

These men will be duly ordained ministers who are yet obedient to ***God's Theocratic Government*** and not those who are "... ***peddling the Word of God*** (margin: ***adulterating for gain***) ***the word of God*** ..." – men seeking their own recognition for ***fame and gain*** (II Corinthians 2:17).

Presently there are more than 450 Corporate Churches of God. Each of them has a varying belief from all of the others or they would not be separate from the others. And virtually all of them no longer walk in the footsteps of Jesus

Christ. Therefore He is NOT using them! If they were true ministers of God, they would yet be honoring Jesus Christ by also honoring the office of His apostle, as well as the promised Elijah, by fully believing the restored doctrinal teachings that he was used by Christ to bring back fully into His Church. In addition, they would be faithful to the Theocratic Government of God that was restored within the Church of God by His late apostle.

With this in mind it would be well to remember a Scripture that is quoted twice in the Book of Proverbs: "***There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death***" (14:12; 16:25).



THE CHURCH OF GOD JESUS CHRIST BUILT

"Jesus Christ said, 'I will build My Church.' He did not say '***Churches,***' denominations, '***sects.***' He said ***the gates of hell*** would not prevail against that

Church. Somewhere that original true Church exists today. But WHERE? WHICH? ..." Booklet, *WHERE Is the True Church, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.*

Mystery of the Ages, Mr. Armstrong, page 243: One Church with One Government: "Notice especially, there is only the ONE CHURCH. Not many churches. The CHURCH is not divided. There is only one Church. Not a parent Church and many little daughter churches that have split off in disagreement. Divisions splintering off are NOT STILL IN THE CHURCH. It is the Church that is to marry Christ in the resurrection at His coming—not disagreeing churches—not groups who have broken off!"

**WARNING WORDS OF DANGER
FROM MR. HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG**

Please consider the following excerpts from the writings of God's late apostle, who foresaw the falling away, and wrote of its danger to ministers and members alike:

"The Holy Spirit of God is given to those who have **REPENTED** of – **TURNED FROM**—sin. ... If we do not FOLLOW where God's Spirit leads, the 'lamp' — or its light (the Holy Spirit) leaves us.

"Brethren, ministers and even chief evangelists in God's Church: '**EXAMINE YOURSELVES** to see whether you are holding to your faith. Test **YOURSELVES.**' "For **GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS.** For if God spared not even the **ANGELS**



that sinned (II Peter 2:4), He would no more spare YOU!" — *Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, "Satan Deceive and Use Me? Never!!" Worldwide News, 1980.*

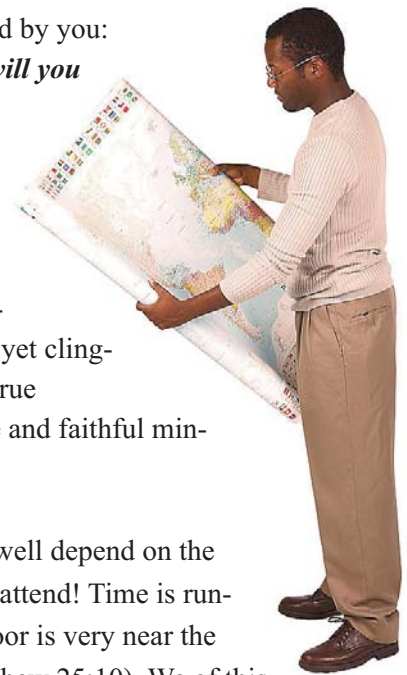
WHAT FEAST SITE WILL YOU BE ATTENDING?

In view of the foregoing, and the strong words of God's apostle, the question needs to be asked and answered by you:

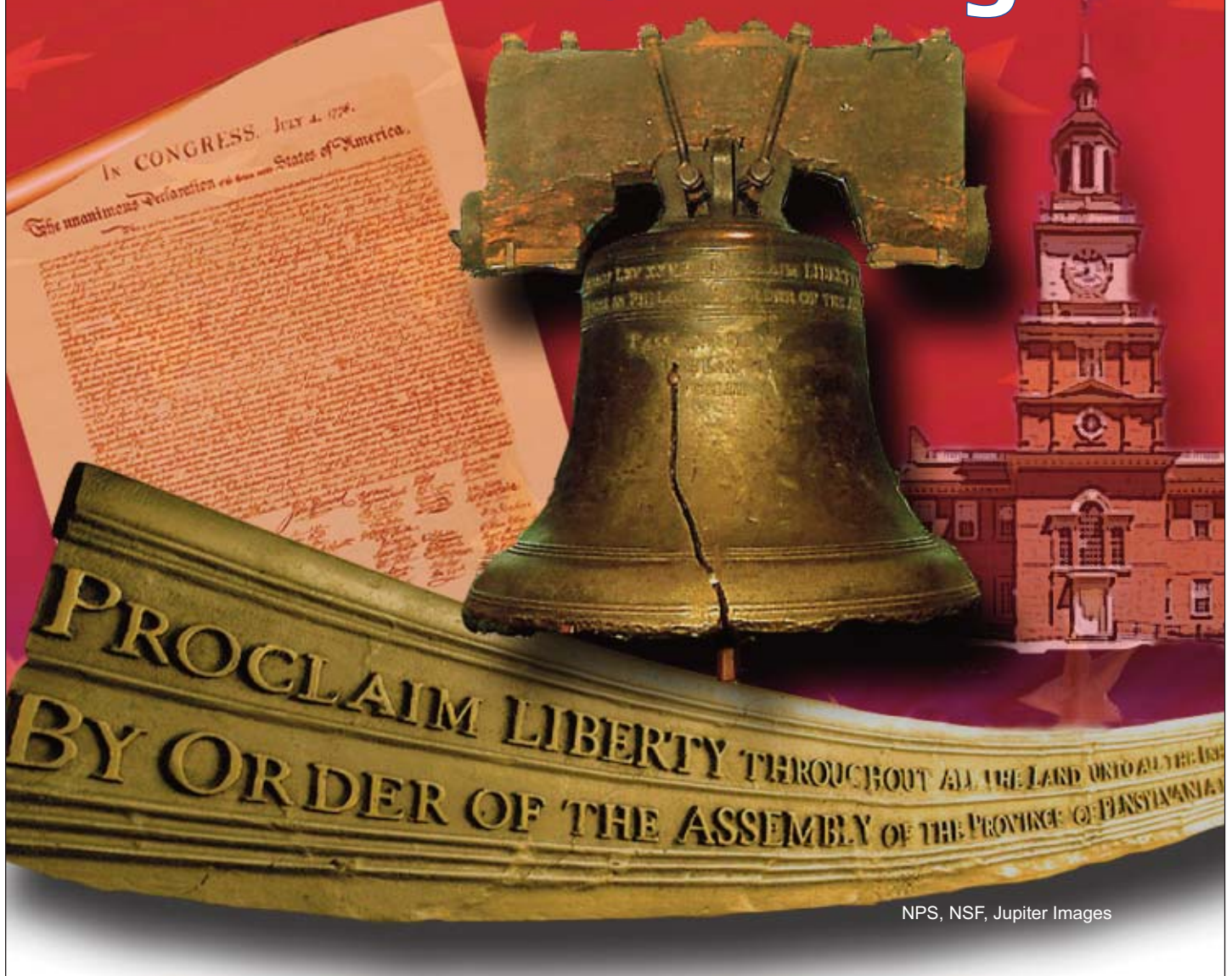
"What Feast site will you attend this year?"

One whose leaders are well known but have strayed from one or more of those true teachings, or one that is yet clinging to all of those true teachings with true and faithful ministers?

Your future could well depend on the Feast site you will attend! Time is running out and the door is very near the time to close (Matthew 25:10). We of this faithful flock are praying that you will make the right decision.



Let Freedom Ring!



NPS, NSF, Jupiter Images

'Then you shall cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement you shall make the trumpet to sound throughout all your land. And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a Jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his possession, and each of you shall return to his family. That fiftieth year shall be a Jubilee to you ...'

(Leviticus 25:9-11)

By Ron Wilcoxson

It is of great significance to God's people that the Jubilee year – *a time of liberty for all people in all the land* – is a time to return to their possessions and family. Although the year commenced on the first of Tishri, Rosh Hashanah (Feast of Trumpets), it was not until the 10th of the month, Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement),

that the proclamation was made (Leviticus 26:9 – *Son-cino Commentary*).

Of even greater significance is the duality of God's unchangeable promises to **His elect** in becoming **co-heirs** with Christ throughout the whole universe as His very family, His spirit-born sons and daughters to live eternally in complete harmony, love, joy and peace in God's future kingdom (Romans 8:16-17, 21, 23; Hebrews 2:8, 6:18).



WILLIAM PENN, CHARTER OF PRIVILEGES

THE LIBERTY BELL – AN ICON OF FREEDOM

Tradition tells of a resounding chime that changed the world on July 8, 1776, when the Liberty Bell rang out from the tower of Independence Hall, summoning the citizens of Philadelphia to hear the first public reading of the U.S. Declaration of Independence.

The Pennsylvania Assembly ordered the bell be forged in 1751 to commemorate *the 50-year anniversary* of William Penn's 1701 *Charter of Privileges*, Pennsylvania's original Constitution. It speaks of the rights and freedoms valued by people the world over. The bell achieved its iconic status when abolitionists adopted it as a symbol for their anti-slavery movement. It was first used

in this regard as an illustration facing the title page in an 1837 edition of *Liberty*, published by the New York Anti-Slavery Society. It was, in fact, the abolitionists who gave it the name “**Liberty Bell**” in reference to its inscription from Leviticus 25:10 as cited above. It previously was called simply the “State House Bell.”

THE **CRACK** IN THE LIBERTY BELL

A distinguishing feature of the famous Liberty Bell is a prominent crack that runs up from its metal rim. In retrospect, it is a remarkably apt metaphor for a country divided by the controversial issue of *enslaving* black inhabitants. The abolitionists understood this passage – “**It shall be a Jubilee unto you, and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family**” – to mean the Bible demanded *all slaves and prisoners be freed every 50 years*. There is widespread disagreement about when the first crack appeared on the bell, but it is agreed the crack's final expansion was on Washington's Birthday in 1846 (www.ushistory.org). That essentially silenced the bell so it could no longer ring out!

While modern-day Israelites have enjoyed the blessings promised to Abraham's descendents, they have *never* really known **true liberty**. In reality,

there is a **serious flaw** in Israel's independence today, just as there is a *serious fracture* in the Liberty Bell that symbolizes our nation's freedoms (Genesis 17:4-8, 22:16-18; John 8:32-34, 37-44).



Oberlin College Library, NPS

A WORLD IN CAPTIVITY

Just as our forefathers were held in hard bondage in the land of Egypt, the world also will remain in captivity until the actual fulfillment of the Day of Atonement has been accomplished. Then mankind will be released from the cruel bondage to the god of this world (Exodus 1:14, 6:5, 9; Nehemiah 9:17; II Corinthians 4:3-4).

On page 1 of the 1984 publication of the booklet ***A World Held Captive***, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong wrote:

“But most astonishing of all is the actual fact of the colossal kidnapping of all time – in which the captive for 6,000 years has willed to pursue the life and evil philosophy of the arch-kidnapper – Satan the devil. The willing victim in this case is the world that inhabits this planet earth! Yet this world has been so completely deceived that it cannot realize what actually has happened to it.

“In this 20th century, a world of awesome progress and material development is so blinded by the deceptions of the superkidnapper that it cannot understand the paradoxical fact that its progress is accompanied with appalling and still escalating evils, which are inflicting indescribable suffering, frustration and death.”

THE 'DREADED' DAY OF ATONEMENT

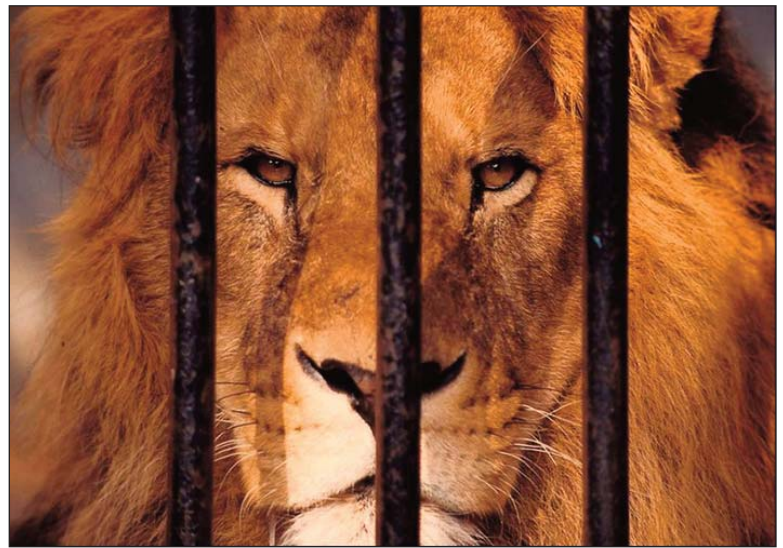
For some in God's Church, the Day of Atonement is a day to dread. Perhaps we would like to just skip this day of fasting and go directly to the Feast of Tabernacles to celebrate a festival full of happiness and plenty.



