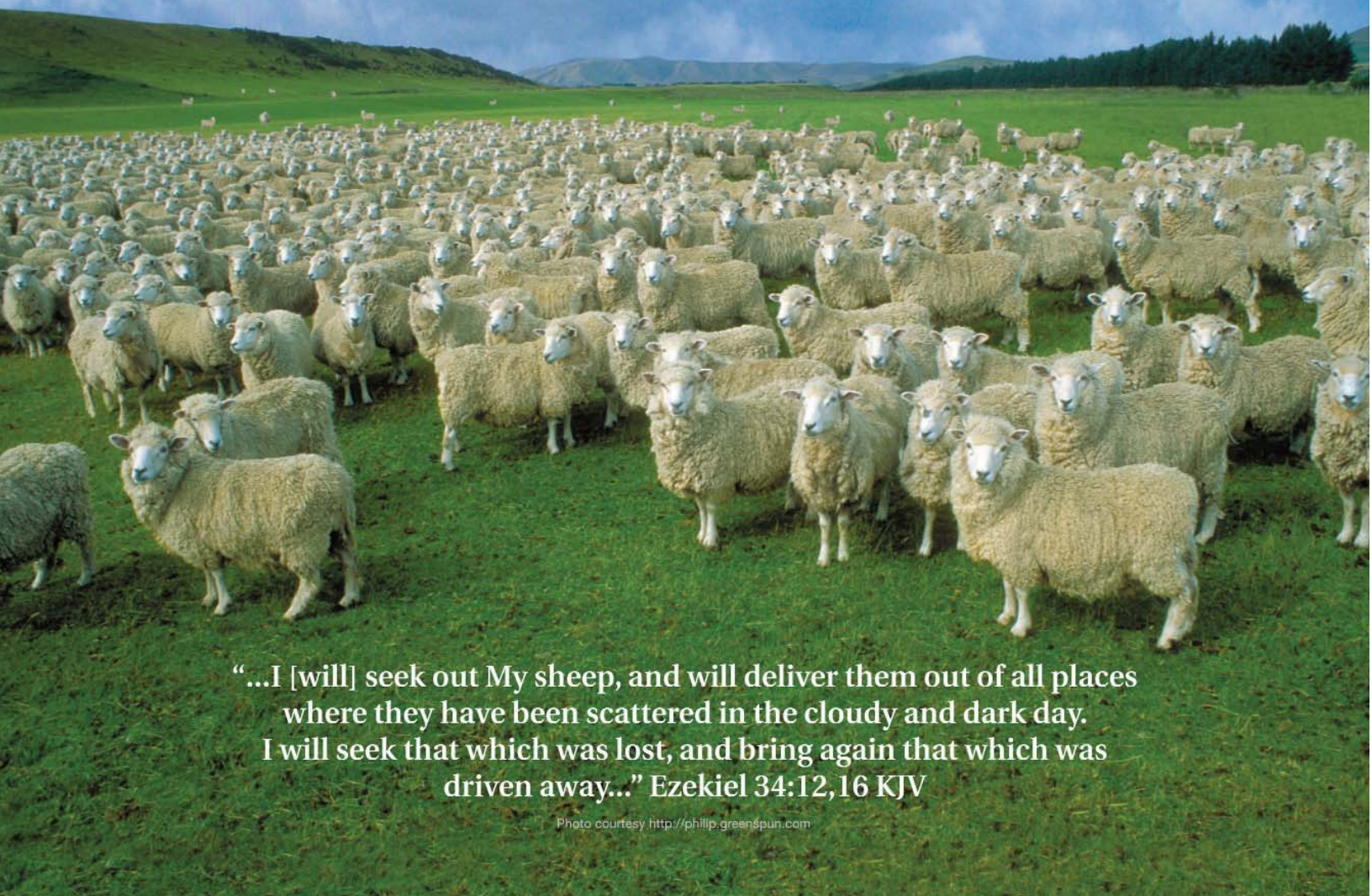


The _____ Philadelphia Remnant

Jan/Feb 2009



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

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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 spear-headed, 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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Banking Crisis in Prophecy

By Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong

Hello, everybody. Nice to be back. We had quite a trip. I'm not going to try and fill you in on the trip except one or two little points perhaps. I did speak the first Sabbath in Belgium and the second Sabbath, I believe was in Salzburg, Austria. And in Vienna, we met the president of Austria in one of the old palaces that had been occupied by *the emperors of the Holy Roman Empire*, and he gave us the box seats to the presidential box at the opera. I think that was on Sunday night. We were privileged to hear the Vienna Philharmonic in their auditorium.

And at Salzburg, we had a meeting in one of the old palaces in a building 800 years old, and then on to Jordan. The next Sabbath we had another service in Jerusalem. While in Jerusalem, I had a meeting with the president of Israel. I had met him once before, but that was before he was president, and I think this was the first meeting since he became president.

And in London, the economic conference was on while we were there. That is the summit conference of the major powers. And I can tell you now that *I learned things while in London that have alarmed me greatly*. And I can see now **the event that is going to trigger the formation of the reunification in Europe, the resurrection of the medieval Holy Roman Empire** that we've been looking forward to that is prophesied to come. **Something has been holding it back**. And, a year ago, when Dr. Otto van Hapsburg was here, he had come over here to see me ... He couldn't under-



MR. HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

stand why they aren't able to get this unification through sooner. Something is causing it to lag and to hold it up. I said to him, "I've been wondering about the same thing."

But **I believe that some event is going to happen suddenly, just like out of a blue sky, that is going to shock the whole world, and is going to cause the nations in Europe to realize they must unite!** Well, he said that he believes that will have to happen too. Well, now I think I can see what may be the very event that is going to trigger it, and **it is the economic situation in the world**. In the future, I'll have a great deal to say about that. ...

But let me just remind you of one or two things. This world started with Adam, as you've heard me say again and again and again. And it started on the philosophy of GET instead of God's philosophy of love, which I translate into the little four letter word of GIVE. And as nations developed, specialization came along. And instead of a man raising his own food, building his own home, he and his wife making their own clothes, and he'd make the shoes for own his family. Pretty soon, perhaps, he started a shoe factory. Someone else started a clothing factory, others began to raise food on a large scale, and then they began to exchange these things. One man would make shoes for dozens and then hundreds of others, and devote his entire time to that.





SO-CALLED HOLY ROMAN EMPERORS

So they had to have a medium of exchange instead of just exchanging goods, and so money was invented. And money came to represent goods or services and material produced out of the ground. Then nations developed, and today it's grown into many, many different nations.

Now, we had to have an economic system as specialization progressed; and to handle money and to transfer money from one person to another, a banking system was originated. Now today, you've been born in a world where you take banks for granted. There've been banks for now hundreds and hundreds, and even, I guess, thousands of years perhaps. But banks have to deal with one another. And as transportation has increased, and for some people that live in different parts of the nation or the world, they transfer money by checks. And you have to have a system whereby someone writes a check, for example, in Philadelphia, and yet he has an account in a bank here in Pasadena. That check has to get somewhere, somehow, from Philadelphia where he cashes it in the store or something there to come here, and the money has to come out of his account in this bank and be transferred back. And so a correspondent bank system was invented. And it's been going since long

before I was born. Now, the largest correspondent bank in the United States through which all these checks flow, and they do flow through certain major banks, the way this system works, the largest one in the United States was the Continental Illinois Bank in Chicago. I've had relations with the president of that bank when I was a young man living in Chicago. In fact, I went to him occasionally for advice while I was a young

man in the early '20s. I had known him in Des Moines, Iowa, where he had been president in the Des Moines National Bank, and I'd had an account in that bank before I went to Chicago. And that's the bank that you've read in the newspapers the last two or three months now, that came into a near crash. It was, when I was in Chicago ... about the third largest bank in the United States. And it is still, perhaps, third or fourth in the United States, a very large bank.

When a bank of that size collapses and people begin to lose confidence in the bank and there's a run on the bank, everybody tries to draw their money

out. The bank never has as much cash on hand as it has deposits that it owes to depositors that had deposited their money with it. And they could bankrupt the bank when they start a run on it. And so, that bank is so large it's a banker's bank, and banks all over the United States



have to keep money on deposit in that bank for the clearing of checks. And that would upset the whole banking system in the United States. And so the government had to come to the aid of that bank. Now, it had made some very risky and very bad loans to nations and the governments of nations in South

America and Latin America. And now, it begins to look like those nations are not going to repay what they owe. And it runs into billions and billions of dollars. Also, the United States government had loaned money to those nations. And now it looks like some of the South American nations, may in the near future, just decide they're not going to pay, they're just going to let it go into default. And it amounts to so much money it will cause a great deal of trouble. Now, let me go further,

The whole banking structure in the United States is a network all joined together. But not only that, one nation has to deal with other nations and imports and exports. And so they have to have a means of transferring money from one nation to another. And so the banking structure is international and interwoven. Things started out with the first man Adam rather simply. God's things are usually



A RUN ON THE BANKS: YESTERDAY AND TODAY

simple. Man wants to make everything complex, intricate, and in such detail that the human mind can hardly keep up with it. And so, the banking system has become very complex. And one nation is pretty much tied to other nations in its banking or monetary system. You can read in the newspapers how the dollar has a certain value in relation to the British pound or the Jewish shekel or the Japanese yen, and they go up and down. And so the whole world is tied up in a banking structure. Now money represents GETTING and this world is devoted to GETTING. Do you get the point?

That's why God says in the Bible, *the love of money is a root of all evil*. Not that money is, money can be a very valuable thing if it is properly used, judiciously used. But lust or love of money, desire to get and to have more, more, more and more, and never have enough, is what is possessing the world. That is based on a type of living and lifestyle of GETTING and everyone wanting to GET more and GET more and GET more, and one nation wants to GET more from other nations. Now when the financial structure breaks down, all civilization is going to break down. I just want to say that much, maybe you can see how serious this thing can become.

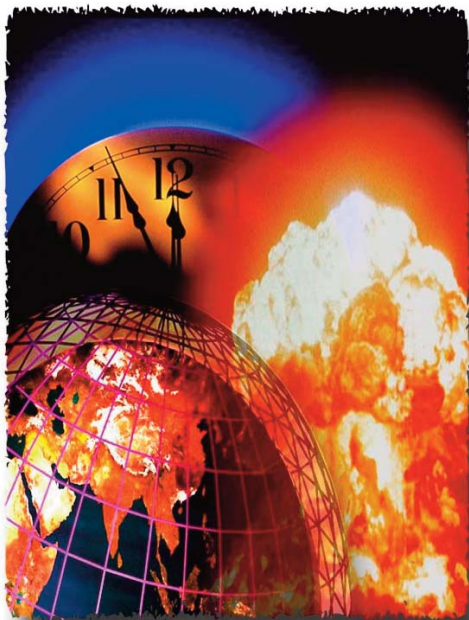


Now, there was an economic conference of the leading have nations, or the developed nations, the United States and Canada, Japan. And incidentally, I had a very nice meeting with Prime Minister Nakasone of Japan in London, the second meeting that I've had with him. He hasn't been in office too long now, and

I've had meetings with every prime minister of Japan in the last 14 years. Also, I had a meeting with the foreign minister, the minister of foreign affairs with Japan, who was in London for this conference, and the man immediately under him, who is one of my Japanese sons. I just wanted to mention that I could see the handwriting on the wall. Now other nations that were involved in this conference, President Reagan was there, and as I say, Prime Minister Nakasone, the prime minister of Canada, and of course, Mrs. Thatcher of England and the president of France and the president of Italy and (the chancellor of Germany). They were all there. I only met them once in Japan.

However, the situation is simply that I think God has been holding the winds of war, of nuclear war, and the final crisis back for at least 15 or 20 years now. When it seemed like it was due back in the late 1960s, it seemed like it was going to be due in a few years, and it had not happened. Now, I can see where things can come to a head. And it is just like on the front cover of I believe it was Newsweek or else it was Time Magazine. It's the gathering storm that is taking place right now, getting ready for the grand smash crisis that'll bring about the end of this world.

Now you might just remember a month ago the atomic scientists moved the doomsday clock forward one more minute, from four minutes to only three minutes to midnight. And midnight is the doom of all civilization. The end of this world! Not the end of the earth. The



world is merely the civilization and the system of human beings. But the important thing is, and I think we've been overlooking it until now, that all of the relationships internationally, one nation with another and one human

being with one another, are regulated in this world's system of wanting to GET, all involved with money, and there is a money crisis now.