BREAKING THE BONDS OF SLAVERY



Image After



SATAN WILL BE CAGED LIKE A LION

But God has put His Holy Days in a specific order for a very special reason (Isaiah 46:9-10; I Corinthians 14:33, 40). As we are now the begotten offspring of God, we also must learn to think like Him (I John 5:1; Malachi 2:15; Acts 17:28; Philippians 2:5).

The Day of Atonement is the one annual Holy Day in which we are commanded to *afflict* ourselves by fasting (Leviticus 16:29, 23:32). We must realize its planned purpose by God for *liberating* the world from captivity; for we cannot have true peace and cooperation in the new world ahead with Satan still active and able to *stir* strife, war and competition among unsuspecting mankind (Revelation 9:11, 12:9-13, 13:4). And the meaning of this day teaches this lesson – to be *at one* with God and one another by removing its obstacles.

SATAN TO BE ISOLATED FROM MANKIND

This is that special day that represents a time when all the sins of the entire world will be laid on the head of *Satan the Devil* (Leviticus 16:20-22). We should not consider this day a burden, but it is a time to loose the bonds of wickedness, undo the heavy burdens, let the oppressed go free and break every yoke (Isaiah 58:6).

So, this is not a day for us to dread, but rather a day for Satan and his demons to dread for they are to be removed

and isolated from mankind (Matthew 8:28-29; II Peter 2:4). This coming time is made known by the Apostle John:

“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the *dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan*, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished ...” (Revelation 20:1-3).

We should greatly anticipate this coming exciting time!

SOME HAVE LOST THEIR FREEDOM, RETURNING TO CAPTIVITY

It has been about 22 years since the death of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, our late Apostle and Elijah to come, whom Jesus Christ used to restore His true Gospel and doctrines of His Church that had been *lost for more than 1,900 years!*

And though many thousands of members accepted and embraced them in earlier years, many from that number *departed* from those original truths that were once delivered to the saints just as Scripture revealed they would do in the latter days (Jude 3; II Thessalonians 2:3; II Timothy 4:3, 4):

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times, *some will depart from the faith*, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron” (I Timothy 4:1-2).

In reference to those departing from the faith after having embraced it, the Apostle Peter quotes a proverb about a dog

returning to its vomit to *scathingly rebuke* the *false teachers* used by Satan to lead Christians back into bondage (Proverbs 26:11, II Peter 2:18-22).

THE CHURCH OF GOD IN GALATIA

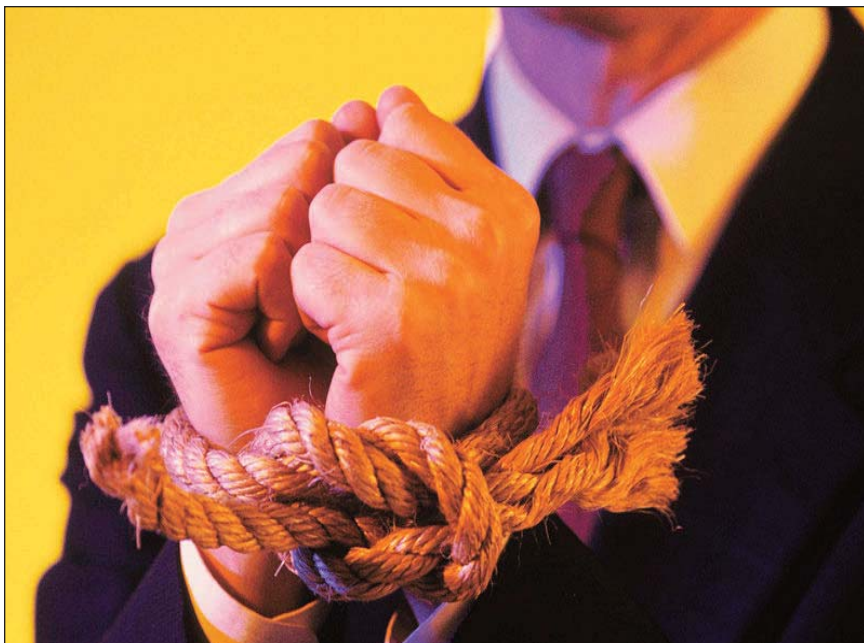
From the time the Church of God was founded in 31 A.D. to when the Apostle Paul had to exhort the Galatians in 53 A.D. to *return to the original Gospel* was an amazingly short 22 years! He wrote of his great surprise that such a thing could happen to them:



ABOVE ALL, TAKE THE SHIELD OF FAITH

“I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to *a different gospel*, which is not another; but there are some who *trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ*. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be *accursed*. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, *let him be accursed*” (Galatians 1:6-9).

Paul was so zealous for God’s truth, he pronounced *a double curse* on anyone who would dare pervert *the true Gospel* and turn the members away from the truth to *pagan teachings!*



MANKIND IS BOUND BY SIN AND SATAN

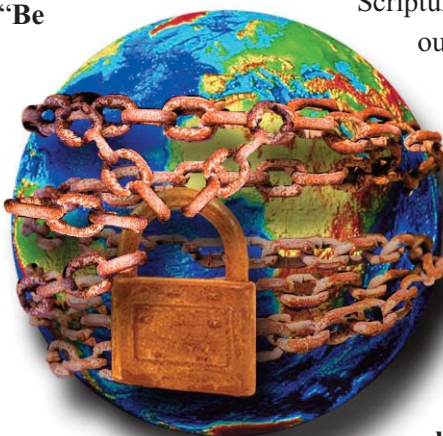
WE MUST GUARD OUR PRECIOUS FREEDOM

The apostle Peter exhorts the people of God in all ages to always be on guard against Satan the devil: “**Be sober, be vigilant; because your *adversary the devil* walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world**” (I Peter 5:8-9).

As God’s elect, we are *not* immune to Satan’s influence. None of us are sinless, as we all feel the sting of sin from time to time (Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:23, 7:14, 8:6, 7; I Peter 4:18; I John 1:8-10).

It is only with God’s spiritual armor and the power of His Holy Spirit that we can be successful against Satan (Ephesians 6:10-18). “**Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all *the fiery darts of the wicked one***” (v. 16).

If we are to maintain **our wonderful liberty** as God’s chosen people, we must hold fast to the faith once delivered and proven by us (Galatians 5:1; I Thessalonians 5:21; I Peter 2:9-10; Jude 3).



Scripture tells us to move forward, not return to our old way of life.

“**For you have not received *the spirit of bondage* again to fear; but ye have received the spirit of adoption [sonship], whereby we cry ‘Abba, Father’**” (Romans 8:15).

“**Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty**” (II Corinthians 3:17, KJV).



FREEDOM ONLY THROUGH CHRIST

After genuine repentance and baptism, we were buried with Christ and raised from a watery grave to walk in newness of life. We were no longer *slaves* to sin and certainly no longer **the *bond slaves of Satan the devil***.

Because we were no longer practicing the way of life that had brought bondage and death, we finally became free to serve God as **servants of righteousness** (Romans 6:3-18).

The apostle Paul further wrote to the Church at Galatia: “**Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage**” (Galatians 5:1).




REJOICE IN THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

*We must never **dread** the Day of Atonement, but* rejoice exceedingly in understanding the wonderful meaning of this day! When the reality and fulfillment comes, it will [open freedom's door](#) to the greatest time of world peace ever known to mankind.

This beautiful Scripture in Isaiah paints a picture of [hope and liberation](#) for all of mankind: “**The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound**” (Isaiah 61:1, Luke 4:18).

Satan the devil and adversary of God, has kept mankind from achieving [real liberty](#) through deception and destruction in many ways including almost continuous warfare! *This day pictures his removal!* Once this Evil Spirit has been removed from the presence of mankind, the way will be opened for all people to have a very close, loving relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ.

Then and only then can we have [peace](#) on earth, experience [true freedom](#) and finally **be**  [at one with God!](#)



THERE WILL BE NO FLAWS NOR CRACKS WHEN TRUE LIBERTY RINGS OUT IN GOD'S KINGDOM!



Government in Crisis

Governments throughout the world are facing overwhelming problems as energy, food and debt crises threaten the stability of their countries. Jesus Christ's inspiring message about the Good News of the Kingdom of God is mankind's only hope as nations teeter on the brink of economic collapse, massive starvation and widespread warfare during these calamitous times.

By Mark Mendiola

The United States of America finds itself at a crucial crossroads as the outcome of November's presidential election determines which direction the world's mightiest nation will take while the beleaguered U.S. faces unprecedented challenges.

The staggering problems confronting the United States are so daunting that whoever is elected to the White House will be unable to do much, if anything, to correct them. In fact, conditions could take a dramatic turn for the worse, affecting the entire world!



The onslaught of disastrous setbacks is prompting Americans and other people throughout the world to wonder what is happening to the United States as one curse after another afflicts the leading nation of the western world.

Skyrocketing petroleum and fuel prices have threatened to slam the brakes on the economy and bring it to a grinding halt. U.S. airlines, automobile manufacturers and even banks are among major industries facing the once unthinkable prospect of failure. Food prices are soaring as drought, flooding and wildfires decimate crops throughout the nation. The U.S. dollar has sunk in value as U.S. trade and federal budget deficits burgeon. Unemployment rises as businesses and factories close. Anxieties reach a feverish pitch.

In this troubling environment, presidential candidates are striking a resonating chord with constituents by repeatedly calling for “change” and emphasizing “hope.” *Radical changes* could be in store for the United States when a new president is inaugurated in January 2009 and forced to take drastic measures to overcome the seemingly insurmountable obstacles ahead. Desperate times often bring desperate reactions. Freedoms taken for granted for decades could be in jeopardy as crisis after crisis afflicts the nation.

Change for the sake of change isn't the best course to follow. The Bible cautions in Proverbs 24:21-22: “**My son, fear the LORD and the king; Do not associate** (“meddle not,” King James Version) **with those given to change; For their calamity will rise suddenly, and who knows the ruin those two can bring?**”

The approval ratings for President Bush and Congress are scraping all-time lows. Most Americans are not happy with the direction in which their nation is headed and want their government to change course, but are divided on which way they want it to go. Many seemingly are willing to abandon the founding Judeo/Christian principles that have helped guide the United States through past historic crises like a moral compass.

Instead, many are willing to exchange those principles for a liberal secularism that rejects the very existence of a Great Creator God whose holy, righteous, benevolent laws were the basis of ancient Israel's government and will be imposed in the Kingdom of God that Jesus Christ will establish on earth at the time of His return as the Messiah.



JUNE FLOOD WATERS FILL CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA STREET

The Bible warns: “**Thus says the LORD: Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’** Also, I set watchmen over you, saying, ‘Listen to the sound of the trumpet!’ But they said, ‘We will not listen.’ Therefore hear, you nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. Hear, O earth! **Behold, I will certainly bring calamity on this people**, even the fruit of their thoughts, **because they have not heeded My words, nor My law, but rejected it**” (Jeremiah 6:16-19).

“... Thus says the LORD: ‘**Behold, I am fashioning a disaster and devising a plan against you. Return now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good.**’ And they said, ‘That is hopeless! **So we will walk according to our own plans, and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart.**’ ... Because My people have forgotten Me ... and they have



STRONG TURNOUT BY YOUNG VOTERS MAY SWING ELECTION

*caused themselves to stumble in their ways, from the ancient paths, to walk in pathways and not on a highway, to make their land desolate and a perpetual hissing; Everyone who passes by it will be *astonished* and shake his head. I will scatter them as with an east wind before the enemy; I will show them the back and not the face in the day of their calamity*" (Jeremiah 18:11, 15-17).

A CRISIS IN LEADERSHIP

In the Old Testament, the prophet Isaiah gives a detailed prophecy that remarkably and explicitly describes polarizing conditions that prevail in modern America and throughout much of the western world. He warns about a lack of leadership, drought, food shortages, a divisive generation gap, a steep slide in morality, and oppressive policies that cause widespread suffering. In Bible prophecy, Jerusalem and Judah can symbolize the entire House of Israel.

"For behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, takes away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stock ("every support," margin) and the store, the whole supply of bread and the whole supply of water ("resources and provisions, all reserves of food, all reserves of water," NJB); The mighty man and the man of war, the judge and the prophet, and the diviner ("prudent," KJV) and the elder ("ancient," KJV); The captain of fifty and the honorable man, the counselor and the skillful artisan, and the expert enchanter ("eloquent orator," KJV)" (Isaiah 3:1-3).

Many Americans have lamented the frustrating lack of leadership qualities shown by many political contenders during the 2008 presidential campaign. This comes as the

nation faces unprecedented natural disasters that threaten U.S. food and water supplies. Gone are eloquent, inspiring orators like Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt, or outstanding leaders. Far too many Supreme Court justices and federal appellate judges also are prone to shred the U.S. Constitution rather than uphold its founding principles.

Indications are energized young people could turn out in record numbers to cast ballots in November's presidential election, actually determining who will become the nation's next chief executive. This "MTV generation" in many respects doesn't share the traditional values of their parents and grandparents, often showing blatant disrespect and intolerance for their elders.

"I will give children ("boys," margin; "striplings," NAB) to be their princes, and babes ("capricious ones," margin; "raw lads," NJB; "the fickle," NAB) shall rule over them. The people will be oppressed, every one by another and every one by his neighbor; The child will be insolent toward the elder ("young people will revolt against authority," NLT), and the base ("despised, lightly esteemed," margin) toward the honorable" (V. 4-5).

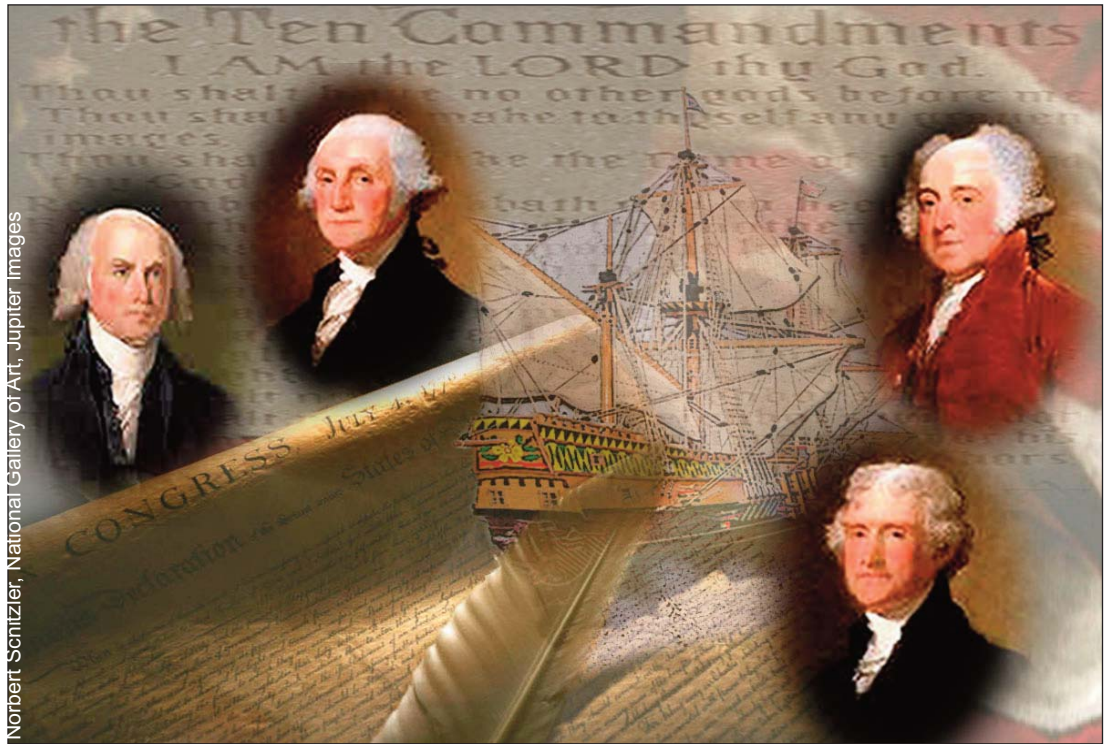
Ecclesiastes 10:16 states: **"Woe to you, O land, when your king is a child, and your princes feast in the morning!"** Rather than demonstrate leadership, capricious politicians are apt to change suddenly or unexpectedly, using opinion polls to make policy decisions. Elected officials often are selected because they dress well or project fashionable images.

"When a man takes hold of his brother in the house of his father, saying, 'You have clothing; You be our ruler, and let these ruins be under your hand,' in that day he will protest, saying, 'I cannot cure your ills, for in my house is neither food nor clothing; Do not make me a ruler of the people'" (Isaiah 3:6-7).

At this same time, our hedonistic society is spiritually bankrupt, blatantly rejecting traditional moral standards while promoting illicit sexual promiscuity – and bearing the consequences. **"The look on their countenance witnesses against them, and they declare their sin as Sodom; They do not hide it. Woe to their soul! For they have brought evil upon themselves. ... Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill**

with him, for the reward of his hands shall be given him” (V. 9, 11).

Experience is not respected, youth are exalted and extremism is accepted. A crisis in leadership will lead to ill-conceived, destructive policies. “As for My people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O My people! Those who lead you cause you to err (lead you astray), and destroy the way of your paths” (V. 12).



FIRST FOUR U.S. PRESIDENTS ACKNOWLEDGED GOD'S NATIONAL BLESSINGS

FOUNDING GOVERNMENT PRINCIPLES

The United States in many ways has veered from Biblical principles upon which the nation's founding fathers based the new government they forged in the latter 1700s, much like Israelites repeatedly have rejected the godly statutes of their forefathers – **Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses**.

In an inaugural address to Congress, first U.S. President **George Washington** stressed God's role in the birth of the republic and warned against repudiating His laws: “No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand which conducts the affairs of men more than the people of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency. ... We ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious smiles of heaven cannot be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which heaven itself has ordained.”

Throughout U.S. foundational documents, evidence of reverence toward a supreme Creator God is unmistakable. The Mayflower Compact of 1620, sometimes called “America's birth certificate,” stated the Pilgrims' objective in establishing their American colony was “for the glory of God and advancement of the Christian faith.” The 1776 Declaration of Independence begins: “We hold these truths self-

evident, that all men are created equal. That they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights.”

In their writings, the U.S. founding fathers frequently quoted from the Bible, especially the book of Deuteronomy, which outlines how the nation of Israel was to be governed in the Promised Land. During the Revolutionary War, Congress ordered that thousands of Bibles be imported in the United States.

John Adams, second U.S. president, stated: “It would be impossible to govern without God and the Ten Commandments.” **Thomas Jefferson**, third U.S. president and author of the Declaration of Independence, warned: “God who gave us life gave us liberties. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that His justice cannot sleep forever!”

James Madison, fourth U.S. president and father of the U.S. Constitution, said the American form of government is based on citizens conducting their lives in accordance with God's laws: “We have staked the whole of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.”

REMOVING ANCIENT LANDMARKS

Proverbs 22:28 states: “**Do not remove the ancient landmark which your fathers have set,**” underscoring God’s emphasis on the importance of honoring our elders and not forgetting historic milestones (Deuteronomy 19:14, 27:17; Job 24:2, Proverbs 23:10, Hosea 5:10).

When the Israelites entered the Promised Land, they served God all the days of Joshua and those elders who outlived Joshua, but after those founding fathers died, “***They turned quickly from the way in which their fathers walked, in obeying the commandments of the LORD ... they reverted and behaved more corruptly than their fathers***” (Judges 2:7, 17, 19). Americans and others living in modern Israelite nations are following the same treacherous, downhill course.

In her 1991 book, *The Rewriting of America’s History*, Catherine Millard states that revisionist historians relegate to mere footnotes – or omit altogether – any references to religious influences that shaped the nation’s character and destiny. “***It’s happening through the rewriting and/or re-interpretation of American historical records ... In some cases, changes are subtle, and in others, blatant. It’s done through removal of key historic pieces that do not support the current ungodly bias. ... In fact, the history of our founding period has been eroded and eliminated, almost to the point of oblivion.***” she wrote.

In 1962, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that voluntary prayer could not be allowed in the nation’s public schools. In 1963, it ruled the Holy Bible could not be read



SHREDDING THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

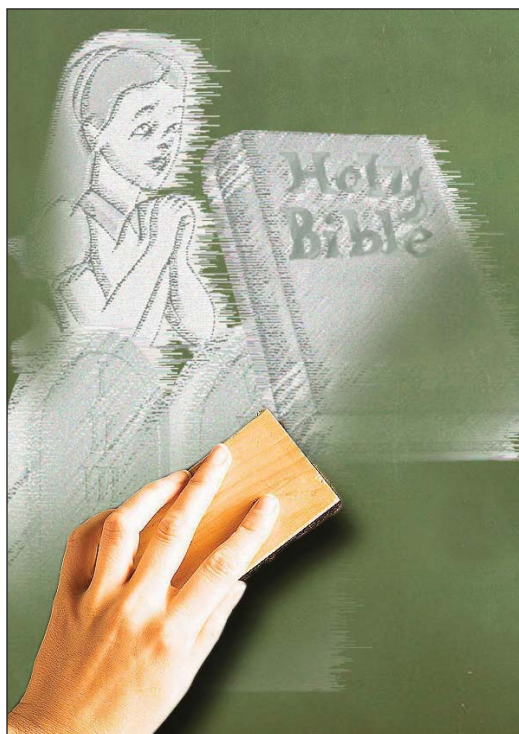
in classrooms, either. In 1980, it ruled the Ten Commandments could not be posted in public schools or taught in classrooms. A movement also is attempting to remove “***In God We Trust***” from U.S. coins and currency, and eliminate “***one nation under God***” from the Pledge of Allegiance.

By completely rejecting our God who has blessed America with fabulous prosperity and national security, Americans are flirting with curses of unimaginable magnitude to the point other nations of the world will be astounded. “***You shall become troublesome to all the kingdoms of the earth ... And you shall become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword among all nations where the LORD will drive you***” (Deuteronomy 28:25, 37).

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

A month before the U.S. presidential election this year, the Feast of Tabernacles will be observed by members of the Church of God, who will be portraying Jesus Christ’s establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth. The New Testament repeatedly shows that Christ’s Gospel or Good News message pertains to this divine government that will be based on the Ten Commandments for the benefit of all mankind.

“***Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God, and***



ERASING GOD FROM CLASSROOMS



'IN GOD WE TRUST' NATIONAL MOTTO

saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe the gospel'" (Mark 1:14-15, Matthew 4:17, 23, 9:35; Luke 4:43-44, 8:1, 9:1-2, 11, 60).

Christ Himself said, "***Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ... Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven***" (Matthew 5:17, 19).

History shows most of mankind's governments have failed after about 200 years because of uncontrolled spending, widespread immorality and corruption, crop failures, high taxes and overextended military operations. Inherent flaws in human nature and a hostility against God's law doom human governments to failure.

When Christ rules as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, God says He "**will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts**" (Jeremiah 31:33). At that time, God's

law will be the foundation of His government, and mankind's seemingly intractable problems will be resolved for the benefit of all nations.

"Now it shall come to pass *in the latter days* that the mountain (government) 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 of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any-more" (Isaiah 2:2-4).



TEN COMMANDMENTS, STATE CAPITOL

What a remarkably different world that will be! No longer will it be disputed that the Ten Commandments should be the basis of government or the law of the land. No longer will public places be forced to remove them from their premises. The Eternal God will be esteemed, and no false gods or idols will be put before Him. No longer will His name be profaned. His Sabbaths will be ob-

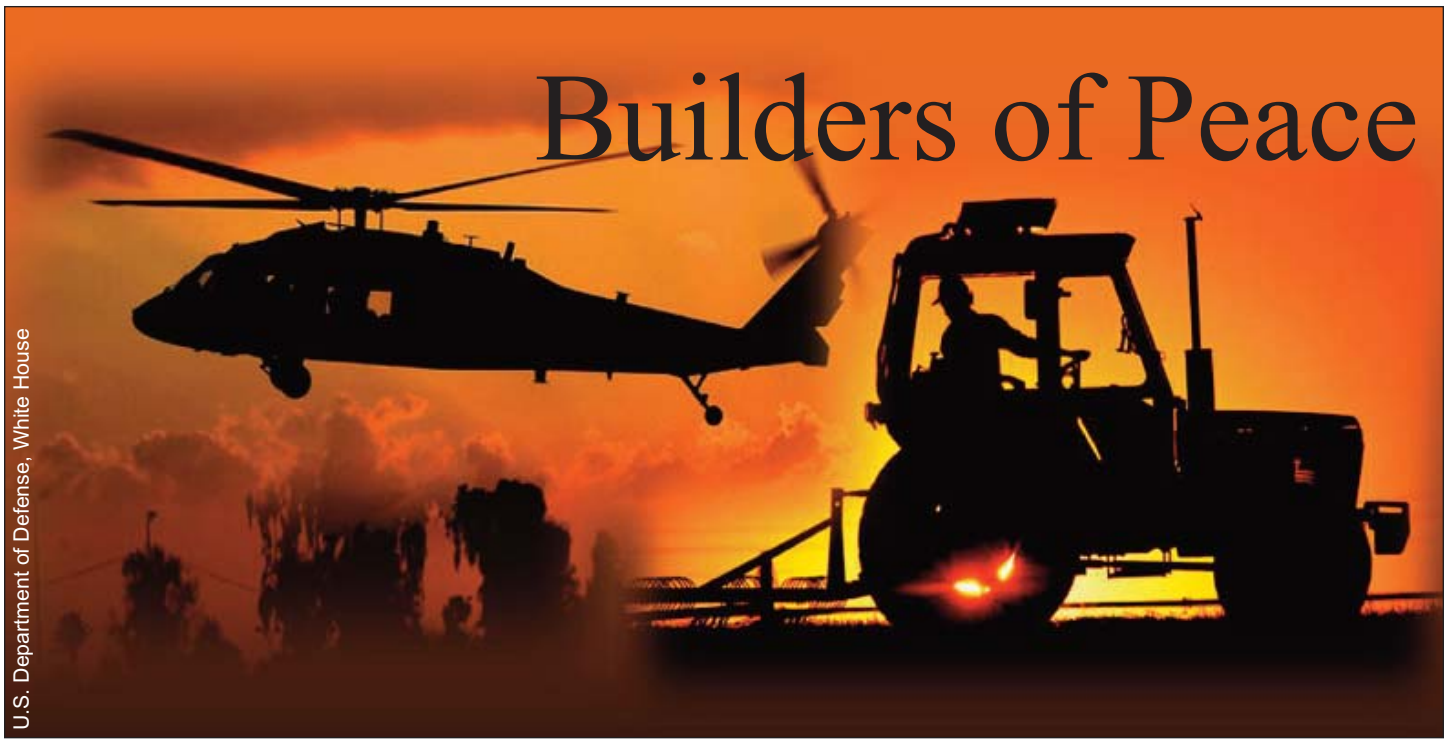
served and kept holy. Parents will be honored. Murder, adultery, stealing, lying and coveting will be outlawed.