Now, these heads of government that were there didn't come out with any solution. You know why? It is to their interest that Mr. Reagan be re-elected in an election that is



coming on in a few months here in the United States. And if they had come out with it and made the real plight public it might have hurt Mr. Reagan's chances. As of now, if the election were held today, undoubtedly Mr. Reagan would go in there with a pretty big majority. And so politics enter into it. And politics will enter into it, and I can see where it is going to cause Europe to unite and turn against the United States. And if you want to know what'll happen, go home and read the last chapter in the book, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. Now you may have read it, go home and read it again. Brush up on it. And refresh your mind on it because we're coming to the time when it's going to happen. Bible prophecy says it'll happen. Everything says it will happen.

So, I'm going to get back to speaking on prophecy a little more from now on. I think we need to get back to that subject. I'd like to start a little bit on the book of Revelation today.

But Revelation 1:1 starts out, "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him." You'll notice, God is the author. Jesus Christ is the head of the Church, but God is the head of Christ, "which God gave unto Him to show unto His servants" something.

Now, His servants are those that He has called and that are serving Him. Those that have surrendered to Him, in other words, those who have His Holy Spirit and are obeying Him, and have been converted and belong in the Church, the True Church of God.

Continued on Page 28

Personal from the Editor

By Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley

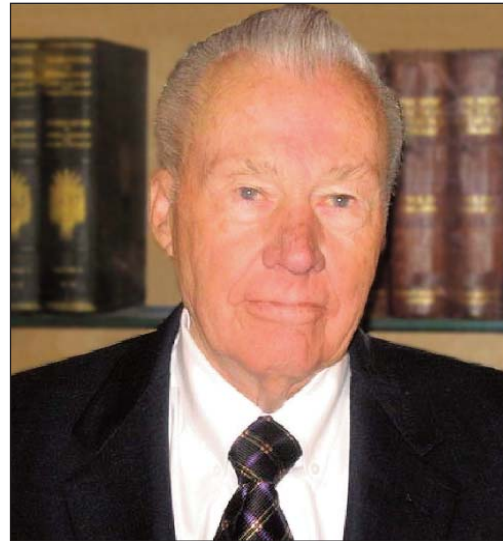
January 16, 2009, marks the 23rd anniversary of the death of God's late apostle and His promised Elijah of the end time, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong (Malachi 4:5-6, Matthew 17:10-11).

As God's appointed watchman for Israel in this end time, he cried out the **warnings** for more than 50 years of the terrible times we are now witnessing to befall the house of Joseph for refusing to acknowledge God and obey His holy and righteous laws (Ezekiel 33:7-11).

As he made known, *unless there is repentance*, Bible prophecy reveals additional horrifying problems will soon follow before they end in the demise of Israel as nations (Ezekiel 5:12, Leviticus 26:14-29).

Though what he preached has been some years in coming to pass, we are now witnessing the real beginning fulfillment of those end-time prophecies! They began in a most dramatic way on 9-11-01! And since that time, major problems have followed one after the other in one way or another.

Witnessing these continued demoralizing problems since that time, to where we now are, a very timely question should be asked: **What kind of problems**



Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley

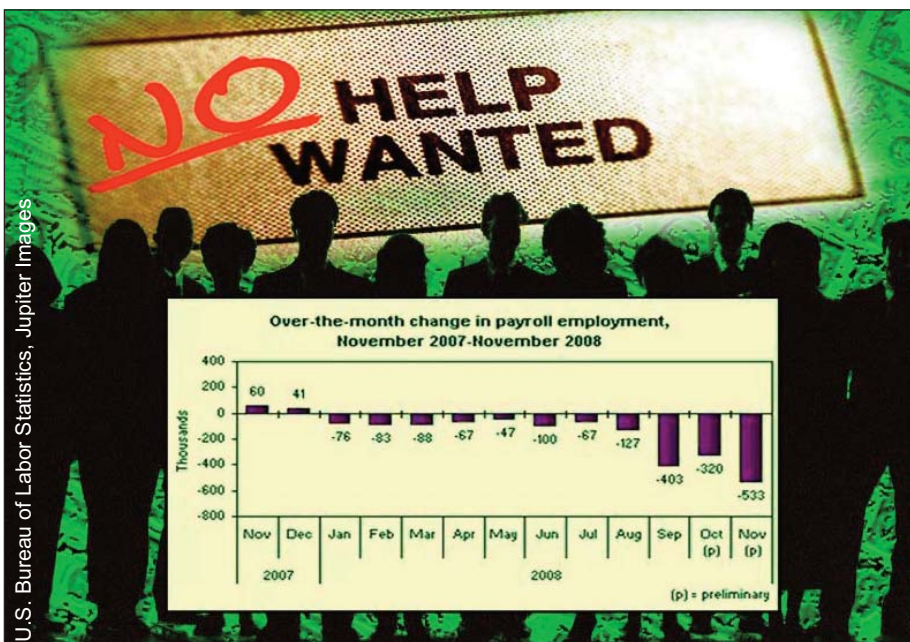
will the United States be facing by January 16, 2010?

Consider the economy: The economy is in such critical condition that the

whole nation is in bewilderment and wondering if and when it will totally collapse! Major banks are in desperate straits. Automobile manufacturers are on the verge of bankruptcy. State governments are in serious trouble and seeking bailouts! Cities of any large size and others are seeking bailouts! They are hurting with no solution in sight except through further taxation of the people! In addition, major stores are closing their doors. Homes are being foreclosed on owners. Unemployment figures are rising, and drought conditions are getting worse.

Professional economists both speak and write of their grave concerns regarding the faltering economy and where it will lead this country. It finally has been admitted of late that we are in a recession. It is being predicted this will turn into a major depression greater than in the 1930s.

Martin Hennecke, senior manager of private clients at the Tyche Group, told CNBC that **the end result of the global economic slowdown may be the U.S. announcing national bankruptcy** as the government cannot afford the bailouts and the market will





Wikimedia/Jupiter Images

not bail out the government. He further told CNBC, "We expect a depression in the United States." Hennecke said on World Exchange.

"We expect a depression, very possibly, also in Europe. When the government can no longer pass the United States' immense debt on to taxpayers, it will turn to the holders of U.S. dollars, leading to the eventual downfall of the currency (September 11, 2008)."



Jesper Rautell Balle

In the meantime, *the stock market is like a yo-yo*, up one day and down the next; a real indicator of the uneasiness being experienced by the investors and society.

With all this in mind, consider an excerpt from the past writings of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong about the faltering economy in this country that will undoubtedly lead to the revival of the Roman Empire and its conquering the United States and Britain:

"A massive banking crisis in America could suddenly result in triggering European nations to unite as a new world power larger than either the Soviet Union or the U.S. That, in turn, could bring on the Great Tribulation suddenly. And that will lead quickly to the Second Coming of Christ and the end of this world as we know it." —

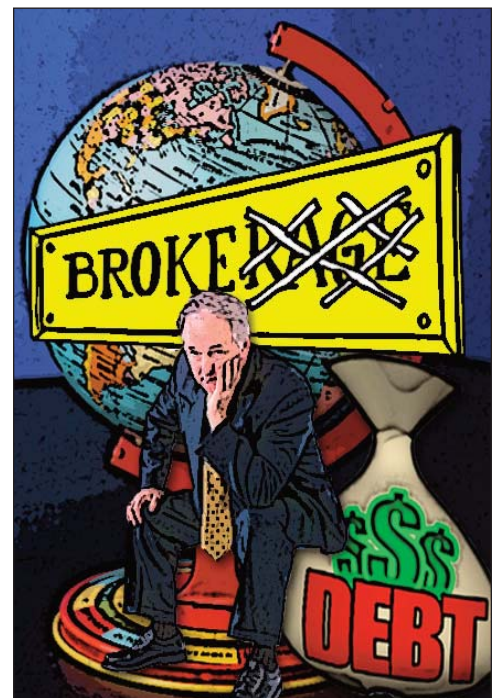
Herbert W. Armstrong, Co-Worker Letter, July 22, 1984.

Though it cannot be said for sure, but based on the current news and past writings of Mr. Armstrong, *the economy is on such a downward spiral that it will probably crash by this coming*

Feast of Tabernacles 2009 or no later than January 7, 2010. (Please review my Personal with the Editor, March/April, 2008, *Philadelphia Remnant* magazine.)

While considering the gravity of these many problems, it would be well for us as members of the Church of God to read the following letter in its entirety from which I have only taken a few excerpts. (It can be read on our website, www.cog-ff.com, in my Pastor's Comments, 12-12-08, or mailed to those who request it.)

This is an effort to try and help each of us to survive the horrors soon to befall America, Britain and the world.



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
President and Pastor
May 2, 1974

Dear Brethren of God's Church:

It is vital that you read carefully every word of this letter. Do you know where we are right now, IN PROPHECY?

We are in the very time of Daniel's prophecy: At **"the time of the end, many shall be purified, made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand (Daniel 12:9-10)."**

God's people are in the time of final trying and testing – like taking **final exams** to determine whether we graduate.

Today some in the Church of God do not UNDERSTAND just what the Church of God really IS! Some have become confused as to whether there is ORGANIZATION or government in it – and I mean in **GOD'S OWN CHURCH! And God HAS ONLY ONE CHURCH** (I Cor.12:12, 13)! **But we of 'the wise' shall understand!** That understanding shall be made PLAIN in this letter.

Some wonder whether they can leave God's Church, and still be true and real Christians – whether they could then enter GOD'S KINGDOM with His GIFT of ETERNAL LIFE. I will answer that in this letter.

Too many of us have been getting our eyes OFF the main GOAL – OF God's PURPOSE for us in our time, NOW. In order to DESTROY GOD'S WORK – to get our eyes off it – false 'ISSUES' have been raised – QUESTIONS designed to cause DOUBTS in your minds, to destroy FAITH – have been raised. Subtle, clever, deceptive methods have been used to detract us from and cause us to neglect



God's REAL PURPOSE for us today! We must immediately get back to THAT PURPOSE!

Brethren, YOU, each, as an individual, were born for the most COLOSSAL, the most TRANSCENDENT purpose our minds could conceive! Let me remind you of it! Let's get our minds focused on the MAIN GOAL!

In Hebrews 1:2, God **"hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things** (Moffatt translation, *the UNIVERSE*) (Verse 2)." **And God has made us JOINT-HEIRS with Christ** (Romans 8:17).

WHY should the Mighty GOD be concerned about US brethren?

Listen! **"Thou (God) crownedst him (each of YOU) with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands; thou hast put ALL THINGS (the entire UNIVERSE of endless SPACE, with all planets, suns, stars, etc., etc.) in subjection under his feet. For in that he put ALL in subjection under him, he left NOTHING that is not put under him. But now we see NOT YET all things put under him. But we see Jesus ... crowned with glory and honour; ... For it became Him ... in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain (forerunner – pio-**

neer) of their salvation perfect through sufferings (Heb.2:7-10).”

Brethren, **CAN YOUR MIND COMPREHEND THE TRANSCENDENT MAGNITUDE OF THAT SUPREME PURPOSE?** The entire UNIVERSE to be put UNDER SUBJECTION to you! That means you are to **RULE** over it all – IF you are submissive, obedient to God and His government over you NOW! **Do you want to let resentment against God's government over you NOW disqualify you – snatch you from God's GRACE and PURPOSE for you, and cast you into a lake of fire? God's PURPOSE for us is SO GREAT, we need to FEAR lest Satan divert our minds from that GOAL! Satan is subtle!**

Just WHAT IS GOD? He is CREATOR! But He maintains – preserves – what He creates. HOW? By His GOVERNMENT – the GOVERNMENT OF GOD! We cannot clearly UNDERSTAND whether God has put HIS GOVERNMENT in His Church – and WHAT KIND – unless we understand His PURPOSE, and HOW it has been worked out FROM THE VERY BEGINNING! *And without this knowledge Satan could DECEIVE YOU, right now!*

Paul gave reason, in the following verses, for GOVERNMENT and AUTHORITY in the Church – “**For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers ... whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses** (even as those fighting against order and government in God's Church are doing today), **teaching things they ought not** (as right now), **for filthy lucre's sake. ... Wherefore REBUKE THEM SHARPLY, that they may be sound in the faith.**” And Paul adds, chapter 2:15, “**... and REBUKE, with ALL AUTHORITY.**” Yes, God's Government is NECESSARY in His Church, and He PUT IT THERE!