God's government will be on the shoulders of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, King of Kings, Lord of Lords. "***Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever***" (Isaiah 9:6-7). Christ will lead the way into a wonderful world of peace, prosperity and happiness, comforting millions of people and wiping away every tear. The overwhelming problems, suffering and anguish now confronting the leaders and nations of this world soon will be ancient history!



Builders of Peace

U.S. Department of Defense, White House



By Gary Liebold

“Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert declared Sunday that Israel and the Palestinians have never been closer to making peace ...” The Associated Press

On Sunday, July 13, 2008, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert met with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in Paris in an attempt to build *confidence* between the two sides. According to the Associated Press, President Abbas announced that both parties were **“serious and want to achieve peace.”** Furthermore, the prime minister’s spokesman, Mark Regev, said that Israel and the Palestinian Authority would **“try to reach a historic agreement by the end of this year.”** Ironically though, the same article stated, **“Israel says no peace deal could be implemented as long as Hamas holds sway in Gaza.”**

Hamas, listed as a *“terrorist organization”* by several nations (including the United States and Israel), also announced a bilateral *cease-fire* with Israel on June 18, 2008. The nation of Israel agreed to ease its *months-long siege* of the Gaza Strip, as long as the truce could be implemented.

However, at the same time, Prime Minister Olmert said, **“We have no illusions. The calm is fragile and likely to be short-lived ... Hamas has not changed its skin. These are bloodthirsty and despicable terrorists who even today are doing all they can to harm Israeli civilians.”**

Throughout history, many American leaders have expressed a desire to find the way to PEACE. Thomas Jefferson expressed his thoughts on the subject of peace, saying,

“Peace and friendship with all mankind is our wisest policy, and I wish we may be permitted to pursue it.” President John F. Kennedy in 1963 stated, **“But peace does not rest in the charters and covenants alone. It lies in the hearts and minds of all people. ... Let us strive to build peace, a desire for peace, a willingness to work for peace in the hearts and minds of all of our people. I believe that we can. I believe the problems of human destiny are not beyond the reach of human beings.”** President Richard M. Nixon said, **“The greatest honor history can bestow is that of peacemaker.”**

In his 2004 speech to the Republican National Convention, President George W. Bush said (in reference to this nation’s *“war on terrorism”*), **“So we have fought the terrorists**



TWO HAMAS FIGHTERS



IN SEARCH OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

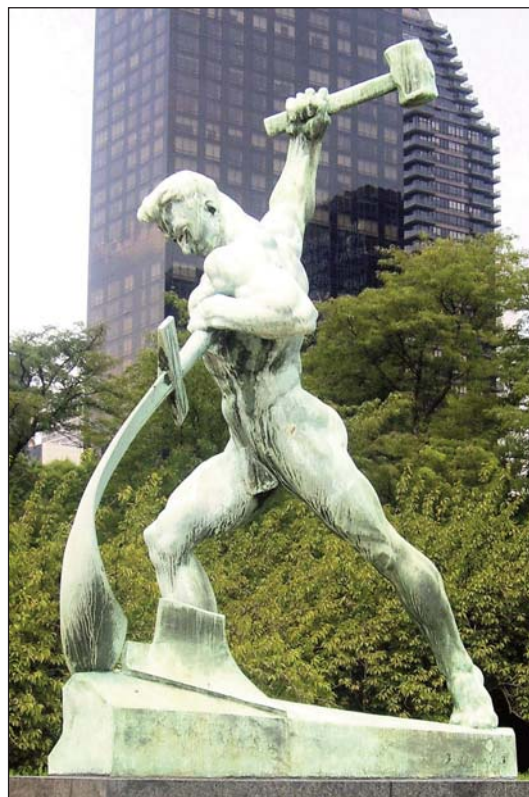
across the earth not for pride, not for power, but because the lives of our citizens are at stake ... We are working to advance liberty in the broader Middle East, because freedom will bring a future of hope, and the peace we all want ...”

At the same convention, former New York Mayor Rudolph Guiliani added, “To our heroes of the worst attack in our history [September 11, 2001] and to our heroes who have sacrificed their lives in the war on terror. We will say to them we have done all that we could with our lives that were spared to make your sacrifices build a world of real peace and true freedom. We will make certain in the words of President Bush that they have heard from us. That they have heard from us a message of peace through free, accountable, lawful, and decent governments giving people hope for a future for themselves and their children.”

Perhaps the most graphic illustration of the world’s desire for peace

various world leaders want peace! However, to this very day, mankind has not found the way to REAL and LASTING PEACE on this earth. World conflicts remain. “The

war on terrorism” is still in effect, and we continue to read statements such as that of Prime Minister Olmert: “**We have no illusions. The calm is fragile and likely to be short-lived ... Hamas has not changed its skin. These are blood-thirsty and despicable terrorists who even today are doing all they can to harm Israeli civilians.**” As the Bible shows us, “**The way of peace they have not known ...**” (Isaiah 59:8, Romans 3:17).



SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES

can be found in the garden of the New York City-based United Nation’s building. There, a *bronze statue* given to the United Nations by the Soviet Union in 1959 titled, “**Let Us Beat Swords into Plowshares,**” depicts the figure of a man holding a hammer in one hand and a sword in the other, making it into a plowshare. This statue symbolizes man’s DESIRE to put an end to war and convert the means of destruction into creative tools for the benefit of mankind.

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE WORLD TODAY

The forerunner of the United Nations was the League of Nations, an organization conceived in similar circumstances after the First World War. The League of Nations formally came into existence on January 10, 1920 to promote international cooperation – to achieve peace and security in the



A U.S. SOLDIER AND AN IRAQI BOY EXCHANGE PEACE GESTURES

world. World War I was thought to be “the war to end all wars. It obviously was not! The League of Nations ceased its activities after failing to prevent the Second World War. Even following World War II, statistics reveal that **more than 170 wars and armed conflicts since then have occurred.**

In Romans 3:15–18, we read, “**Their feet are swift to shed blood; destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes.**” We can even see the very *nature* of man’s “heart” from God’s perspective, described in Jeremiah 17:9: “**The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked ...**” Mark 7:21 also shows us something quite similar concerning man’s heart. “**For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts ...**” Mankind just doesn’t know how to find the way to REAL peace and he must be **SHOWN** how!

JEALOUSY AND HATE

Man has had a long history of harboring hatred and jealousy toward his fellow man. In looking back all the way to Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:3-10), we can see that jealousy and hatred led to the very first act of violence – the murder of one brother by another.

James 4:1-3 reads, “*Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.*”

We can see that even in our own modern and seemingly “educated” times, hatred is taught by opposing factions in the world.

For instance, in a 2001 Palestinian Authority official press release titled, “*Hatred of Israel: Yardstick For Arab Patriotism,*” we read, “... **It is proper that the call to hate Israel continue to be a medal worn on the chest of every Arab, and I repeat my position that it should be regarded as a meas-**

urement of patriotism and as a certificate of greatness and nobility.”

We also can see what has been taught to very young children on the Israeli side of the conflict. In a 1974 article published in the *Ha’aretz Weekly Supplement*, we read, “**Scores of children’s books published in Israel encourage hatred and contempt for the Arabs. The principle is**



PALESTINIAN BOY LEARNS WAR IN NAZARETH



CHILDREN IN HARMONY

identical in all these endless serials: the Israeli heroes defeat the stupid Arabs.”

In a December 1984 brethren/co-worker letter, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong addressed this same subject. “**All this world’s evil begins when human life begins – with CHILDREN. Influences of the world around them, plus the invisible sway of Satan, causes varying degrees of selfishness and evil to develop as children grow into adults. Even after Christ comes to remove Satan and to bring in peace, prosperity and happiness, the process will have to begin with children. Children will have to be started out right. Adults will have to be DE-educated – have to UNlearn all the false knowledge, ideas and philosophies they have, before they can be taught the true way toward peace and successful and happy and useful lives.**”

“Utopia” will not happen *instantaneously* when Christ returns. Children will have to be taught the right way of love toward God, and love toward fellow man (Matthew 22:36-40). Adults will actually have to be, as Mr. Armstrong put it, “*DE-educated*”, before they can learn the true way toward peace and successful, happy lives!

WAY TO REAL, PERMANENT PEACE

What is the **ONLY** way that **REAL, LASTING** and **PERMANENT** peace will come to this earth? Can man build peace with more sophisticated weapons or even more *peace talks*? Will “voting in” a new president be the solution? Or perhaps, ramping up the power of the United Nations? Is there a time coming when the whole world will begin to comprehend just how to achieve **TRUE PEACE**? Yes! Absolutely!

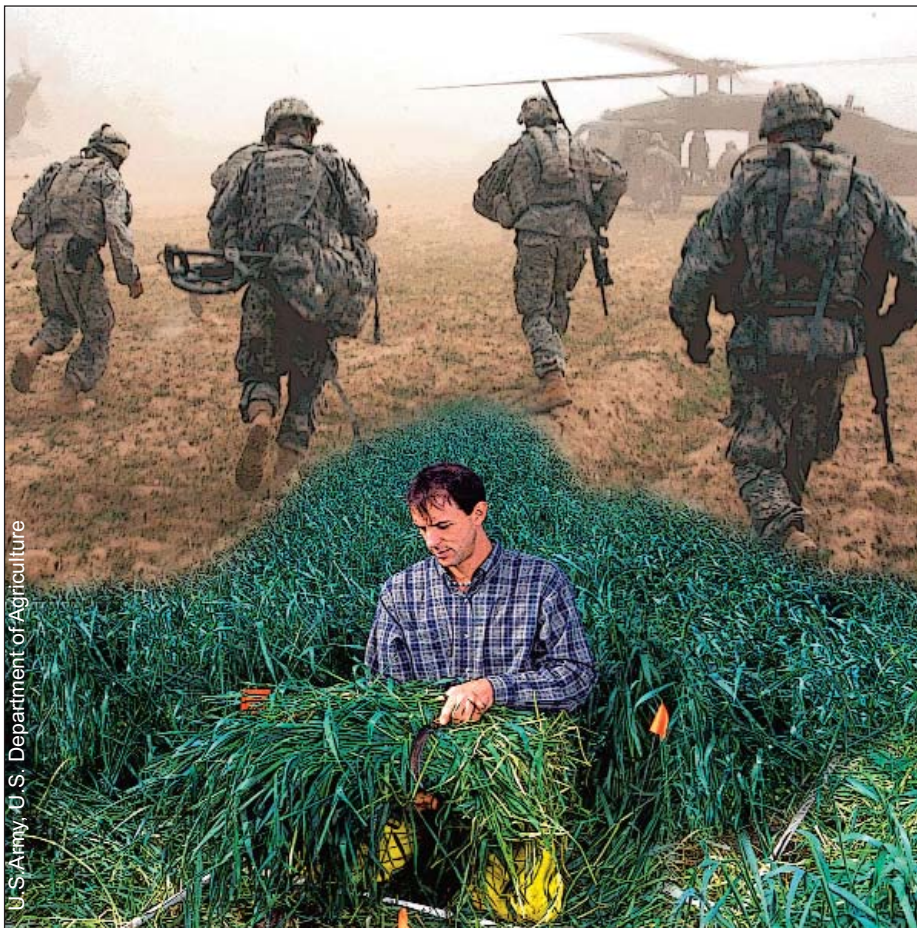
In the soon-coming “World Tomorrow,” a *new way of thinking* will be brought to this earth and taught to the masses. This way of thinking will begin to produce real unity, true brotherly cohesiveness and lasting harmony. Acts 20:35 shows the way of life that actually produces **PEACE**: “... **remember the**

words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” We will teach mankind the benefits of living the “**GIVE**” way of life, a way the world has yet to learn and the way to find **PEACE**.

The way of “give” encompasses the **PERFECT** “point of view” – love and obedience to God’s law and the way of God’s **LOVING** government! “**Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble. Lord, I hope for Your salvation, and I do Your com-**



WATCHING THE HORROR OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001



U.S. Army, U.S. Department of Agriculture

THE WORLD WILL BE TRANSFORMED FROM WAR TO PEACE

mandments. My soul keeps Your testimonies, and I love them exceedingly. I keep Your precepts and Your testimonies, for all my ways are before You" (Psalms 119: 165-168).

Keeping God's law and learning the way of "GIVE" will produce REAL peace, like mankind has never seen before!

WORLD PEACE AROUND CORNER

As Mr. Armstrong stated in a *Plain Truth* article published in the November/December 1984 issue article, titled "World Peace Just Around The Corner!": "A whole new world is about to break forth – a new civilization based on God's law and His

government. It will bring world peace, joy and prosperity. It will be established by the returning Jesus Christ, in this generation, at the close of 6,000 years of human experience. Satan will be removed from power, and humans will finally learn God's way is best."

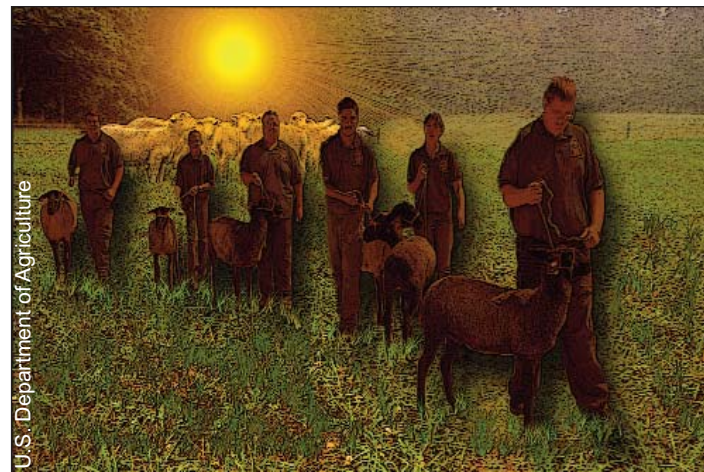
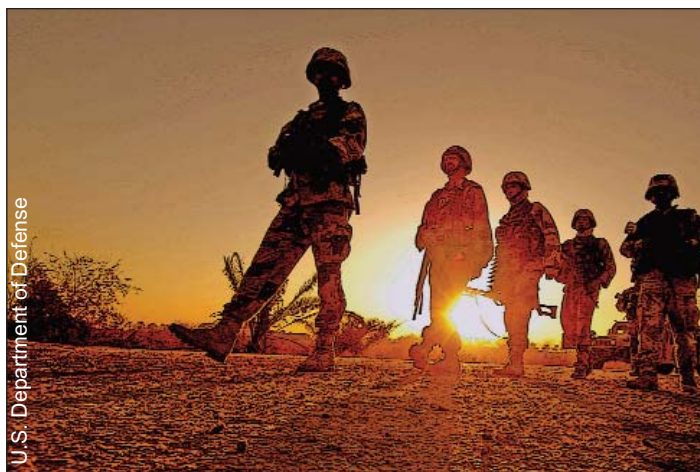
We will pioneer a new world, a new civilization, with God the Father at the helm, and Jesus Christ the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6), along with the "firstfruits," teaching and building PEACE on this earth!

Verse 7 tells us, "*Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.*" The time is coming very soon when God's GOVERNMENT and the real lasting way to PEACE, will have no end!

"Think of it. The glorified Christ – coming in all the splendor, the supernatural power and the glory of God Almighty – coming to save mankind alive – coming to stop escalating wars, nuclear mass de-



CHILDREN WILL BE ABLE TO PLAY WITH WILD ANIMALS (ISAIAH 11:6-9)



struction, human pain and suffering – coming to usher in peace, abundant well-being, happiness and joy for all mankind.” (*Tomorrow ... What It Will Be Like*, page 34, by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong).

“... No more wars. No fear of man or beast. World peace at last. Something will have to cause that peace. The law of God, which a professed ‘Christianity’ teaches was done away, shall go out from Jerusalem and the earth will be as full of the knowledge of God’s way of life as the ocean beds are full of water,” Page 312 of *Mystery of the Ages* (original hardbound edition). God’s Holy Spirit will eventually be poured out upon mankind (Ezekiel 36:26-28). The whole world will be taught to live God’s GIVE way of life!

As firstfruits, we will have the opportunity to guide the way for man in the near future. “... **your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore, but your eyes shall see your teachers. Your ears shall hear a word behind you,**

saying, ‘This is the way, walk in it,’ whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left” (Isaiah 30:20-21).

We will be BUILDERS OF PEACE! Right now, at this very time we are spiritual “ambassadors” (II Corinthians 5:20), learning and living a way diametrically opposite to this world’s way of GET! We have a REAL FUTURE as BUILDERS OF PEACE, teaching the masses just what produces lasting peace!

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1) At this year’s Feast of Tabernacles, as God’s people we will have an opportunity to show the world what it means to live in unity, harmony and brotherly cohesiveness.

This is how we must live our lives now, so we can be given the opportunity to be BUILDERS OF PEACE in the Wonderful World Tomorrow!



THEY SHALL BEAT THEIR SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES, AND THEIR SPEARS INTO PRUNING HOOKS (ISAIAH 2:4)

Feast of Tabernacles

Continued from Page 4

live. Now it all started at the very beginning and you find that beginning in the beginning of your Bible.

Genesis 1:1: "*In the beginning, God created the heaven[s] and the earth.*"

And it should be plural "*heavens*," and is in all translations except the King James; and as Moses wrote those words originally it was plural.

God created the heavens at the same time He created this earth, and that may have been thousands or millions of years ago. We don't know. The Bible doesn't state that, and there is nothing in the Bible that contradicts the fact that it might have been that long ago.

But first God had created angels and angel life, before He created the earth and before He created man. He had created angels; and God is in the business of creation. Jesus, when He was on earth, said that He worked; and He says, "**My Father works and I work,**" and we're to work and labor, but we're to work progressively and profitably.

JOB'S SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

Now we read, in the 38th chapter of the book of Job, where Job was a very self-righteous man but a very successful and a very wealthy man.

Job had built the greatest building on the face of the earth, the Great Pyramid of Giza – the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt. Not very many know that. He was not the emperor of Egypt. The emperor had Job do it for him. Job was merely the one who designed and supervised the construction and the building, and doing it for the Pharaoh. But Job was self-righteous; and God had allowed Satan to take everything from Job ... except his own life. Job still



THE EARTH AND MOON

didn't quite see the truth. He could not see that he was self-righteous. You know, that is the most difficult thing in the world – for anyone who is self-righteous to see it. He can't see it in himself.

You know, a sinner cannot ever have salvation until he realizes he is a sinner and will be willing to repent and change to a different way of life, and he needs to know what sin is. It is a way of life. It is the transgression of God's Law, and God's Law is a way of life. It's the way we **ought to live**, and it's the way of love, the way of out-flowing love: Love to God, love to neighbor. **It's the way that will bring peace**, that will bring happiness and joy and every satisfying thing. It's a way of living. It's a practical thing, and people don't seem to be able to see that. I never could understand why they can't, but they can't. They're blinded.



USAID, USDA, Jupiter Images

A WORLD OF HUMAN SUFFERING

Job 38:1, 4: *"Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said ... 'Where were thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare, if thou hast understanding.'"*

"Now **you** built this great pyramid – the biggest, the greatest, building on earth. **I BUILT THE WHOLE EARTH!** WHERE WERE YOU WHEN I DID THAT? I DID SOMETHING MUCH GREATER THAN YOU DID, **JOB!**"

HE'S NOW WHITTILING JOB DOWN TO SIZE; JOB WAS TOO BIG. They used to have an expression, "too big for his own britches." I guess that would apply to Job. I guess that's the way he was. Then God continued about the creation of the earth.

Job 38:6-7: *"Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof? When [Now get this: at the creation of the earth, laying the cornerstone. When ...] the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy."*

The "**morning stars**" are the archangels, the cherubs; and only three are mentioned in the Bible. Lucifer was one, Gabriel is one, and Michael is the other. "**All the sons of God**" meaning, in this case, **the angels**; and it was "the sons of God" that came together up in heaven when Satan came, and God said, "**Have you observed my servant, Job?**" Satan said, "**Well, just let me strike him, and he'll turn to you and curse you to your face**" (if you go back and read the beginning of the book of Job). So there were the angels, and why were they shouting for joy? Because the earth was to be their abode, and God made it first for the angels.

CREATING CHARACTER

Now I said a while ago that God is Creator, but what is God creating? Just what is God creating? God is creating **CHARACTER** in separate created entities, which God has created. Separate entities having minds of their own. But now the **character** – supreme, righteous, perfect character – is something even God cannot, by Himself alone, create automatically by fiat. He cannot do that. It takes also the decision-making process and the will of the individual created entity, along with the work of God, to create that

character. Now God has that character dwelling within Him. That means the perfect way of life. It means following as a motive of life and an attitude of mind and heart the way of the Law of God, the way of out-flowing love. A way of living!

This world is living just the opposite way, and no wonder we're having troubles. *No wonder we have violence and war. No wonder there's trouble between husband and wife, and between parents and children, between neighbors, between groups, capital and labor, black and white – any little thing that we can find. We get prejudice against someone else, and we get into discrimination, hatred, and everything wrong.* Because the Law of God in your mind and heart is **the way of love**, the way of tolerance, the way of concern for the good and welfare of others instead of just yourself. But people have self-concern. So God established government over the angels in order to have a way to enforce His Law, in order to create character in them. Now the angel that He put over all them was one of the archangels – **the morning stars**, you know "**light bringers**" – was one called Lucifer.

LUCIFER ON EARTH'S THRONE

I'd like to turn to that in Isaiah, the 14th chapter ... It is speaking primarily here of the king of Babylon, but he was merely a human ruler under the government of Satan. Satan was sitting on the throne of the whole earth, but this king of Babylon was merely a type representing Satan. ... The lower type lifts to the greater anti-type of Satan the Devil; and speaks now of Satan, instead of just King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, beginning with verse 12, where it says:

Isaiah 14:12: "*How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer.*"

Lucifer was his name. Now Lucifer means **shining star of the dawn**, one of the morning stars that sang when God created the earth. In other words, light bringer. He was a glorious archangel as God had created him. ...

Isaiah 14:12-14: "... *son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations.* [Or, a better translation, 'thou who didst weaken the nations, cut down to the ground.'] *For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt MY THRONE.* [You see, he was on a throne. Now where was that throne? Was it in heaven? Was it on earth? Where was it? He said,] **I will**

exalt my throne above the stars [or the angels] *of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north.* [That is the only place in the Bible that gives you any hint where the throne of God is – in the far, far north.] *I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.* [And some translate that '**I will be the most high.**']"

He was going to knock God off His throne. He was going to take over the rulership of the whole world. In other words, **jealousy had entered into him and rebellion**. He was put on this earth to administer the Government of God. The Government of God was based on a constitution or a basic law, the Law of God, the Law of out-flowing love.

The only difference between that and the Law of God and the Ten Commandments is that we are mortal humans. We are male and female. Angels were not. We have to have in that Law the same principle expressed like adultery and honoring father and mother. They didn't reproduce. They didn't have sex. But the principle of first love to God and love to one another did apply to them just the same. But this archangel **rebelled**, and he talked all of his angels into a **rebellion** and into an army to **SWOOP on up** to heaven and to **knock** God off the throne and to **take over**. Now we're talking about the **rulership** or the **government over the lives of people**. That's what we're talking about.

Isaiah 14:14-15: "*I will ascend above the heights of the clouds* [So he was on the earth. He was under the clouds.] *I will be like the Most High. Yet thou shall be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit*" [which really means to the grave. Now it begins after that to talk of the human Nebuchadnezzar]. Now he was perfect as God had created him in the beginning. We find that in Ezekiel 28 ... where it says of this same super archangel Lucifer:

Ezekiel 28:15: "*Thou was perfect in thy ways from the day that thou was created ...*"

Not the day he was born! He was not a human being. He was not born, as you and I were. He was a **created super being**, and he was **perfect** in his ways. Now none of us have been **perfect** from the day we were born. But here's a super archangel that was perfect from the day God created him. What God created was something very perfect, but character had not been instilled in him yet. He had to make



THE TRUNK OF THE TREE

his own decision about that, and he made the wrong decision. He decided on **rebellion** instead of accepting the Law and living the way of the Law of God and accepting it as a way of life and teaching all of the angels under him that way and ruling their lives by that kind of government.

Ezekiel 28:16-17: “*By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God* [or the Government of God, The Nation of God, or the Rulership] *and I will destroy thee* [meaning ‘remove thee’ is the correct translation there] *remove thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty* [and so on].”

Now, he was one of the covering cherubs whose wings covered the very throne of God. He had been on the very throne of God. It makes me think of some of the ministers in this Church. They have been here at headquarters.