No authority in the Church? What did God MEAN when He says in His Word, “**OBEY them that have the RULE over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account** (as I know I shall) **that they may do it with JOY, and not with grief: for that** (causing those over you grief) **is unprofitable for YOU. Pray for us**



(THOSE OF US GOD HAS SET INAUTHORITY TODAY) for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things, willing to live honestly (Heb. 13:17-18).”

No government in God's Church? Then WHY did God inspire this to the Thessalonians? “**And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are OVER YOU in the Lord, and admonish you; and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves** (I Thes.5:12-13).”

One of the things SATAN works overtime in injecting into any mind that will let it enter, is RESENTMENT OF AUTHORITY. GOD'S authority is administered in LOVE – and actually as one SERVING those under His authority for THEIR GOOD and out of loving CONCERN for them. That is the way I try to use what authority God has delegated to me, and I try to teach those under me to use it in the same manner – as a servant, not one lording it over those under him – as JESUS gave us an example. Satan DESPISES government, except as HE himself harshly and in hate em-

plays it. But what does GOD say about DESPISING GOVERNMENT?

"But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and DESPISE GOVERNMENT, Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities, whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord. But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption (II Peter 2:10-12)."

Brethren, THAT'S GOD'S WORD, not mine!
I know WHERE THE LIVING CHRIST IS WORKING, and guiding, and blessing, and that's where I intend to KEEP ON WORKING! **[Through his recorded works on our 14 web sites.]**

WHY has God called you and me NOW, while we still have to fight and resist the cunning of Satan, AHEAD OF TIME – instead of WHEN CHRIST SHALL HAVE COME, AND PUT SATAN AWAY, AND SET HIS HAND TO CALL EVERY LIVING PERSON? The answer is, TO GET THIS JOB DONE!

Dear Brethren, . . . We are right now in the time of **FINAL EXAMS – of severe trying and testing** – to determine whether we shall make it into God's Kingdom and eternal life – to be a priest or king, ruling under Christ for a thousand years – and after that, the WHOLE UNIVERSE under our feet! The future before us is so transcendently ENORMOUS we cannot now fully conceive of it.

We have been called AHEAD OF TIME. **We have Satan to fight and we need the WHOLE ARMOR OF THE LIVING GOD to avoid being deceived by his wiles and deceptions.** . . . Let's not fail in these final exams. If you are my children in the Lord, God has given me a truly BIG, FINE, HAPPY FAMILY filled with the LOVE OF CHRIST that passes all understanding, and we shall be together for ETERNITY!

With deep-love, in Jesus' name, **[signed Herbert W. Armstrong]**



PROPHECY REVEALS PROBLEMS AHEAD

One can continually keep abreast of today's problems while foreseeing what is coming by reviewing the writings and sermons of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong that can be found on our web sites.

We will be without excuse unless we heed the prophetic warnings from the Bible that was made very plain by Christ through him.

Consider: The warnings God used Mr. Armstrong to give up to the time of his death for all practical purposes have fallen on deaf ears! Here it is 23 years later, and to the undiscerning mind, he was a false prophet for all things are now as they were then.

In Type: The **WARNINGS** Jesus Christ gave the Jewish people of what was to come upon them was basically forgotten over the following 37 years.

Things continued pretty much the same during those interim years and His words were forgotten except for the faithful members of God's Church.

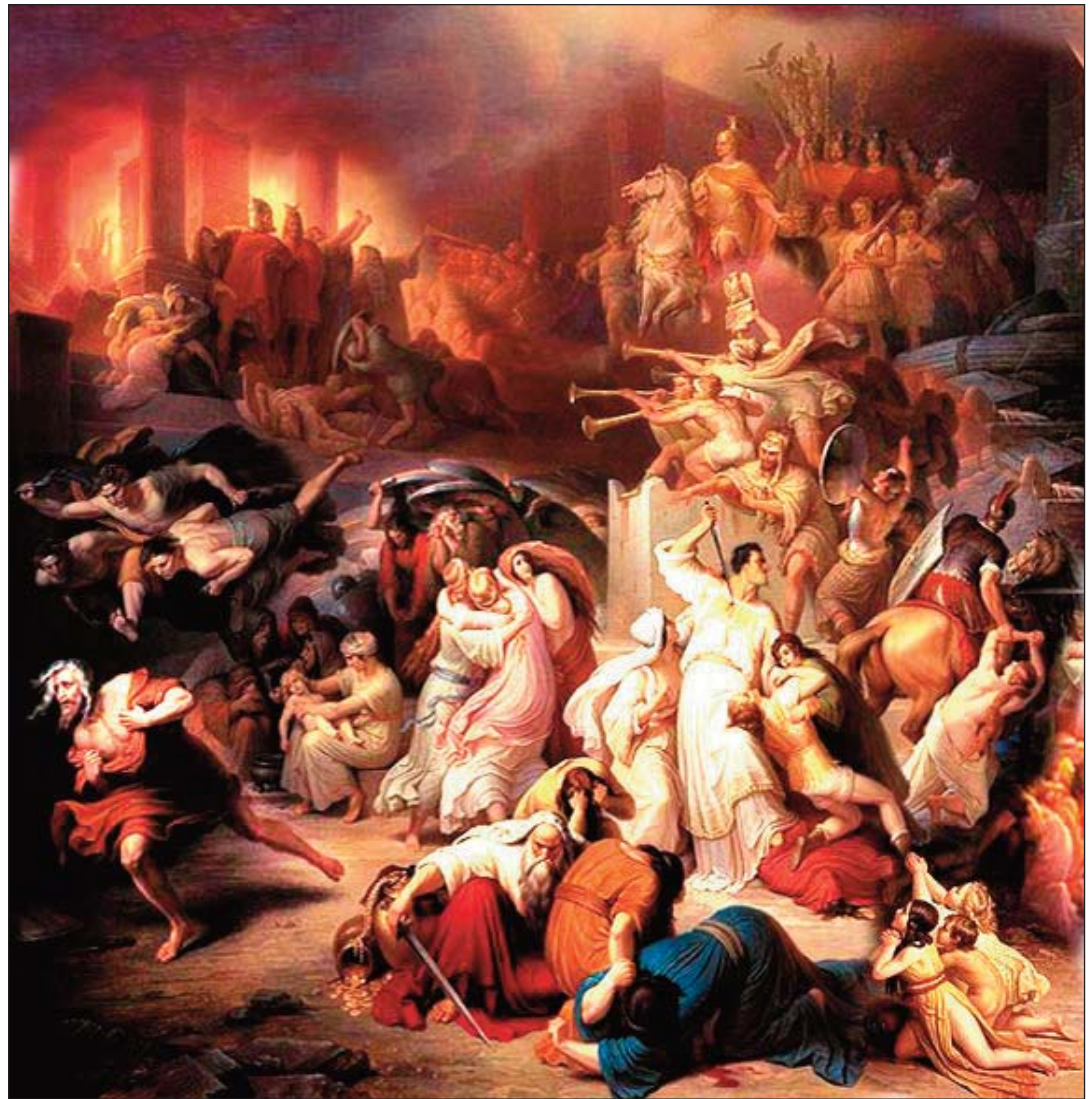
But 70 A. D. came! And with the beginning of the Passover of that year, what Jesus Christ had said to them, did come to pass!

History records horrible sufferings and deaths that came on the Jewish people by Titus and his enormous Roman armies.

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

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

History could very well repeat itself! It is highly possible the nuclear attack will come on Israel at the Passover by its modern counterpart conceivably less than five years from now by the revived




THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM BY TITUS IN 70 A.D.

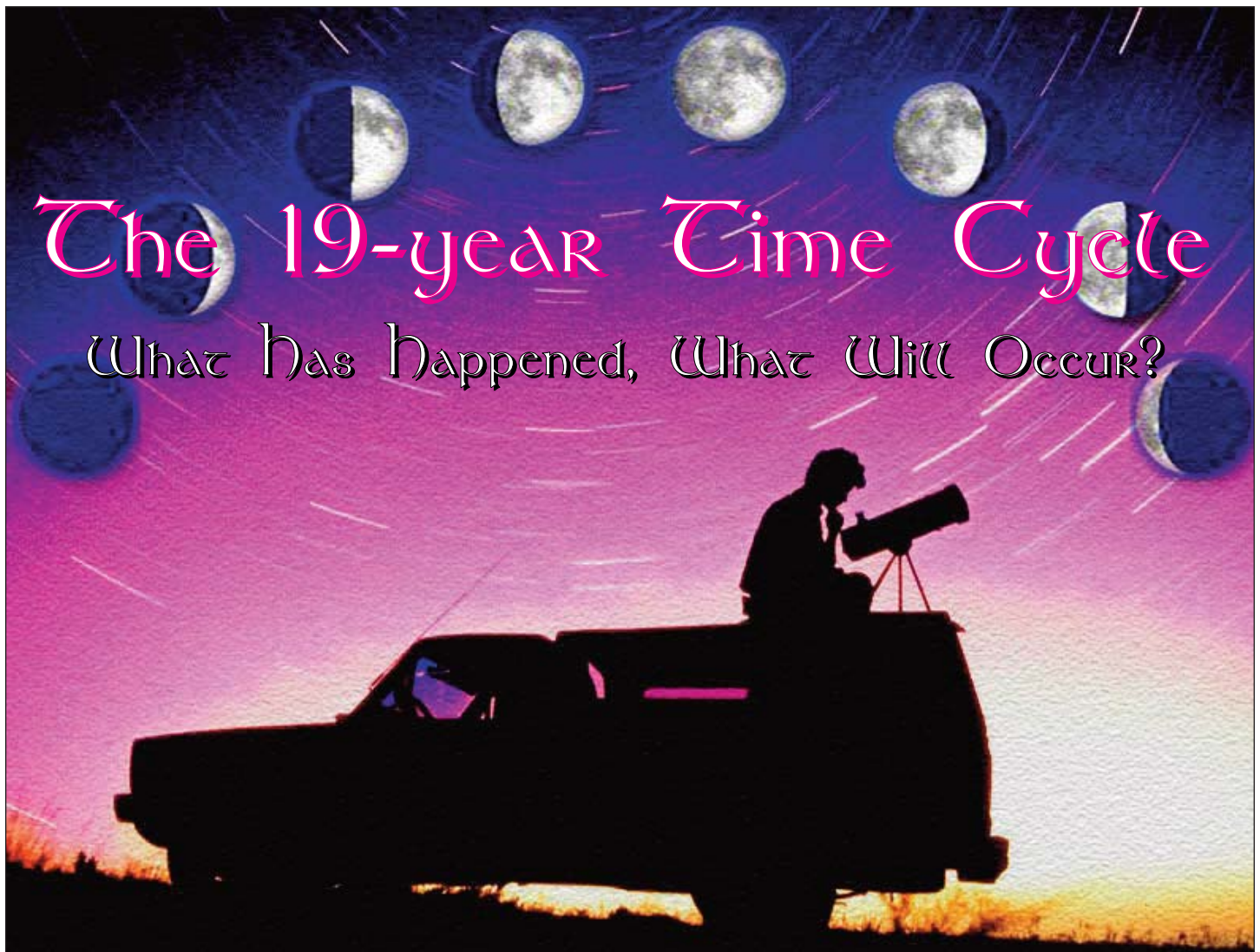
Holy Roman Empire. We are now on the eve of the final countdown!



As Mr. Armstrong also made known, prophecy reveals there will first be a severe famine that will be accompanied by disease epidemics (Ezekiel 5:12, 6:11, 7:14-15)!

They in turn will be followed by the **Great Tribulation** (Matthew 24:21-22)! **Perilous times!**

As Church members, will you and I be among the wise who will come to understand before it comes to be too late and take the needed action to be counted worthy to escape these horrors that are virtually on top of us (Daniel 12:10; Luke 21:36)? Our prayers are to that end. 



The 19-year Time Cycle

What Has Happened, What Will Occur?

By Garfield Gregoire

We are nearing the end of this civilization. Armageddon is only a few short years ahead of us! With this realization in mind, it behooves each and every one of us to earnestly consider the times in which we live.

The world is in economic and social turmoil. It appears that the long prophesied ***GREAT TRIBULATION and World War III*** are now poised to come upon our people. In light of the oncoming events, we are reminded of Matthew 24:42, where Christ commands the Church to **"Watch therefore ..."** The word **"watch"** comes from the Greek "gregoreuo," which means to be **awake** or **vigilant**.

While God's True Church vigilantly keeps its eyes on world events, it is equally important to consider where the Church has been and how its past history may well be the indicator

of how little time we have remaining to finish the Work. Winston Churchill believed, "The further backwards you look, the further forward you can see." For our purpose here, we need to look back at the "19-year time cycle" and consider what the ending of the next cycle may bring.

WHAT IS THE 19-YEAR TIME CYCLE?

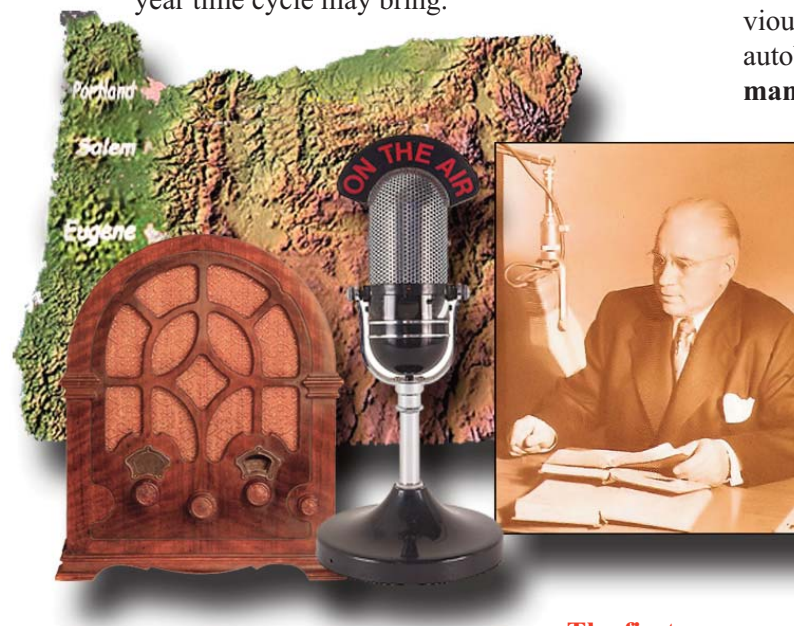
It has not been revealed anywhere in the Bible that God has determined to end the WORK of the Church at the end of a 19-year time cycle, but based on events that have occurred in the Church at the end of each cycle, it is certainly within the realm of possibility that God may yet do so.

God set the earth, moon and sun to mark time here on earth, and each 19 years represents **a definite cycle of time**. In a Co-worker letter dated May 22, 1953, Mr. Armstrong describes the 19-year time cycle this way: **"God has set TIME running in cycles of 19 years. Just once every 19 years the days, divided by the sun; the months, divided**

by the new moons; and the years, divided by the revolution of the earth around the sun, all come into exact conjunction. Thus God's NATURE runs in 19-year cycles. That is important."

On page 277 of his autobiography (Vol. 2), Mr. Armstrong writes: "That gospel was first preached by the Apostle Peter on the day of Pentecost, A.D. 31. Nineteen years later, A.D. 50, 'A DOOR' was opened to the Apostle Paul to preach that gospel in Europe for the first time."

In his writings and preaching, Mr. Armstrong has made every possible effort to make the Church realize the significance and meaning of the 19-year time cycle. When we consider what has happened in past 19-year cycles of time, we can realize they were not mere "coincidences" of events, but periods of time that were influenced by God. We must now also consider what the ending of the next 19-year time cycle may bring.



The first

19-year time cycle began in 1934 when Mr. Armstrong began to broadcast from a small radio station in Eugene, Oregon. In a "Personal" he wrote titled "The 19-Year Time Cycles – What HAPPENED January 7 – What My Commission IS!" (*Tomorrow's World* magazine, February, 1972), we read, "It took just ONE COMPLETE CYCLE of 19 years for this Work to grow from nothing until it carried the very Gospel of Jesus all over the North American continent in mighty power! That 19-year time cycle ended, and the second 19-year cycle began, during the first week of the present year, 1953!"

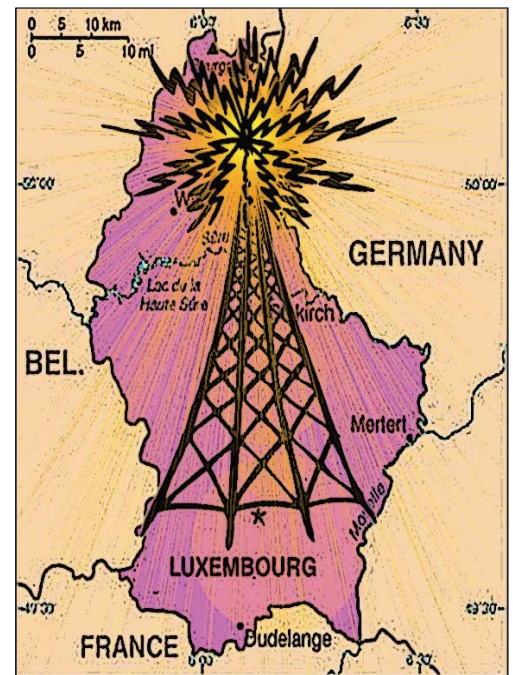
Mr. Armstrong saw the similarity between this first and second 19-year time cycle of the Philadelphia era of the Church, and the beginning of the Church in A.D. 31. – for history shows that during its first 19-year time cycle, the

carrying of the Gospel was essentially confined to the surrounding area of Palestine – as well as Asia Minor. But after the end of this 19-year cycle, God then sent or used the apostle Paul to preach the Gospel in Europe.

On pages 313-314 of the previously quoted

autobiography, Mr. Armstrong also wrote: "I have written many times about how Christ opened the giant DOOR of Radio Luxembourg to proclaim His gospel to Europe precisely nineteen years – one time-cycle – after the beginning of the work in 1934. The door of radio first opened on the first Sunday in 1934. Our first broadcast to Europe occurred the first Thursday in 1953 – the first week in January both times!"

Mr. Armstrong continues, "BUT WE DID NOT PLAN IT THAT WAY! GOD DID! My November 22 recording was rejected by the station. A second try was rejected. The third time I had finally come to comprehend clearly the station policies – and it was accepted! It went on the air the first week in January, 1953!"



God has shown that HE had a specific and definite time He would allow Mr. Armstrong to go on the air over Europe.

The scripture also shows that when the time neared for the second 19-year time cycle in ancient days, God also prevented the apostle Paul from preaching in either Asia or Bithynia (Acts 16: 6-7), but actually led him to Philippi – a city in Greece – which is located in Europe. The narrative showed that though Paul was in Philippi for some days (verses 12-13), it was not until "the Sabbath" that he did his first preaching. It also is interesting to note that this Sabbath was actually referring to the Day of Pentecost and not a regular weekly Sabbath – thus indicating this Work of God had begun exactly 19 years to the very day in A.D. 50.

What timing on the part of God!

WHAT HAPPENED AFTER 1972

The year 1972 marked the ending of the second 19-year time cycle of this end-time Work. The Church previously thought that God had allotted two 19-year time cycles to complete the Work. The haters of God's Church have criticized and maligned Mr. Armstrong for "setting dates." Of course, Mr. Armstrong had never set a date, but did make known that on the basis of the 19-year time cycle, the Work **COULD** END in 1972. But through it all, Mr. Armstrong continued to emphasize that the Church was not into date setting. In 1965, Mr. Armstrong cautiously said that the work **COULD** END. Notice what was written in the January 1968 issue of the *Plain Truth* magazine (page 14), **"But the time is soon coming – PROBABLY** (emphasis mine) **at the end of the second 19-year time cycle of this work ..."** Notice Mr. Armstrong used the word "probably." Yes, it can be said that Mr. Armstrong did believe the Work might have ended in 1972, but he NEVER said that he was **ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN** that was going to happen.

The critics saw only the *negative*, but they couldn't see that 1972 was actually the time that God used Mr. Armstrong to fulfill Revelation 10:11 by prophesying "again" before world leaders. Mr. Armstrong also realized that in **January 1972**, God began to open NEW doors for the Church. For example, in his 19-year time cycle Personal, he wrote that the purchasing of advertising space in the **"ENTIRE UNITED STATES edition of the Reader's Digest opened before us"** (to the Church), and had a circulation of 17,750,000 copies, with a readership of up to 70 million people. He also cites that **"one of the most powerful radio stations, KOA Denver, has opened time for The WORLD TOMORROW [program] at 7:30 every evening, seven nights a week ..."**

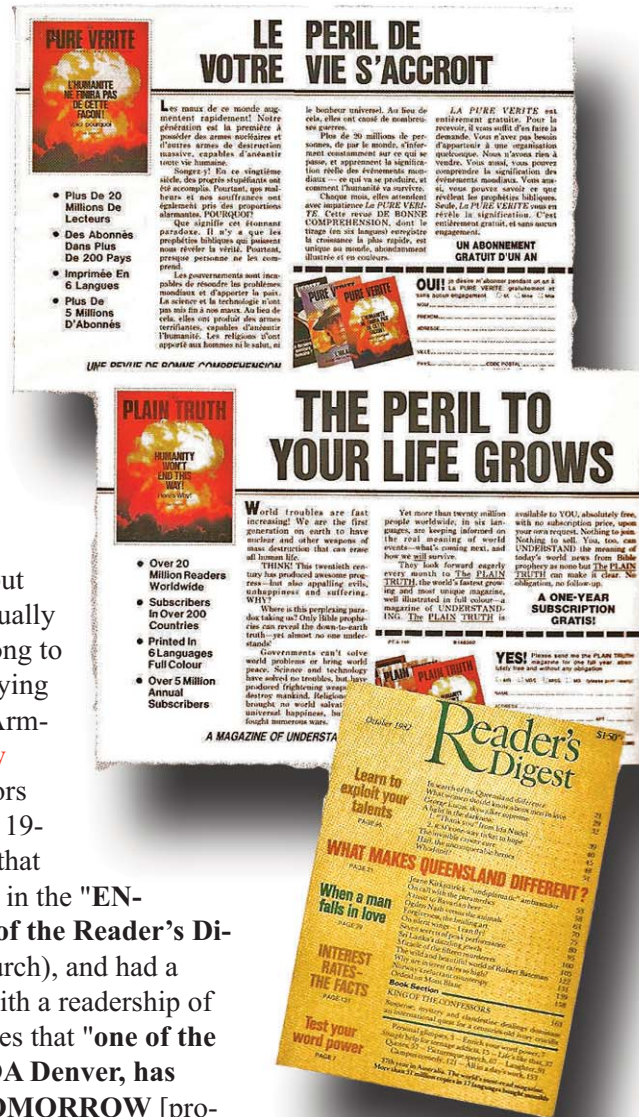
So, 1972 had come and gone, and so had God's chosen servant. Mr. Armstrong died in January 1986. The baton was passed to Mr. Joseph Tkach. **1991 marked the end of the third 19-year time cycle. Did it just uneventfully go by or did something of significance occur at that time?** In 1991, instead of progress and growth, something negative did occur in the Church of God. What happened? In 1991, Mr. Tkach changed the very heart and soul of God's

SUPREME PURPOSE. The WCG began teaching that humans will never become God. Mr. Tkach also accepted the false notion of the "trinity" doctrine and revised the Church's teaching on what "born again" really means. These were significant events within the very Church of God, and it seems that very few may have had the eyes to see just what occurred near the end of the third set of 19 years.

Satan had taken over God's Church by injecting false doctrines. Notice the following quote taken from chapter 7 of Mr. Joseph Tkach Jr.'s book, titled *Transformed by Truth*: **"Today we recognize that our destiny is not to become God; He is forever separate, holy, and blessed, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see (1 Timothy 6:15–16). He alone is uncreated; we are His creation, brought into existence by His creative power. He is without beginning or ending. We humans have a beginning. The redeemed will one day be glorified and receive indestructible bodies like that of the Lord Jesus after His resurrection, but we will never become God. That is impossible."**

Notice the Satanic lie behind this change. Mr. Tkach Jr. says we will never be like God and that we shall be like Christ. This

thinking has lowered Jesus Christ into a lesser spirit being; and yet there are numerous scriptures which prove that Christ is very much GOD – as God the Father is. Notice what Hebrews 1:3 says of Christ: **"Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person ..."** Colossians 1:15 reads, **"He is the image of the invisible God ..."** Philippians 2:6 makes known to us that Christ




existed "in the form of God, (and) **thought it not robbery to be equal with God.**" Christ and God the Father share the same level of spirit essence, but God the Father is SUPREME over Christ in the area of Government. God has set the Government as such because two cannot walk together unless they are in agreement. If two persons are "boss," there will be competition and confusion – and **"God is not the author of confusion** (1 Corinthians 14:33)."