They've gone through Ambassador College, and they have been taught and trained in the Law of God and in the Way of God and in the Truth of God; and then they're sent ... "out into the field." In other words, to be a minister in charge of a local Church. Now we have had a very few of those, a small minority, who have **rebelled** and turned the wrong way; and they've turned others wrong with them, just as this Lucifer did. But I'm very happy to say that the majority have gone the right way; and today let me say that I'm happy to report to you that the Church today is in the most perfect condition of love that we have ever been.

In fact, I'm a little frightened about that, brethren, because Satan understands that, too, and he's not going to let that stay that way if he can change it. Satan is going to strike this Church some way. I don't know how, but I just know he's not going to rest. He doesn't like to see this Church bound together in love as we are right now. Now he'll strike at any one of you if you will let him. You need to be constantly on your guard because Satan, as a roaring lion, is going about seeking whom he may devour, and he would try to devour any one of you.

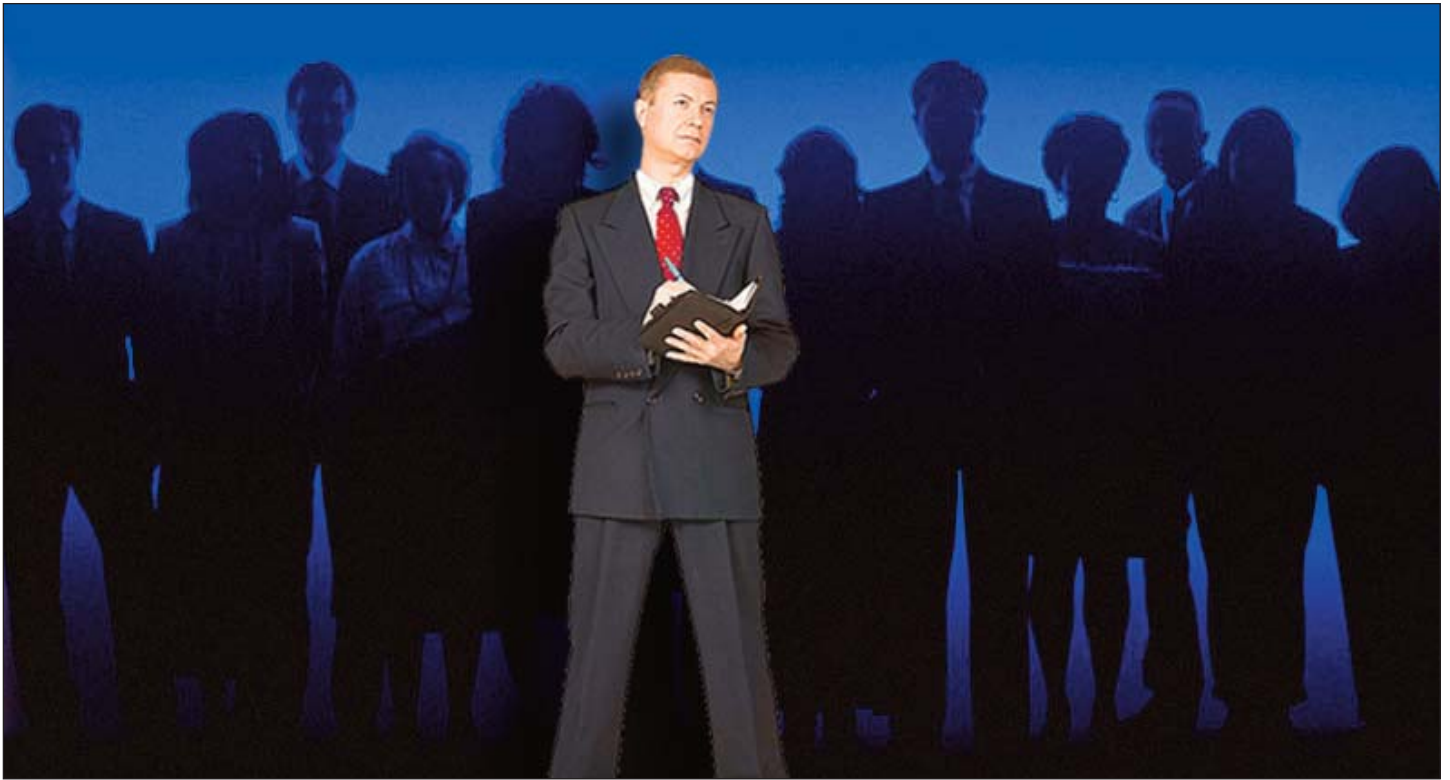
Well, when Lucifer **rebelled**, the Government of God on this earth became inoperative; and the Government of God was no longer being administered. There was no Government of God being administered **on the earth**.

THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD

Now then, I'm giving you an overview. We heard a sermon on one of the points this morning – a marvelous sermon by the way, a sermon on peace; and the best sermon I've ever heard on that subject. You know, in this Church I leave it to our ministers usually to take the individual subjects (in other words, the branches of the tree), and **I keep to the trunk of the tree**.

I give you the overview, the overview purpose of it all; and they bring you the many, many individual points that we need to zero in on and focus down on and magnify, and individual subjects. So, you'll excuse me if I stick pretty much to the trunk of the tree, because I believe that is what God has called me to do.

Now this **Lucifer became Satan the Devil, and his angels now became demons**. And yet the Gospel when Jesus finally came, and the Gospel we preach to the world today, is



ONE IN A CROWD

the Kingdom of God; and that's the Government of God to replace that Government of Satan on this world. Now Satan is not ruling in the Government of God on this earth. The Government of God is **not** operative any longer. It's not being administered on this earth except one place, **and that is in this Church**. And that's a voluntary rule. You have come in voluntarily. I didn't solicit any of you to come into the Church. I didn't ask any of you. I didn't plead with you, *"PLEASE GIVE YOUR HEART TO THE LORD. PLEASE COME INTO THE CHURCH. PLEASE BELIEVE THESE DOCTRINES."* I never did that. I proclaimed the truth, and I think perhaps the majority of you came into the Church because you heard a broadcast, or you read something I wrote in a magazine or that some other under me had written (**one of the students that I had taught**).

God had called you. **NO MAN CAN COME TO CHRIST**, and there is no way to come back to God except through Christ. But no one can come to Him, except the Father draws him. ***And that is only those that are predestinated.*** And God has picked one here, and one there, and one over here, and one somewhere else all over the world out of the **billions** of people on the earth. You happen to be one of those people that He has picked. And think of the responsibility that rests on you, that you were chosen. But **you were chosen for a service. You were chosen for a big**

job. You were chosen to change your life. You were chosen to let God come into your life through the **power** of His Holy Spirit and fill you with the love of God ... first of all, towards God; and then towards man – and then to help in getting this message to the world.

God has not called this Church to convert the world. He isn't trying to convert the world at this time. He is calling some for the Church that are the **FIRSTFRUITS** of God's salvation. **The CHURCH IS TO BE MARRIED TO CHRIST when He comes.** And we will be turned from human into God, from mortal into immortals, from flesh and blood into divine spirit. And we will then reign and rule UNDER Christ. But we have to be ***submissive to Him and take orders from Him. We have to be ruled now by Him*** and through His Church or we'll never be able to do the ruling with Him then. And, you know, some have gone out of this Church because they've said, "Oh, I hate that Government of God in the Church." Do you hate the Government of God, the Law of God, which is just love toward others? And the Government of God is administered in love ... ***It's not a stern tyrant ruling over slaves.*** It is the way Christ rules and the way God rules – in love and in mercy and in wanting to help and in wanting to serve. Jesus came as a servant, and yet **He is the Head of the Church**. And that's the way of the Government in this Church.

GOD REPRODUCING HIMSELF

Now God's purpose, as I said, is to create **character**. But now in humans God has another purpose. God's purpose is to REPRODUCE HIMSELF. God is NOT reproducing Himself in angels. They have no reproductive process within themselves.

He made human man to have the reproductive process within himself because God is reproducing Himself in and through man.

So, way back to Genesis one now once again, and we find that in the very next verse:

Genesis 1:2: "*And the earth was* [or it had become, became] *without form, and void.*"

The Hebrew words are "*tohu*" and "*bohu*," meaning a state of decay, a state of waste and emptiness as a result of the sins of the angels. God put the angels here to complete the earth. It had not been finished.

It was perfect as far as God created it. He wanted them to go on and beautify it, and instead they ruined it physically. ... Now next ... what did God do then to a ruined earth? It says here:

Psalms 104:30: "*Thou sendest forth thy Spirit, they are created: and Thou RENEWEST the face of the earth.*"

The angels had polluted and ruined the surface, the physical surface, of the earth; and God RENEWED the face of the earth for man. He sent forth His SPIRIT.

Now in John 1:1 you read there was in the beginning, "*the Word, and the Word was with God;*" but "*the Word was made flesh and dwelled among us,*" you find in verse 14 of John 1. The Word became Jesus Christ. He is the Word of God. But when He came as a human being He said, "**I have spoken** (He was the Word) **but I have spoken only as my Father told me to speak.**" It ALL came from God the Father. They were of the same, like mind in perfect agreement. Two cannot walk together except they be agreed, and God and Christ were in perfect agreement. God the Father was the boss, and Jesus knew that all along. He was the

Word. He **spake** and it was done, as you read in one of the Psalms.

Now here you read, back in Genesis once again, the earth was in that terrible condition. Darkness was upon the face of the deep. It was all ocean; and it was all dark. Light had gone out. Light represents truth; and now it was error, and evil, and darkness.

Genesis 1:2 "*... and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters ...*"

Now notice: I just read in Psalm 104: "*Thou sendest forth Thy Spirit ... Thou renewest the face of the earth.*"

Christ is the Word who speaks and it is done. Now notice Him speaking.

Genesis 1:3: "*And God said* [The word for God here is "**Elohim**," meaning more than one person; and that includes the Word and God. That includes Christ as He later became and God the Father.

So, Christ is the one who did the speaking or "**Yhwh**" as He is called in the Old Testament], "*Let there be light: and there was light.*"

Now He began renewing the face of the earth, and finally God [or Elohim] said in verse 26: "*Let Us make man in OUR image.*" God said, "**LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE, AFTER OUR LIKENESS.**"

Now He had made cattle after the cattle kind, as you read in the verse just before. He had made dogs after the dog kind, elephants after the elephant kind. But He said, "**Let Us make man after the God kind.**" God was going to reproduce Himself! Man was to be made like God.

Man was to be made to have a contact then (a fellowship) with God, and to be begotten by God, and finally BORN of God to become SONS and CHILDREN OF GOD until they become God.

But we have to have **the CHARACTER of God** infused within us, and we have to make up our own decision on that; and Adam had to make his own decision.

Now He made a man, but the man wasn't complete. I said



MANKIND POLLUTES VIRTUALLY EVERYTHING

He created the earth and it wasn't complete. The angels were to finish it. Now He renewed it, and still it isn't complete. He wanted man to go on and finish it, and all man has done ever since is do the same thing the angels did.

We have polluted every physical thing our hands have ever touched on this earth. We have profaned. We have besmirched. We have polluted everything. We have ruined the earth. We've ruined our rivers, our lakes, even our seas. We've ruined the ground out of which our food comes. We have done nothing right!

MAN CREATED IN GODS' IMAGE

But God did not make man immortal like the angels. In Genesis 2:7: *“And the [Eternal] God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”*

Not an immortal soul. **Man** was made of the dust of the ground; and what was made of the dust of the ground is a **soul**, became a soul. The dust of the ground became a soul.

The soul then is dust of the ground. The soul is not spirit. BUT GOD DID PUT A SPIRIT IN MAN.

Now let me tell you something. The man God created ... God here is **Elohim** in the Hebrew, which is uniplural and includes both God who later became the Father of Christ and also the Word who became Christ.

They said, "**Let Us** (Not let 'Me' make man after 'My' image. Let 'Us'.) **make man after Our image.**"

But God did not make man complete. Man was only half there. He made man to reproduce because God was going to reproduce man, and *so man must reproduce as a type of what God is doing through us*; and man couldn't reproduce himself.

You never yet have seen a man reproduce and have a baby all by himself, have you? Neither can a woman have a baby all by herself. It takes a man and woman. And so the man was not complete, and God took a rib out of Adam and



CO-HEIRS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

made a wife for him to be a help to him. Today, the woman doesn't want to be a help to a man. She wants to rule over a man.

And so Isaiah tells us in the third chapter, "*As for My people ... women will rule over you,*" and they're beginning to do it.

There were two women prime ministers in the world up to the time that England came to have a woman prime minister. I knew both of the other two.

Nevertheless, women are beginning to rule and now they want the ERA movement. Do you know who started the ERA movement? Mother Eve, the one that God had made for Adam. She started the ERA movement. Women don't want to do what God intended them to do today.

Now women are co-heirs with men to the Kingdom of God. They are not satisfied with that. They can be as much God as man can in the next life. But God made them for one purpose. A man can't bear children, a woman can. But they consider that as beneath them. That is a GREAT GLORY! IT'S A GLORY A MAN CAN'T DO! It's a wonderful thing that a woman can become a mother and bear

children. In the eyes of God that is a **wonderful thing**, but women downgrade that today. They don't want to have children. They want to rule over men. They want equal rights with men. Well, there shouldn't be discrimination. God didn't intend discrimination, but He didn't intend the kind of governments and laws and fighting and bickering, the kind of thing we have in this world today, either.