THE FOURTH 19-YEAR TIME CYCLE

We are now closing in on **the end of the fourth 19-year time cycle of this Work – which brings us to 2010.** The lesson of the second time cycle shows that we do not know when the Work of the Church will be brought to its end. However, world conditions make it very clear that we are now living in a time that is INTENSLEY more troubled than 1972. In light of Christ's own statement, **"When you see all these things, know that it is near, at the very doors** (Matthew 24:33)," it behooves God's people to be awakened to the fact that the ending of the fourth 19-year time cycle **MAY** yet be the very time that God chooses to end the present Work of this little Church.



We must consider that Mr. Armstrong thought the Work might have ended in 1972 because he had come to see that God had given the early New Testament Church exactly two 19-year time cycles to preach the Gospel – before the Headquarters Church had to flee Jerusalem in 69 A.D., prior to its destruction. Certainly, on that basis, one can see why Mr. Armstrong thought the way he did.

We must again consider that there was a **DELAY** in which God held up world events. Notice Revelation 10:5-6 – **"And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land LIFTED UP HIS RIGHT HAND TO HEAVEN, AND SWORE BY HIM WHO LIVES FOREVER AND EVER ... that there shall be delay no longer** (New American Standard Bible)." As to how long God may have delayed, we cannot say for sure, but we can now see that **the very things Mr. Armstrong so passionately warned our people (the United States and Britain) about are now unfolding before our eyes.** The bottom line is that God expects us to be responsible in our thinking and actions! We cannot say with certainty that the Work of God's Church is going to end in 2010! We cannot do this simply because **WE DO NOT KNOW.** But of this we can be certain – **We are closer than ever before to the end of this age.** With the rapidly deteriorating world conditions around us, the evidence of the time we're in is very clear. Therefore, it is our responsibility to WATCH, WORK and DILIGENTLY PRAY that we might be **"counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man** (Luke 21:36)." 

Finland and Europe in Prophecy

'Issachar is a strong donkey, lying down between two burdens; He saw that rest was good, and that the land was pleasant; He bowed his shoulder to bear a burden, and became a band of slaves'

(Genesis 49:14-15)

By Paul Johannsson

The imminent final revival of the Roman Empire on the European continent will not only have a direct impact on major powers such as the United States and British Commonwealth nations, it also forebodes dire consequences for other modern Israelitish countries such as Finland and Scandinavian neighbors descended from the ancient patriarch Jacob.

Before his death, Jacob (*whose name was changed to Israel by God*) gathered his sons together to tell them what would befall them individually **in the last days** (Genesis 49:1). His remarkable prophecies have come to pass in explicit detail for each of the 12 tribes that have grown to form countries **at the end of this age**. Biblical historians have traced the descendants of these sons to northern Europe, the British Isles, North America, Australia, New Zealand, tiny Israel, South Africa and elsewhere throughout the world.

Finland perfectly fulfills Jacob's prophecy for Issachar.

"Issachar is a strong donkey, lying down between two burdens; He saw that rest was good, and that the land was pleasant; He bowed his shoulder to bear a burden, and became a band of slaves" (v. 14-15).

Finland was in a political vacuum until the middle of the 12th century, when it was squeezed between its neighbors, Sweden (or brother Naphtali) to the west and the Russian empire in the east. In 1323, Sweden and Novgorod, an ancient northwestern Russian city, signed a peace treaty that tied west Finland with Sweden. East Finland, especially the region of Karelia, became a part of Russia.

Indeed Finland (or Issachar) **became pressed between two loads of saddlebags, paying heavy tribute to both his brother Naphtali and his enemy Russia.** Meanwhile, the Swedish legal and social systems took root in Finland,



and Turku, Finland's oldest major city, was the capital and bishop's seat. Finns were given the right to send representatives to the Swedish king's election.

In the 16th century, this right was extended to Finnish representation in the Swedish Diet. That same century the Catholic Church's influence in Sweden and Finland was overwhelmed by the Protestant Reformation. In 1548, the New Testament was translated into the Finnish language. Between 1617 to 1721, a more powerful Sweden pushed Finland's border farther east due to the Russian empire's weakness. Under Swedish rule, Finland was a group of provinces governed from Stockholm.

From 1808 to 1809, war was waged between Sweden and Russia, allowing Russia to conquer Finland, which became an autonomous grand duchy. Russian Emperor Alexander I, who was grand duke of Finland from 1809 to 1825, gave Finland extensive autonomy, creating the Finnish state. In December 1917, Finland became an independent state and, following a civil war, a republic. From 1939 to 1944, Fin-

land fought two wars against the Russians, who tried to resume control. Following the Cold War in 1995, Finland became a member of the European Union.

Indeed, as Jacob prophesied, modern Issachar or Finland has been like a beast of burden squeezed by two neighboring countries down through its history. Finland, like Sweden Norway and Denmark, is considered part of Scandinavia. A second cousin to Queen Elizabeth II, King Harald of Norway (Benjamin), is in the line of succession to the British throne. Bible prophecy shows the modern Roman Empire ominously rising to the south will burden and enslave Scandinavian countries.



A STRONG GERMANY

The 28-mile Berlin Wall separating West Germany and East Germany for nearly three decades was dramatically breached on Nov. 9, 1989, the 51st anniversary of “Kristallnacht” or “Crystal Night,” when Adolph Hitler’s Nazis launched an all-out attack on Jews in Germany, killing 91 of them, arresting and deporting up to 30,000 of them to concentration camps, ransacking thousands of Jewish businesses and homes, and destroying more than 200 synagogues.



On Oct. 3, 1990, the two Germanys were re-merged into a single, powerful nation, leading the European Union, which was officially created in November 1993, just as Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong warned for decades would happen! With about 500 million citizens and 27 member countries, the EU generates about 30 percent of the world’s gross domestic product and represents a powerful, united European superpower.

Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the Iron Lady of Europe, warned: “My friends, do not think that you have anchored Germany to Europe. On the contrary, you have anchored Europe to Germany.”

Former east bloc communist countries, such as Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Czechoslovakia, are now part of the expanded European Union, as Mr. Armstrong also predicted as the end-time Elijah crying out in a religious, political, economic and social wilderness! The prospect of former Soviet republics such as Georgia and the Ukraine becoming part of the EU or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization alarms Russia.



The West was rudely awakened when the Russian bear – angry about NATO’s eastward expansion – roared and invaded Georgia in August 2008. During a visit to St. Petersburg on Oct. 3, 2008, German Chancellor Angela Merkel assured her Russian counterparts that Germany would oppose including Georgia and Ukraine in NATO.

She’s well aware that Russia is using the oil and gas supplied to Europe by former Soviet republics as leverage and a weapon.

The European Union desperately needs that energy to run its industries as Europe reels from an economic recession fueled by the continuing financial meltdown on Wall Street, losing millions of euros. Norway lost at least \$10 million in oil investments. The entire government of Iceland has declared bankruptcy. A wave of foreclosures has swept across Europe, especially in England and Germany. European leaders have vowed to prevent the financial crisis from turning into an economic disaster, but don’t seem able to differentiate between investing and gambling.

Indeed, curses described in the Bible are overtaking modern Israelite nations as the result of disobeying God’s laws (Zephaniah 1:13, James 2:8).



CONSOLIDATION OF POWER

At the beginning of 2009, the president of the European Union reportedly will be given more power and the EU's ministry of foreign affairs will act on behalf of all member states.

Meanwhile, Britain is finding itself more isolated and suffering from increasing internal problems, such as rising unemployment, illegal immigration and threats of Islamic terrorism. Mosques are common in major British cities. The British government is unable to put the proverbial genie back in the bottle despite promises to resolve the nation's worsening problems.



Pope Benedict has thrown his support behind a new European treaty that would consolidate power among EU member states, but financial ministers of the world's leading countries at a recent summit failed to agree on a solution to the global financial crisis other than pouring money into a bottomless pit.

The apocalyptic horsemen of war, famine and pestilence that have ravaged Africa for quite some time will soon devastate the modern Israelite nations and other countries, too. So will the curses of **Deuteronomy 28** and **Leviticus 26**.

Despite these terrible conditions, our Eternal God has preserved for Himself a people, just as He preserved 7,000 in Israel at the time of Elijah who would not bow their knees to Baal (I Kings 19:18). "I will leave in your midst a meek and humble people, and they shall trust in the name of the LORD (Zephaniah 3:12)." There remains a faithful little flock (Luke 12:32) who will be counted among God's elect despite the confusion generated by 450 conflicting corporate Church of God groups. There's a duality in the Bible, and history repeats itself at this end time (I Kings 18:19).




"For then there will be **great tribulation**, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; **but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened** (Matthew 24:21-22)."

There is a hope that is as true and sure as the rising sun, a global peace and prosperity that will fill the world tomorrow and bless all nations. No longer will they be burdened or enslaved. Like Issachar, they will see that rest is good and the land pleasant!

"Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it. Many nations 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 the law shall go forth, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; 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 anymore (Micah 4:1-3)."



Kingdom Against Kingdom



Significant alignments of nations into major power blocs are under way as the United States, the world's leading super power, wanes in power and prestige. Developments in Europe, the Middle East and Far East will engulf all countries in World War III during what Jesus Christ calls 'the Great Tribulation,' the most frightening period in mankind's history

By Mark Mendiola

In Revelation 3:10, Jesus Christ refers to “the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.” In Matthew 24:21, Christ describes this same end-time period as “great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.”

Earlier in the same chapter when Christ was asked what would be the sign of His coming and the end of the age, He stated: “And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet (v. 6).” Notice where He said these wars ultimately would lead: “For nation will rise (up in arms, ISV) against nation, and kingdom against kingdom (v.7).” In other words, prior to the Great Tribulation prevailing wars between nations and kingdoms

would intensify and lead to this “time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation (Daniel 12:1).”

Nation against nation and kingdom against kingdom strongly implies the forging of alliances between nations into major adversarial power blocs.

The Greek word for “nation” in this context is “ethnos,” meaning race, tribe or foreign nationality. The Greek word for “kingdom” is “basileia,” which means royalty, rule, realm or even empire. Christ makes a distinction between “nation” and “kingdom” by using different Greek words. “Nation” implies ethnic group or individual country as opposed to “kingdom,” which can encompass a combination of countries, such as an alliance or power bloc.

The ultimate impact of developments now under way in Europe, the Middle East and Far East upon the United States, United Kingdom and other nations in the western

world will be utterly profound and shocking! Virtually everyone on earth will be astonished at the unforeseen direction events soon will take that will change the global balance of power and **plunge the world into its most severe crisis ever!**

The massive destruction, carnage and suffering will exceed even that of the two previous world wars!

The world is witnessing the collapse of the American empire that has prevailed since the end of World War II. The financial meltdown in U.S. markets that has wiped out literally trillions of dollars in investments, savings and retirement funds has scorched millions of investors throughout the earth.

The United States, undisputed leader of the western world for decades, has become **“troublesome to all the kingdoms of the earth”** and **“an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword among all the nations”** (Deuteronomy 28:25, 37) as obvious curses relentlessly besiege the nation.

The beleaguered U.S. is suffering setbacks on virtually every front, which ultimately will bring about its downfall!

The Holy Bible shows **the Great Tribulation** will be a time of unprecedented, horrifying trouble for modern Israel, which will bear the initial brunt of it before it engulfs the entire world.

“Alas! For **that day is great, so that none is like it**; and *it is the time of Jacob’s trouble* (Jeremiah 30:7).” Almighty God also says, “And **I will do among you what I have never done, and the like of which I will never do again**, because of all your abominations (Ezekiel 5:9).”

America’s collapse in prestige and power is leaving a geopolitical vacuum in the world that will be filled by a configuration of other super powers that will not have the best interests of the United States or other democratic western nations in mind.

The Bible identifies a **King of the North**, a **King of the South** and **Kings of the East rising to power** in the near future, representing three of the four major compass points. In the Bible, *kings and kingdoms are synonymous*. Kingdoms of the north, south and east are on the rise!



KING OF THE NORTH

The collapse of the Soviet Union about 20 years ago left the United States as the world’s only major super power. What was a bipolar world suddenly turned into a unipolar world, with the U.S. the undisputed dominant nation. What has not been widely reported by the news media is a subsequent, significant shift in the balance of power on the European continent.

A United States of Europe that threatens to challenge the U.S. on the diplomatic, economic, political and military fronts is emerging like a powerful colossus. It is a development that looks innocent on its surface, but has sinister ramifications for the entire world. Most people are so obsessed with sensational, scandalous, inconsequential news, they are not aware of what Europe’s startling unification means for their future.

The Bible indicates 10 kings or kingdoms “will give their power and authority to the beast,” referring to a group of nations surrendering their sovereignty to a centralized, dictatorial system of government (Revelation 17:13). Bible prophecy shows this will recur on the European continent, where historically the Roman Empire and its succeeding resurrections have risen only to fall with regularity over the centuries.

Yet when this European super power or **“King of the North”** rears its ugliness for a final time as a monstrous beast, the Bible shows the world will be astonished. Be-



the European Union and Vatican become more heavily involved, will not mean peace in this volatile, strategic region.

Christ warns that Jerusalem ultimately will be surrounded by Gentile armies and trampled by foreign troops (Luke 21:20-24, Revelation 11:2)!

With the induction of Barack Obama into the White House as U.S. president, Israelis are understandably nervous about a possible decline in

cause the news media devote little attention to international affairs, when that powerful empire arises, it will seem to come out of nowhere, astonishing the vast majority of mankind!

“Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns ... Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast (Revelation 13:1-3).” The Amplified version renders verse three: “And one of his heads seemed to have a deadly wound. But his death stroke was healed, and the whole earth went after the beast in amazement and admiration.”

KING OF THE SOUTH

In His Olivet prophecy, Jesus Christ emphasizes the need to watch not only developments in the Middle East in general, but also Jerusalem in particular. Diplomatic negotiations in the Middle East between the Israelis and Palestinians, as

U.S. support for their tiny country surrounded by hostile Arab neighbors. Reports also indicate the new U.S. president favors dividing control of Jerusalem between the Jews and Palestinians.





Some analysts have speculated the Israelis may launch a preemptive military strike against Iran, which is feverishly developing reactors capable of creating nuclear warheads for missiles aimed at Israel. If that were to occur, **it could ignite a firestorm in the Middle East** that could rapidly spread throughout the world and disrupt the vital flow of the world's oil.

The Bible strongly indicates Arab nations in the Middle East will band together to form a confederation led by a “**King of the South**” that will provoke a remilitarized European power to take swift action in the Middle East. “At the time of the end the **king of the South** shall attack him; and the **king of the North** shall come against him **like a whirlwind**, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through. He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and **many countries shall be overthrown** ... (Daniel 11:40-41).”

This describes a massive invasion of Northern Africa and the Middle East by a powerful European military machine that bulldozes through the region.

The *New King James Version* and *Revised Standard Version* say the **King of the South** will “attack” the **King of the North**. An

RSV footnote says “thrust at him.” The *King James Version* says “push at him.” The *New International Version* says “engage him in battle.” The *Amplified Bible* says “push at and attack him.” The Hebrew word for “push” is “nagach,” which can be translated “to butt with horns” or “to gore” – the same word used in Exodus 21:32, referring to an ox pushing, thrusting or goring someone.

This provocation could be prompted by Arab nations in the Middle East cutting off petroleum, Muslims launching a terrorist attack, a Palestinian crisis or a controversy regarding Jerusalem, prompting a swift response from European armies. The crisis in the Middle East, in turn, will draw in nations from other regions like a vortex.

KINGS FROM THE EAST

Once this **King of the North** invades the Middle East, other major military powers in Russia, China, India and Southeast Asia will mobilize to counterattack the brazen move by the Europeans. “But **news from the east and the north** shall trouble him; therefore **he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many** (Daniel 11:44).”

Teeming with billions of people, Eurasia lies directly north and east of Jerusalem. At Jerusalem is where the **King of the North** “shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him (Daniel 11:45).” This **King of the North** will confront the massive armies of Eurasia. Even now the populations of China and India each exceed one billion people!



In addition to the **King of the South** and the **King of the North**, the Bible also refers to “**kings from the east**” who will invade the Middle East with a massive army (Revelation 16:12).

By using the plural “kings,” the Bible indicates a combination of leaders from the Far East will spearhead the Eurasian counter-invasion. There will not be a dominant leader as in Europe (“**King of the North**”) or among the Arabs (“**King of the South**”). The result of these hordes attacking will be an incredible loss of life by weapons of mass destruction!

“So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and the day and the month and the year, were released to kill a third of mankind. Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million, and I heard the number of them ... By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed – by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths (Revelation 9:15-28).”



KING OF THE WEST?

The Bible speaks of a **King of the North**, a **King of the South** and **Kings of the East**, but remains almost deafeningly silent about a king from the other compass point – the West. There is no “**King of the West**” per se named in the Bible. Yet, the United States undoubtedly is the leading nation in the West.

When the **King of the North** retaliates against the **King of the South**, which will compel the **Kings of the East** to respond, Bible prophecy shows the United States, nations of British descent and Jewish people will be either conquered, enslaved or on

the verge of captivity. Americans, British, Jews, northwestern Europeans and Scandinavians are identified in Bible prophecy as modern descendants of Israel, the Old Testament patriarch whose name was changed from Jacob.



Who knows what negotiations could be occurring secretly in the capitals of Europe, the Middle East, Russia, China, India and Asia as leaders of foreign countries scramble to protect their wealth, prestige

and power while the White House and Wall Street seem powerless to stop the global financial crisis from spiraling out of control, threatening the stability of countries everywhere?



Psalms 83 is prophetic in that it illustrates major powers in Europe, including modern Assyria or Germany, and the Middle East conspiring to annihilate Jacob or Israel as a common enemy. “For behold, Your enemies make a tumult (*uproar*); and those who hate You have lifted up their head (*exalted themselves*). They have taken crafty counsel



(*shrewd plans*, NAS) against Your people, and consulted together against Your sheltered ones. They have said, **‘Come, and let us cut them off** (*wipe them out*, RSV; *annihilate*, NJV) **from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more.**’ For they have consulted together with one consent; they form a confederacy against You (*they conclude an alliance against you*, NJV) (Psalm 83:2-5).”

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Beyond the gloom and doom of this time of unprecedented trouble – when nations are warring against nations and kingdoms against kingdoms – will dawn a Wonderful World Tomorrow ruled by Jesus Christ, who proclaimed ***the Good News of the Kingdom of God*** and will rule supreme as **King of Kings** and Lord of Lords.

Those nations and **kingdoms**, however, will not welcome His triumphant return despite the fact Christ must powerfully intervene to prevent them from committing global suicide and annihilating literally hundreds of millions and even billions of people during this terrible **Great Tribulation!** Christ said, **“Unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved** (Matthew 24:22).”

Christ’s Second Coming to establish the Kingdom of God will happen at the Seventh Trumpet. “Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, **‘The kingdoms of this world have become the king-**

doms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever! ... You have taken Your great power and reigned. The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come.’” At that time, Christ will **“destroy those who destroy the earth** (Revelation 11:15, 17-18).”

Jesus Christ, the Rock of our salvation, will pulverize these arrogant, violent nations into submission. “And **in the days of these kings** the God of heaven will set up **a kingdom which shall never be destroyed**; and **the kingdom** shall not be left to other people; it shall break (*crush*) in pieces and **consume all these kingdoms**, and it shall stand forever. ...

Then to Him was given dominion and glory and **a kingdom**, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and **His kingdom** the one which shall not be destroyed. ... Then **the Kingdom** and dominion, and **the greatness of the kingdoms** under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. **His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him** (Daniel 2:44, 7:14, 27).”

The Wonderful World Tomorrow that will be brought about by Jesus Christ’s **supreme reign in the glorious Kingdom of God** will come not a moment too soon! God speed that day!



How God Lives

Zeal is one of God's greatest attributes that He wants to fill Christians despite the lukewarmness that prevails at this end of the age

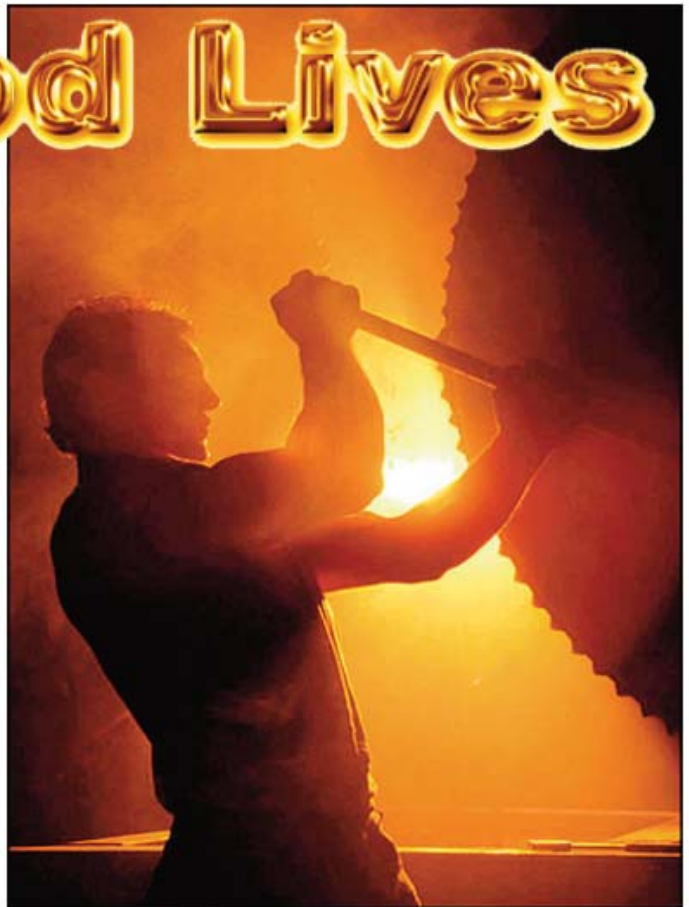
By Ron Wheeler

If there were just one word that could be used to identify God, it would have to be “**love**” (I John 4:8, 16), and that word is clearly the most important among the many we could use. In I Corinthians 13:13, we read that charity (love) is the greatest among the “big three” of faith, hope and charity.

Throughout the pages of the Bible, we can see God's motivation and how He lives. Even though He corrects and chastens His sons, notice that He does so with the sons **He loves** (Hebrews 12:6).

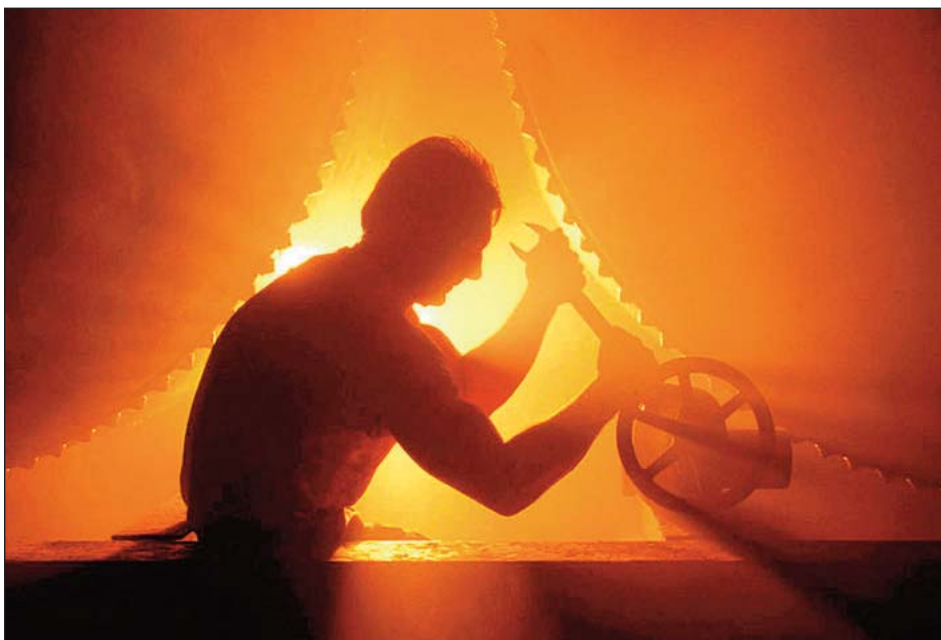
One could properly summarize the fact that God lives by *constantly* dispensing His love to mankind.