But now here was Adam, and Adam was still incomplete. He had a spirit, but it only gave him half of a mind. He was only half mentally there. He was only half physically there. He needed a wife. Well, God took care of

that. God made the wife for him. But in his mind, he had to have a part in that. He had a spirit, a human spirit, but he needed another spirit with it. It was incomplete.

And just as the male needed a female, a wife with him – *so the one spirit needed another spirit, the Spirit of God*, before the MIND even became complete.

That's what he needed. But Adam had to choose this for himself because character is the ability of a separately created entity having complete mind and ability to comprehend knowledge to evaluate, and to make choice and to make decisions – to choose the right, to see the right, to choose the right even against self-will and desire to go the wrong way; and to use the **self-discipline** to go the right way instead of the wrong.

That is character; that is the character of God. God will not do the wrong thing. God cannot sin, because He will not. As long as He wills that **He will not**, no one is strong enough to make Him do it. No one is stronger than God. No one can compel God to sin, and God will not. So therefore, He can't.

THE TWO TREES

But Satan was still on the throne, and Adam had now to de-



THE GARDEN OF EDEN

cide. Would he take life? Adam, he didn't have life. He had a temporary existence. He was made of the dust of the ground. He was going to live only so long. God put him in the Garden of Eden after He had created him.

And there were two trees in the center of that Garden: One: **the Tree of Life**, the other: **The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil**. Now notice, one would give him life, the other was the knowledge of good and evil. But God said that would give him death, because He said, "**If you eat of that tree, you shall surely die.**" So that was the Tree of Death, but also the Tree of Knowledge. Now the first tree, the Tree of Life ... also was a Tree of Knowledge. It was a tree of revealed knowledge from God **through the Holy Spirit of God**. Man didn't have full knowledge. His mind was only half there.

How would God have given Adam eternal life if he had chosen the Tree of Life? Did you ever think of that? Most people read right over that. They never talk about the Tree of Life. They go right on and they talk about the Tree of the

Knowledge of Good and Evil; and they ridicule that by calling it "Adam's apple." Adam didn't eat an apple. I don't know what the fruit was. The Bible doesn't tell us. I know what the symbolism was. I know what it meant. It meant taking to themselves the knowledge of what is right and wrong. When Adam took of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, he took to himself the knowledge of good and evil, of right and wrong, of what is right and wrong.

THE WAY OF LIFE, THE WAY

TO LEAD TO LIFE or *the way to lead to death. He took that to himself.*

Now God has opened the Tree of Life to you and me. Do you get eternal life immediately? Oh, no! First, you repent. Then you have to come to really believe in Christ. Not only **believe** that He did die for you and that His **shed blood** paid the penalty of your sins, but you have to first repent of those sins and be willing to turn around and go the other way. Then you have to believe Christ.

That is, believe what He said; and believe the Gospel. He said, "**The Kingdom is at hand, repent ye and believe the gospel.**" People don't believe the Gospel because they don't even know what the Gospel is. It isn't being preached except through this Church. Seventh-Day Adventists don't preach it. **The Sardis Church of God, a true Church of God**, they don't preach it because they don't know what the Kingdom of God is, and the Kingdom of God is the Gospel.



GOSPEL PUBLISHED IN ALL THE WORLD VIA THE POWER OF THE PRESS

NOBODY IS PREACHING THE TRUE GOSPEL but this Church, in the world. I wonder if you knew that and if you understand that. Listen, brethren, this Church is very few in numbers and it is very great in **power**.

This is the only Church that is preaching that Gospel to the world. This Church is worldwide. It's not just local. You're going to see a film during this festival of this Work, and you will see how worldwide it is; and it will compare it with the Work of the Church in the First Century.

They had many apostles then. God has only given us one apostle today; and yet one apostle today, because of modern facilities ... and you're seeing some of these technological facilities right now.

You'll see it on your screen of what this Work is today. You will see how your dollars – not your dollars, God's tithe money

– is being spent. It isn't your money. It's God's anyway, and it is how God is having it spent. If you want to know where does that money go, you'll want to see that film. It will show you how we take advantage of these facilities and get this message around the whole world; and this is now a worldwide Church, small in numbers but **MIGHTY IN POWER**.

Do you know that, in magazines and printed literature and the **power** of the press, this Church has more printing and does more printing than any other church (even though other churches have millions of members) than any other church on the face of the earth?

And the printed word has done more to bring you brethren into the Church than any other kind of preaching. The printed word! It's a marvelous thing. There wasn't any printing press invented yet in the days of the first of apostles when the Church first started.

IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN

Anyway, we turn to Genesis 3, verse 1. I want you to notice what happened now in the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:1: “*Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field ...*”

I read to you, in the book of Revelation in the 12th chapter, how the serpent is Satan the Devil. And so Satan was appearing in the form of a serpent here, although he is an invisible immortal spirit being.

Genesis 3:1: “*... of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman ...*”

Now he got to Adam's wife. He wanted to see if she would try to rule her husband – *when God made Christ the Head of the Church, and He made man the head of the woman, and God the Head of Christ. That is God's order.* People don't like that today. They want to reverse it. They know better, more than God. I hope you women of this Church understand what a wonderful position God has given you. I think in some ways maybe a woman's position is higher than that of a man, but she doesn't want that. She wants to throw that away, what God has given her, and take something that God forbade. She just wants to rule over a man. Oh, women, give that up. We all have to submit ourselves to God and to follow His way. Now the serpent said:

Genesis 3:1-3: “*Yea, hath God said, ‘Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden’? And the woman said unto the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.’*”

But the serpent said: "Ah," he said, "Now, God is a liar. God is deceiving you. Look, I'm the real god of the world. You want to believe me, don't believe Him. You will not surely die." God said, "You're only mortal." I say, "You're an immortal soul. You'll never, never die."

And, you know, even the religion of Christianity still believes the serpent. They still believe that today. Brethren, human beings are not immortal. **YOU ONLY HAVE TEMPORARY LIFE. THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE. YOU'RE ONLY HERE FOR A LITTLE WHILE; AND**

YOU'RE HERE TO LEARN A LESSON, AND YOU'RE HERE TO LEARN HOW TO GET INTO AN IMMORTAL LIFE.

WOMEN THAT WANT TO RULE OVER MAN, how much satisfaction is it going to get them and how long is it going to last? What are they going to do in the next life? And that's coming very soon! This whole world is about done. We're **all** going to come short before God if we don't wake up and follow the way of and the knowledge of God.

So she took of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, which is really the Tree of Death. She gave to her husband, and he also followed her as a weakling; and that's the way men are today.

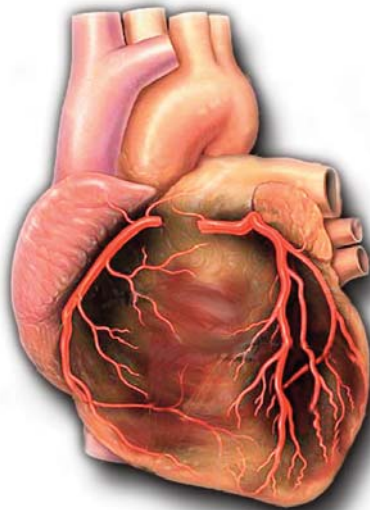
Many of our students in Ambassador College, the girl students, say, "Well, you know, we can't find men that are really men to marry. These boys today and these young men students are all sissies. They're weaklings, like girls." So, some of the girls wanted to marry older men that are more like men. My father had a very deep bass voice. He could go clear down to Low C. I can't do that. My voice is a little lower than some of the younger men today.

Men are becoming feminine. Women are becoming masculine. We don't want to be like God made us. Why should the clay say to the potter, "*Why did you fashion me this way?*" God is the Potter and we're the clay, and we better let Him mold and fashion the way He wants to fashion us. Anyway, God finally cast them out of the Garden of Eden (as you read in Genesis 3 and the last three verses of the third chapter of Genesis) after they had sinned. *And God CLOSED UP THE HOLY SPIRIT AND SHUT IT OFF FROM HUMAN BEINGS SO THAT NO HUMAN BEING COULD GET IN TO GET THE TREE OF LIFE.*

If Adam had taken the Tree of Life, he would only have taken the Holy Spirit. That's all we get. We don't get immortal life right away. We get the Holy Spirit; and, if we're led by the Holy Spirit, it gives us knowledge, **the revealed knowledge of God.** Men don't have that kind of knowledge. Adam only had the ability to acquire physical and materialistic knowledge. He did not have ability to acquire **spiritual knowledge.** His mind was only half there, and Adam never took of the Tree of Life. He would have re-

ceived the Holy Spirit of God if he had. *His mind would then have been full and complete.* It never was. And so, let's notice now what happened. *The Tree of Life was shut up.*

Now God is reproduc-
ing Himself, and it is a
matter of character de-
velopment – of devel-
oping our character
until we become of the
same character as God.
Then He will give us
immortal life, and we
will be composed of
spirit. We'll have life in-
herent then. We'll have
immortal life, life
within ourselves. We
won't have to breathe
air to live. We won't have to have a heart pumping **blood** to
live. My heart completely stopped. I was dead. By mouth-to-
mouth resuscitation, they brought me back before the spirit in
me had left; and my mind remained complete and good, be-
cause God had something more for me to do. That was over
four years ago. I don't know how much longer God will keep
me here, brethren. But whatever His will is, that will be done.
I will keep on trying as long as God makes it possible. That's
all I can say.



Patrick J. Lynch, Yale University

MAN MUST CHOOSE

Adam had to make a choice. We today have a chance to
make that same choice because God has called us. But
Adam took to himself the knowledge of what is good and
what is evil, and then God shut off the **Tree of Life**. In
other words, people cannot get the Spirit of God. They can-
not come to have revealed knowledge of God. They can
only have the knowledge of physical and material things.

That's why ALL EDUCATION in this world is **MATERIAL-**
ISTIC. **WHY IS IT**, MY BRETHREN, THAT TODAY
YOU SEE **MARVELOUS** PROGRESS IN TECHNOL-
OGY and in science and in materialistic development of
science and technology and government and the things that
are being done? But you see nothing but **war** and **violence**
and decay in society, and government fighting against gov-
ernment. *Spiritually, everything is WRONG!*

Physically and materially there is advancement, but it's
only part of the world that is advancing. One half of the
world is illiterate. One half of the world is so poor that
many of them are starving to death. Why that paradox? **Be-**
cause man only has the ability to acquire physical, ma-
terialistic knowledge! He has not acquired the spiritual
knowledge that can only come by revelation from God. So
God shut up the Tree of Life.

Now I want to turn to Revelation 13 and verse eight, where
it speaks of Christ as the Lamb of God **slain** from **the**
foundation of world. In the mind of God and the Word, or
who became Christ ... Christ had offered Himself to come
and be born as a human being, live a perfect life above sin,
not bringing the penalty of death on Himself, and then take
the penalty that **you** brought on **yourself** and that **I** brought
on **myself** and pay that penalty for us **by dying in our**
place. And that was all arranged from the time that Adam
took the wrong tree and before the foundation of this world.

Now you read: Hebrews 9:27: "***And as it is appointed unto***
men once to die, but after this the judgment." It's ap-
pointed to men once to **DIE! All DIE IN ADAM**. But you
read in I Corinthians 15, verse 22, "***As in Adam ALL***
DIE." They've all been dying ever since Adam. Here was a
man who was trying to bring peace. He couldn't bring
peace. His effort was noteworthy. He was doing all he
knew to do.

I hope that I will see President Sadat again in **the Great**
White Throne Judgment, and then I will be able to teach
him what he didn't know; and he will sit there and nod just
like he did, smoking his pipe – only this time he won't be
smoking a pipe. My heart went out to that man. I had to
love him. He risked his life for peace. He was doing the
best he knew. He didn't know any better. He didn't have the
knowledge. That wasn't his fault. He didn't ask to be born.
He was born of the Muslim religion. He didn't know any-
thing else.

You wouldn't know anything else if God hadn't called you,
brethren. You have to give all thanks and praise to God, not to
yourself. It's not because of your worthiness that you're here,
that you're sitting here in this auditorium or you people are lis-
tening all around the United States and Canada and England.
Oh no, it's not because of any worthiness of our own at all.
Hebrews 9:27: "***It is appointed unto men once to die, but***

after this the judgment. Now the judgment we're going to learn about a week from today – **The Great White Throne Judgment – the Last Great Day of the Feast.** And I hope to speak to you again then and make that very plain then. I'm going to leave that until then.