But, as important as love is, that is not the only characteristic of God to focus on. There is a second character trait (among God's VERY many), that is right up there along with love. It is **zeal**, defined as **fervency, being on fire,**



zest. This same trait, “**zeal**,” is what God wants to transfer to us and apply to our lives.

In fact, unless we develop this exact same **fervency**, nothing will really happen in our *spiritual* lives. God says, “**the effective, FERVENT prayer of a righteous man avails much** (James 5:16).”



What God doesn't say in James is the opposite – “The ho-hum prayer of an unrighteous man avails practically nothing.” So, when we add together all of God's other instructions, along with James 5:16, we see that cold or lukewarm won't work at all. That is because He wants us to be EXACTLY as He is!

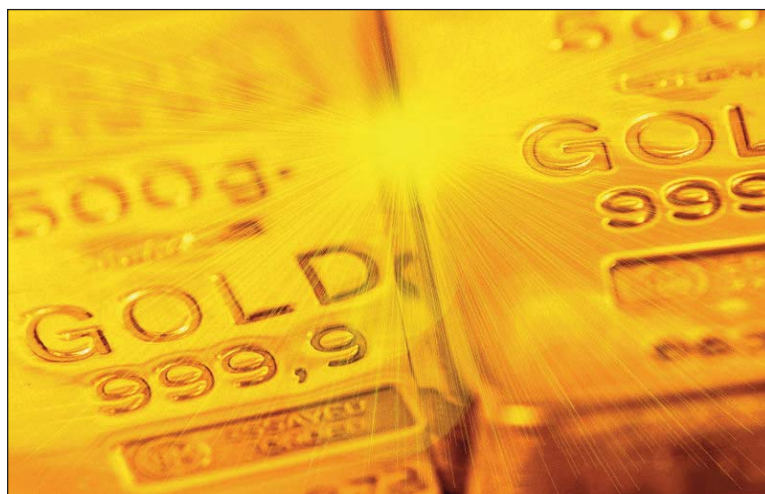
Let's explore this issue of **fervency** and **zeal** with not only how God lives, but how we are to live also.

LAODICEAN LUKEWARMNESS

The end-time era of God's Church is Laodicea. Notice God's instruction to



them in Revelation 3:14-19: “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: ‘I know your works, that you are **neither cold nor hot**. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, **because you are lukewarm**, and neither cold nor hot, I will **spew** you out of My mouth. Because you say, ‘**I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing**’ – and do not know that you are *wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked* – **I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire**, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. **Therefore be zealous and repent.**”



The word **zealous** here summarizes how God would have us be. The Strong’s Concordance definition of the *root word* translated as **zealous** is: “zeo (dzeh'-o); a primary verb; to be **hot (boil)**, of liquids; or **glow**, of solids), i.e. (figuratively) be **fervid (earnest)**.”

In other words, **be fervent**! If we are to be **boiling**, or **red hot** and **glowing**, that is **very hot**! Here is this same word used in Romans 12:11: “**not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.**”

Interestingly, this instruction in Romans is sandwiched between instruction regarding “brotherly love.” But this **fervency** is how God wants us to approach everything we do in life. Notice Ecclesiastes 9:10: “**Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might**; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.”



Even though this scripture is instruction for us, it is clear that God Himself approaches life this way also. Everything He does, He puts His whole heart into it. Primarily what He is doing right now is building His Family. But His **zeal** is underscored by an example from when Jesus Christ was here on earth in human form. Almost everyone knows this example, but let's read it again.

“And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the moneychangers doing business. When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. And He said to those who sold doves, **‘Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!’** Then His disciples remembered that it was written, **‘Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up’** (John 2:14-17).”

Even though this is a direct quote from Psalm 69:9, which applied to David, the disciples KNEW this scripture also applied to Jesus Christ! How could one have more **zeal** than this? Translated into modern English, we would see that **His zeal consumed Him!** The word in Greek means to be devoured by it! And it means basically the same in



Hebrew. Here are two scriptures which tell us exactly how God is.

The first, from the New Testament, is in Hebrews 12:29. “For our God is a consuming fire.” And also in the Old Testament, notice the second scripture: “For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God (Deuteronomy 4:24).” The root word for “jealous” in Hebrew also means zealous!

This is how God IS! He lives this way. He acts this way. He approaches His Work this way, and He wants us to be exactly like Him!

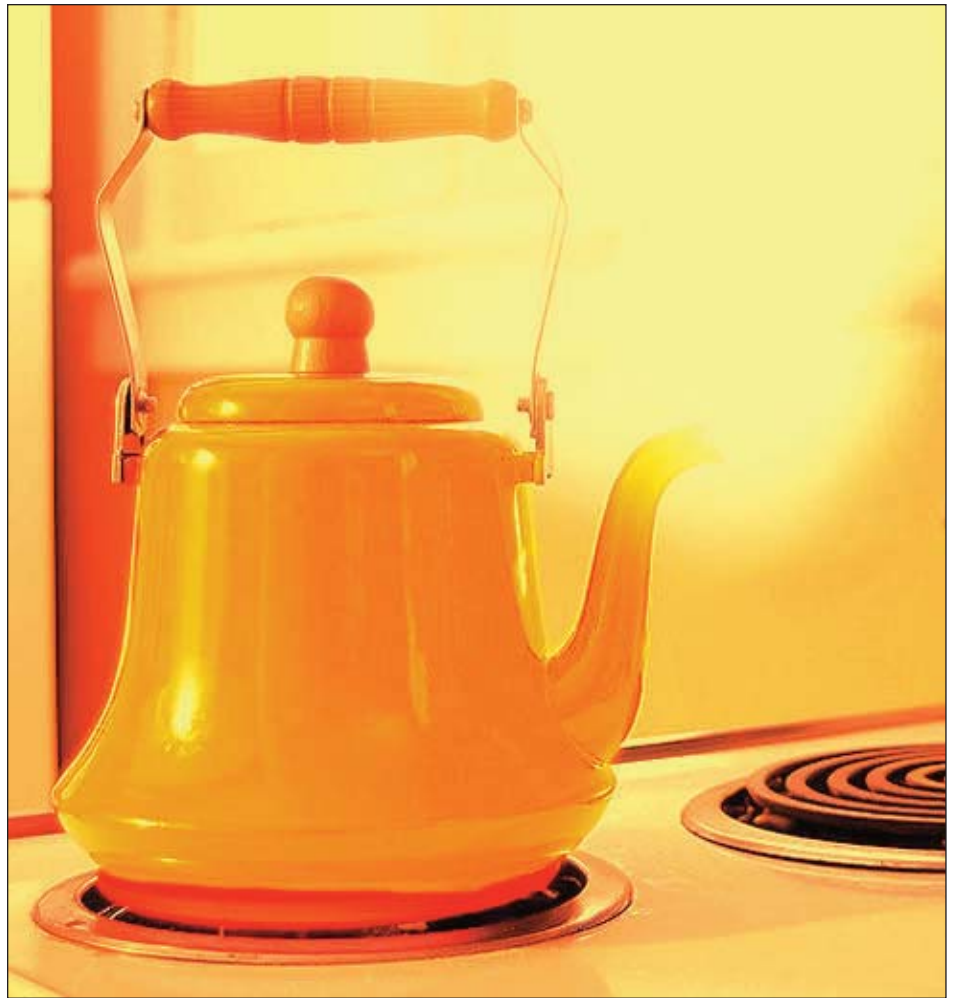
In the 43 years I have been in God’s Church, I can tell you about all of the prayers He has answered. None of them were “ho-hum”! Let’s read James 5:16 again. “The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

We can look at Apollos and Epaphras as New Testament examples of fervency (Acts 18:24-25, Colossians 4:12).

Paul and Peter both talk about fervency and also underscore its importance. But let’s close here by looking at “forever.”

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Of the “*big three*” mentioned in I Corinthians 13:13, “faith, hope and charity (love),” the one we don’t spend as much time on is “hope.” Simply, “hope” means an EARNEST expectation for the future. Why is the zeal and fervency that God has (and wants us to have also) so important?



Translate this into the future! Can you imagine living forever without any hope for what the future will bring? Can you imagine approaching each new day with dread and boredom?

Each moment of God’s life is exciting, thrilling and exhilarating! He is on “fire” for life! He also wants us to be thrilled to be in His Kingdom and enjoy each day to the fullest!

We have to be learning this fervency and zeal now! Can we now understand why our “ho-hum” prayers are rarely answered? We are in training!

God reinforces the need for fervency by requiring us to have it in our prayers. Let’s remind ourselves exactly how God approaches His Kingdom:

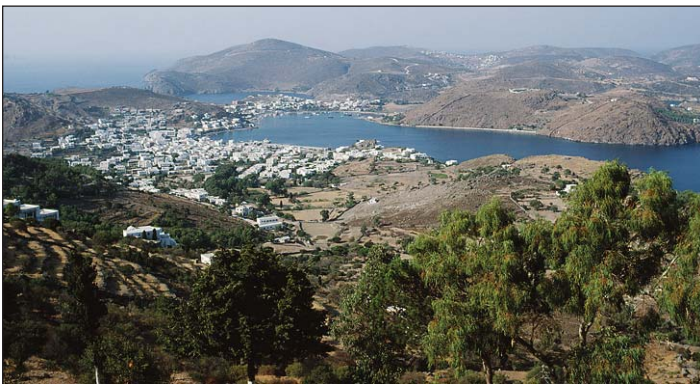
“*Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this* (Isaiah 9:7).”



Banking Crisis

Continued from Page 4

So, this is not for the world, and the world does not understand the book of Revelation. It doesn't show anything to them. They cannot understand it because most of the book is written in symbolic language. But, the one who reveals it, revelation means revealing, opening up, not closing. But it is a book that has remained closed to the world, and they can't understand it at all. Now, the Protestants have various interpretations of the book of Revelation. And they couldn't be more wrong. The Catholics keep silent about it because it says too many things about them they don't want people to know. "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" ... "to show unto His," Christ's, "servants, things which must shortly come to pass!" Now, that is what the book is all about. That the one who does the revealing is Christ, and it is not really revealed in the book because it's in symbols and until the symbols are made clear and someone tells us what each symbol represents, you don't know what it's talking about.



THE ISLE OF PATMOS

Now, coming to verse 10 you find the subject of the whole book. You see, God gave it to Christ. He sent and signified it to His servant John who bore record, and that is, he wrote it in a book – of the things he saw, and of what he heard, and so on. Now the things that he saw were all symbols. And someone has to reveal what it means. And Christ is the only one who can reveal it. Now John goes on and he says in verse 10, *"I was in the spirit."* Now "in the spirit" means, in this case, he was in a vision. It's just like a very unusual dream. In a vision, he might have been wide awake. But in his mind, his mind was taken to see things that were not on the Isle of Patmos, where he was physically, in the Mediterranean Sea.

"I was in the spirit on the Lord's Day." It would be more proper if you'd say "into the Lord's Day," if they had translated it that way out of the original Greek. You see, I'm reading the English translation. This is written in the Greek language. But the Lord's Day is the Day of the Lord. And the Day of the Lord is a time that is just ahead of us now. Now, I need that to be made plain! The whole book of Revelation is about the Day of the Lord. And that is a time in human society that we have not reached yet, but should reach in this generation! And perhaps we shall reach it; we could begin to get to these events in just one to five or six years. Now, I don't say we will. I just say we could. So don't misunderstand and go around and say Mr. Armstrong said we're going to get into all this in a year, I didn't say that. But I have been misquoted just like that before and I have to be very careful.

Now we have been, for 6,000 years you might call it, the day of man, but actually it has been the day of Satan – the day of Satan the devil. Satan the devil is a former archangel who was placed on this earth, and he was placed here over many angels who inhabited this earth before any human being had ever been created. He was placed on a throne, and God put him on that throne to administer the government of God over those angels. Now, the government of God is based on a law that can be summed up in one word: Love! L-O-V-E. And that is love toward God, which means obedience of God, as well as love toward God. And it means also love toward your fellows, in his case toward other angels. And God's whole government is based on that principle.

But this Lucifer was so brilliantly beautiful that his beauty went to his head, and he became vain, filled with vanity, and he thought well, look, how great I am. And there's God up there but He has more real estate than I do. I've just got this earth, and He has all the rest of the universe. So he said, I will ascend. I'll exalt my throne above God and all of His angels. He had angels under him down here. Now, it might have taken him millions of years to get his angels converted from obedience to God to rebellion against God, but he did succeed in doing it. And how it happened and how long it took is not recorded in the Bible. If God ever wants us to know that, He'll reveal it to us some day, but not yet.