EVERY MAN IN HIS OWN ORDER

I Corinthians 15:22-23: *“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits ...”*

Jesus was the first to be born again, He had never sinned, but He DIED. **And He was born again by a RESURRECTION, making possible our being born by a resurrection, being born again.**

Now the people of the so-called Christian religion believe they're already born again if they just say, "All right, I profess Christ. I believe Jesus died for my sins." That's all they need to have. They don't know what repentance is. They don't believe in keeping the Law of God. They say that Christ was a smart aleck young man that knew more than His Father and did away with His Father's Law. "We don't have to keep that Law." Oh, they think that Law is a terrible thing.

That Law is love. That Law is the way to peace. That Law is the way to happiness and to mutual well-being and cooperation all together. And yet the world hates that Law of God. Well, God loves that Law and He didn't compromise with it. Now in Isaiah 9 and verses 6 and 7, I'm going to just quote some of these now and hurry right along because time is slipping up on us. It says in Ancient Israel:

Isaiah 9:6-7: *“For unto us a child is born ... and the government shall be upon His shoulders, [Speaking of the prophecy of the coming of Christ] and His name shall be called, Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end ...”*

He was coming as a RULER to establish the Government of God in the Kingdom of God. Now the Kingdom of God is **the born Family of God.** Christ was the first born of many brethren into that Kingdom.

You and I can be born by a resurrection the same way. We can be begotten in this life, but we're not yet born. You

know, an embryo in a mother's womb in the first four months of the pregnancy is not yet born. It's only begotten, and that's all we are spiritually. **Physical birth is the precise exact example and type of our being spiritually born of God, exactly.** But Jesus came and He said, **"I will build My Church."** Now then, He was going to call out certain ones.

Joel 2:28: *“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit upon ALL flesh ...”*

God prophesied through Joel that the time would come when the Holy Spirit would not be locked up. Now He closed the Tree of Life in the time of Adam, but He said the time will come when He would open the Tree of Life (and it comes through the Holy Spirit) to all flesh. Well, on the Day of Pentecost, when the Church was founded, Peter said this is what Joel prophesied. But this is only the beginning. **We're only the firstfruits.** God has not poured out **His Spirit** on ALL flesh yet, only the firstfruits because JESUS said:

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

The whole world cannot COME to Christ now. THEY COULDN'T COME TO CHRIST IF THEY WANTED TO ... That's why some of you, when you were converted in that first flush of romance, spiritual romance with Christ, you wanted to get all of your family and your relatives converted. You wanted them to get this wonderful good news; and they just laughed at you, and they thought you were crazy. I think most of you had that experience. I have. I did when I was first converted 55 years ago. My relatives just laughed at me. They thought I was a crackpot. They didn't want any of this kind of religion. If God the Father doesn't call, they cannot come now.

"It's appointed to men now to die, after this the judgment." We're going to learn about that a week from today, **the Last Great Day of this festival.** Now then, in the present time, Satan has blinded the world.

II Corinthians 4:3: *“But if our gospel be hid [And that's about the Kingdom of God and getting into the Family of God. ‘IF our gospel be hid’], it is hid to them that are lost.”*

Now lost doesn't mean condemned. Jesus came to save those that were lost, didn't He? We're to go after those that were lost.

II Corinthians 4:4: "***In whom** [those that are lost] **the god of this world** [Satan the Devil] **hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ who is the image of God, should shine unto them.***"

It isn't given to them to know now. You know, Jesus spoke about the Kingdom of God in parables; and His disciples came and said, "**Why do You speak in parables?**" Well, He said, "**I speak in parables so that the people in hearing would hear but would not understand. I didn't speak in parables to make the meaning more clear. I spoke in parables so they couldn't understand.**"

It isn't given to them to understand. It is given them to die and after this the judgment. But every one who ever lived is going to come back in that judgment and have his chance of salvation. Oh, God is not going to pass up anybody. You'll find out in the end that God is so much more fair than the way Satan has the world believing. There's no comparison between the two.

CHURCH MADE READY

Now to us that are called and are in the Church, here's a message just to us:

Revelation 3:21: "***To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne*** [Jesus said]."

He's coming to sit on the throne of the earth and take the place of Satan who is on that throne now. Now I started this message by telling you Satan is sitting on that throne of the whole earth. Christ has **qualified to replace** Satan on that throne. But He didn't sit on that throne yet.

He went to heaven as our High Priest to ***TRAIN YOU AND ME to be kings and priests to sit on that throne with Him. And WE will sit on that throne IF WE OVERCOME and if we GROW in grace and knowledge AND something else, if we ENDURE until the very end.*** You can't give up and quit! Now we have to understand those things.

Then finally Christ will come:



NIAGARA FALLS

Revelation 19:6-7: "***And I heard*** [And John is speaking here of what he heard and saw in this vision looking into the far future, 'I heard'] ***as if it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters*** [like Niagara Falls rolling down, if you've ever been right at Niagara Falls or down below it and hear the roar of the waters] ***and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, ALLELUIA: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him: for the MARRIAGE of the Lamb is come, and His WIFE hath made herself ready.***"

Who is His wife? Brethren, **you** are that wife! And you people all over the United States and Canada and England ... We in this Church are that wife; and it says, "**That the Church will have made Herself READY.**" BUT, BRETHREN, THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT **YOU WILL BE READY!** IT DOESN'T MEAN EVERY INDIVIDUAL IN THE CHURCH IS GOING TO BE READY. The question is: **ARE YOU READY NOW** if Christ should come tomorrow? Now, I think I can tell you He's not going to come tomorrow. Some people that don't understand say He might come any minute. *That is not true!* Certain other events have to happen first. But events can speed up very rapidly from this minute on, and it can come a lot quicker than you think, and it can come very, very quickly.

But after He comes, Satan is going to be put into the bottomless pit (as you read in the 12th chapter and the first three verses). But now, Revelation 19:4-5, 6-7: "***The four and twenty elders*** [That's up in heaven, and speaking of an-



GOD'S AWESOME CALLING INCLUDES RULING ON THE EARTH AND BEYOND

Bible reading, if we're growing closer to God.

Have you gained knowledge of the things of God since last Feast of Tabernacles a year ago? I have. Have you? I'm in my 90th year now, but I've learned a lot in this last year. I try to pass on to you what I've learned, and I'm passing on some of that to you today that I did not know a year ago. Are you closer to God than you were a year ago? Just where do you

gelic beings.] *and the four* ['living creatures' it should be] *fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia. And a voice came "... for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready."*

Revelation 20:4: "*And I saw thrones ...*" That's after the Devil was put away. That was pictured 10 days ago, no five days ago, at the **Day of Atonement**. And now we come to the beginning of the Millennium that we're celebrating here, and this is the first Holy Day of that celebration.

Revelation 20:4: "*And I saw thrones and they sat upon them ...*"

We're to reign with Christ on His Throne, ruling this earth and the **Government of this earth**. I have talked with many of the kings, the emperors, the prime ministers, the presidents over nations. They're just human beings like you and I. That's all. But you and I are going to be sitting on those thrones ruling, brethren (Do you realize that?) if we are preparing, if we are spending our time in **prayer** and in

stand? The Church is going to be **ready**, but are **you** going to be ready? That doesn't mean everybody in Church, brethren. You need to realize that.

Revelation 20:4: "*... And I saw the souls of them that were **beheaded** for the witness of Jesus [They'd given up their lives in **martyrdom**], and the word of God, and which had not worshiped the beast, neither his image, neither had received **his mark** upon their foreheads.*"

And those are things we're going to have to cover very soon all over again. I was covering things like that some 50 years ago, about the Mark of the Beast and the Image of the Beast and the Beast and so on. Well, the time is coming now when we're going to have to get back to those things again.

Revelation 20:5-6: "*But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.* [You see, it's appointed men once to die and after this the judgment; and that judgment is coming a thousand years later.] *This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death*

hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."

Revelation 5:10: "*And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign ON THE EARTH.*"

Seventh-Day Adventists, please listen. We're not going to reign up in heaven. We're going to reign ON THE EARTH! THIS IS THE ONLY CHURCH that understands about the Kingdom of God, brethren. The Methodists don't understand it. The Catholics don't understand it. The Presbyterians ... Oh, they're all fine people. I'm not saying anything against them as human beings. But they don't understand this **truth**; and they are dying one by one, but after this the judgment.

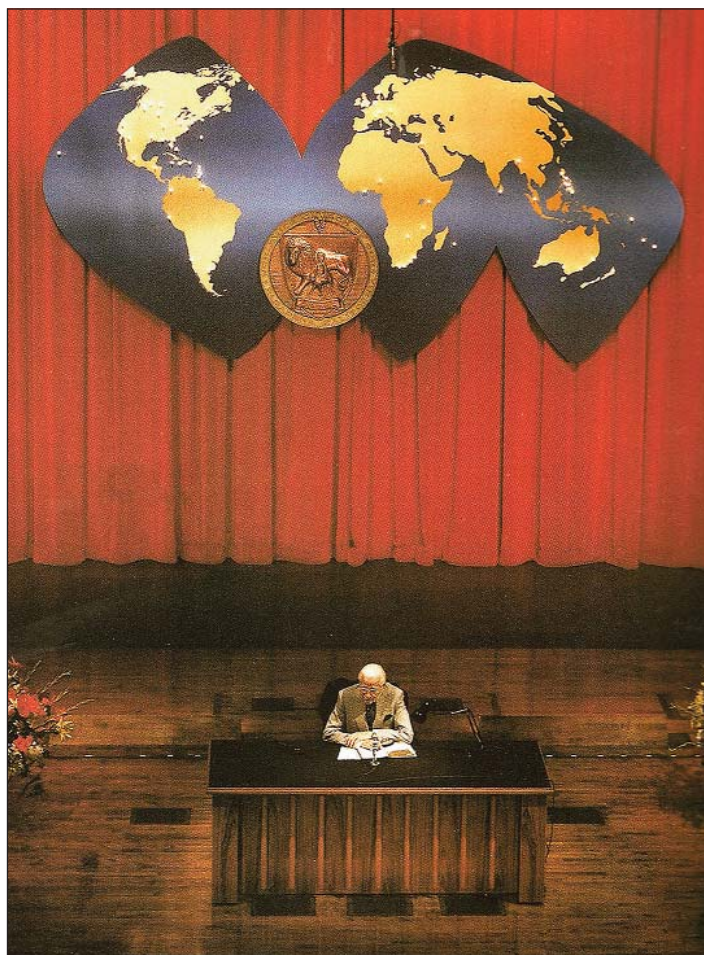
YOU AND I ARE BEING **CALLED TO A VERY IMPORTANT CALLING** THAT WE CAN **LEARN** THESE TRUTHS, THAT **WE CAN GROW IN GRACE AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, THAT WE CAN ENDURE, THAT WE CAN OVER-COME** and that we can then be teaching them and ruling and reigning them until God's final Work is finally accomplished. There going to be **BILLIONS** in the Church ultimately, but not in this life or this time.

Now those that are alive and remain at the Second Coming of Christ will not precede those that are dead. I just read you those that are dead will be resurrected. Those of us that are still alive will be caught up together with Him in the air. ...

Well, brethren, that's about it. We're here to celebrate that time of that thousand years. But in that thousand years we're going to save those ... and the salvation will be open to **everybody** then that is still **living**.

Of those who have **died**, they will come up in the **Great White Throne Judgment** after that thousand years is completed. But that time is not very far off now, and we're celebrating that time.

Now, we've had a good beginning of this Festival. Let's go on and enjoy it and rejoice; but let's also remember that we need to get closer to God, everyone of us. And, during this Festival, don't just think of fun in the physical sense. Think of it in the spiritual sense and of a Festival that will bring us **CLOSER TO GOD**. NOT CLOSER TO PHYSICAL and material things.



1982 PASADENA FEAST OF TABERNACLES TELECAST

I know the Bible says, "**Bring your money that you saved up all year and spend it on whatever your soul lusted for.**"

I think that "**lusting**" is a wrong translation in the English language. "**Whatever you desire.**" But you should **only** desire those things that are right in God's sight. Let this Festival be something that brings us all closer to God. That's the way to rejoice, and it is A TIME OF REJOICING!

So let's go on rejoicing and rejoicing in that way. Thank you all, brethren! ... Goodbye for now, everybody.



Editor's Note: Using the sermons of Mr. Armstrong for articles in our magazine requires editing out some of what he says to make room for them. What is edited does not take away from the continuity of his subjects. Very little was edited from this marvelous sermon. We encourage those who would like the complete sermon to write or call us and it will be mailed to them.

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

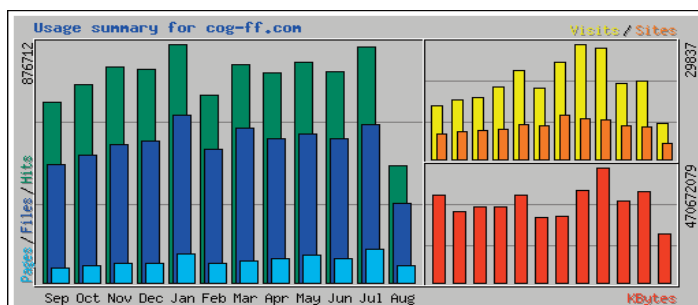
Which Day is the Christian Sabbath?
www.sabbathcentral.com

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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