They were organized into an army to try to pull a coup on the government of God over the whole universe. They swooped up to heaven to knock God off His throne. They found that the Creator was greater than all that He had created, and they were sent right back down to earth. And this archangel Lucifer, who sat on that throne, was changed into Satan the devil. And Satan means adversary, enemy. And the angels, who were with him, became demons. Their minds were distorted and twisted. Lucifer had been perfect in all his ways, as God created him, until iniquity was found in him, as you read in the 28th chapter of Ezekiel. But now the government of God had been disrupted on the earth. And a different government had supplanted it. Now, government is always based on a law, and a law is simply a way of human conduct or a way of life, the rules that regulate performance.



I've said that the rules of a baseball game or a basketball game could be called the laws of that game because the rules regulate the conduct as they play the game, how they play it, and about the conduct. And there are always penalties. If they violate it, the law has penalties. Now every government is based on a basic law. The United States government, for example, is based on a basic law, which we call the Constitution of the United States. And now, this world was ruled over by Satan on the throne where God placed him on the earth, and it was ruled by Satan's law, which is vanity. I love me more than you. Selfishness, self-centeredness, the way of GET and TAKE instead of give and cooperate and share, and be lovingly concerned for the good of others. So there was a government here on earth.



Adam now was created by God on the earth after all this happened. God decided to create human beings. And He started with one man. Adam was created out of the dust of the ground, and so Adam came into or onto this earth by creation into a world of Satan.

With Satan sitting on the throne, ruling it, and ruling it with a government, which was his government, his way of life, which was the law of rebellion, of competition and strife, the law of hatred, the law of destruction, instead of construction or creating – just the opposite of God's way – of self-love, self-desire. Now, Adam was created and he came into such a world. I've said that you've seen movies and you come in when it's well along, and you don't know what went before, and you don't know how it got that way. You see it at the time and you don't know what's going on, and you can't make heads or tails out of what you're seeing. Well, that's the way it must have been with Adam. He came unto the earth when there was a law being administered on this earth, and the law was one of hatred, of rebellion, of self-centeredness, of vanity, of all of those things.

Now, God created him, and God put him into the Garden of Eden. And there were two symbolic trees in the Garden of Eden. One was the tree of life. Now, God did not make Adam immortal. Satan and all of his angels who became demons were made immortal. They're spirit beings. They cannot die. They will live forever. They don't have to breathe air. They don't have any blood circulating that could be spilled out so that they would die, but they have gone the wrong way of life. And here was the earth ruled that way. And Adam was put on the earth. Now God explained a little to him. I don't think that there was enough time there, that God could have taken more time, but He didn't, to go into more detail. I don't think Adam knew too much about it, but he saw that there were two ways of life.

One is represented by this tree of life. He had temporary existence only, but he was offered immortal life if he would choose God's way of life or God's law, which is love, instead of the way that was on the earth, under Lucifer. And if he would choose God's way of life, God would have let him take over the throne in-

stead of this Satan. But if he had chosen that tree, that meant that God would have put His spirit in Adam.

That would mean the mind of God. A mind is an attitude of love toward others. It is an attitude of love to God and obedience to God. It is an attitude of love and loving concern for the good and welfare for others. Now, God intended this Adam to reproduce and have children until there would be many people on the earth. And part of that law was to have love for all the other people, as well. First of all, love toward God; that would mean obedience to God and God's way, which is the way of love, the way of giving, the way of cooperating and helping and so on.

Now, the other tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, represented him going along with the mind that he had. Now he

had a mind, and to have a mind at all required a human spirit in him to empower a physical brain to think, to empower a physical brain to have knowledge, and to store up that knowledge. And to utilize this and that and the other little point of knowledge, and put them together, and the process we call think-

ing and reasoning, and to have attitudes of either good or evil. Now he already had that. He had the chance of having attitudes of either good or evil.

But this spirit he had was only a human spirit. Now, let me say at this juncture, that there are at least three levels of spirit. And one differs from the other. Highest of all is the spirit of God and God is a spirit as you read in John 4:24. There is another type of spirit of which angels are composed. They're made out of spirit, but it is a type of spirit that is not on the same level as the spirit of God. Now, there is a third kind of spirit that God put in man that is not on as high a level as the angel's spirit. And that gave man a mind that is not of the same level or equal to the mind of angels or of this Lucifer. And of

course, their minds are not equal to that of God. And the basis of all minds is the spirit, anyway.

If he had taken the tree of life, he would have chosen to have God's mind injected into him by God's spirit which meant an attitude – an attitude of love, of obedience to God, of God's way according to God's law. Now he chose the other tree, which was the tree of self-good and evil. And with it came the influence of Satan because he rebelled against God when he disobeyed God and took what God commanded him not to take. And God said the penalty would be death! And he did follow Satan who deceived his wife, and he followed his wife in taking of the forbidden fruit, and the forbidden tree; which meant he became captive to Satan. And Satan had kidnapped him

and injected a little bit of Satan's evil into him as well as whatever human good he might have, but a lower level altogether than the good of God.

And so what happened?



God then, there upon when Adam made that decision, closed off the tree of life until Jesus Christ the second Adam should come. Now we find prophecies about the second Adam coming in Isaiah 7:14-15. And in Jerusalem a week ago, I read this because we had some Jewish people there, and especially one was a lady who was teaching Bible in the Hebrew, and that means the Old Testament to them. And I wanted her to know about these passages, one was Isaiah 7:14-15, "*and a virgin shall conceive and bare a son,*" and they would "*call his name Immanuel,*" which meant "God with us." A human being born of a virgin woman and would be God in the human flesh. And that is in their Bible. And I am sure that she was whispering to the one next to her, saying, "What are those passages?" And if she jotted them down, I want to know. I don't think

she's changed any though. Isaiah 9:6-7, that again, the Messiah would come as a baby, and would grow up and the government would be on His shoulders, and He would grow up from a child and He would be called the Mighty God and Wonderful and Counselor and wonderful names like that. And He would then take over the government over the whole earth and rule forever and ever.

What are the Jewish people who reject Jesus Christ going to do with passages like that in their own Bible?

Well, all I can do is give the passages and what she does with it is between her and God, and not between her and me. Then the next was, as we read in the first five verses in Isaiah 53, there it talks about the Messiah coming and having to bear our sins and how He was beaten. A man of sorrows, acquainted with grief and all of those things. Well, I wanted some of the Jewish people there to hear that, and they were in the audience last Sabbath.

Now, civilization was started in this Adam, and it was influenced by Satan.

And God had shut off His spirit, or any eternal life, and the mind of God was shut off from humanity. And so along came the first two boys that were born. Adam and Eve had first two sons. The first was Cain and then came Abel. And the first son became a murderer and a liar and killed his brother, even after God had spoken to him and warned him. However, when God closed off the tree of life, I want you to put this in your mind and keep it. God closed up salvation and shut off salvation from all of the world until Christ would come!

There was no salvation offered!

Ask the average Protestant. He says this is the day of salvation and the only day. And God's trying to save everybody. What was God doing before Jesus came? When did salvation start? And you'll find they can't answer it, [saying] "Well I never thought of that." No, they never did. Because they couldn't be more wrong than they are. Salvation was shut off from the world. Now, God still talked to people in

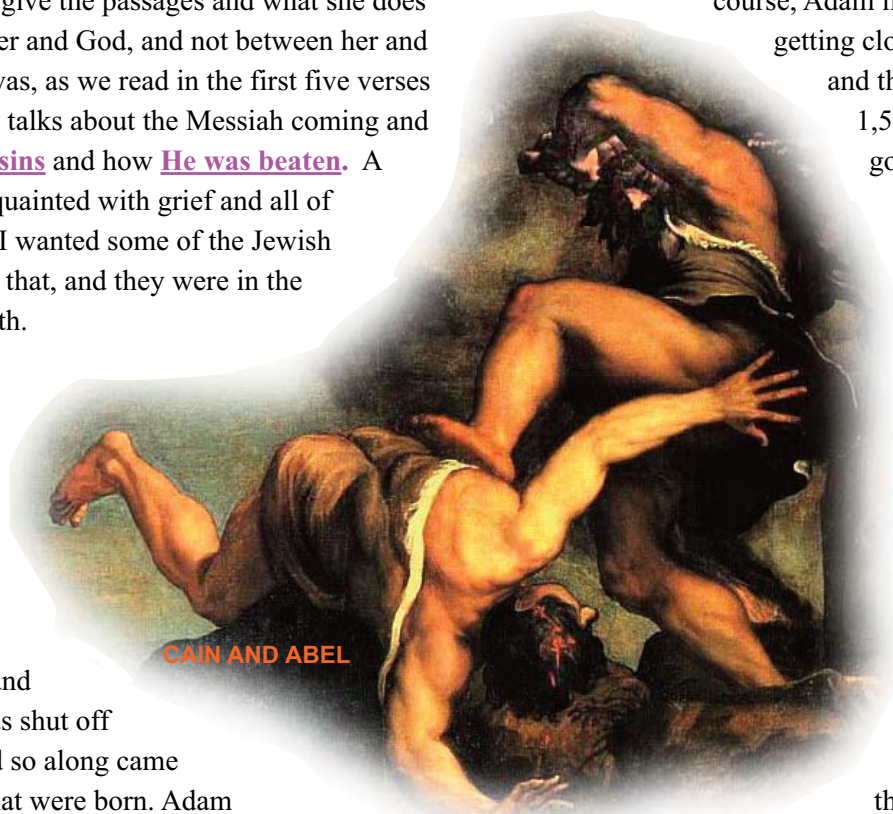
the world. They would live right even though they didn't have His Holy Spirit. He warned Cain to do the right thing instead of quarreling with his brother. But he went ahead and quarreled and killed his brother. And then he didn't show a right attitude. He didn't repent. He just griped and said God wasn't fair. His punishment was more than he could bear. He accused God.

And so, civilization went on. Now, it wasn't very long, about 1500 years, and it's not very long in God's sight. Of course, Adam lived 930 years, and that's getting close to the first thousand, and then in approximately 1,500 years, all humanity had gone the wrong way, except possibly the one man Noah.

And for Noah's sake, and to keep humanity alive, God took Noah, his wife, their three sons and their wives, and entered the ark and drowned everybody else on earth. But God had already appointed men once to die, and after this the Judgment. And so, what God viewed then, as in Adam all were

going to die, in Christ (He was to come later) all should be made alive, the same all, beginning with Cain and Abel and Seth. And all of those people drowned in the flood, they're all going to come back to mortal life, not immortal life, just ordinary mortal life once again, just like they were, and be judged.

But when they are, they're going to be sentenced to death! And when they're sentenced to death, they'll find their death penalty has already been paid by Jesus Christ. But it can only apply to them if they will repent, and if they will start to live God's way as they should have done in the first place, and turn away from sin, which is what brought this penalty on them. So that is the way of God's master plan. God is going to save the world, or most of it. It does not mean everyone in it.





Daniel was called, and Daniel said that the God of heaven would reveal the secret. And He did, through him, of what was going to happen in the latter days of this whole earth's civilization, of this world.

So Daniel came into the king and said, “*Thou, O King, sawest and behold a great image.*” That's in verse 31, in the second chapter. In verse 32, “*This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms were of silver; his belly and his thighs, were of brass. His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest,*” said Daniel, “till that a stone was cut out without hands,” (in other words, it was supernaturally, not by any human), “*which smote the image upon the feet*” that were in pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver and the gold,” that had formed this thing, all broken into pieces together and became “as the chaff of the summer threshingfloors;” and the wind carried it away, “that no place was found for them: and the

stone that smote the image became a great mountain.” And here a mountain is a type, and is used throughout the Bible in symbolic language, which represents a nation. A great mountain would be a great nation. “*And filled the whole earth. This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof.*” Now, Nebuchadnezzar knew that that was the dream. So now, he could believe that Daniel was telling the truth about the interpretation. He knew that no one but God could have revealed it.

Well, after that, they came to the tower of Babel. And Nimrod had started the city of Babylon, and then Nineveh, Accad, Calneh, other cities. And later, nations developed. First they had city states, then later, nations, including several cities. Then, there came a world empire 600 years before Christ that had been formed by King Nebuchadnezzar, of the Chaldean Empire and it was the world's first empire. And a world civilization had developed, and it included this financial system as it developed, that I mentioned at the beginning this afternoon.

Now, there was a prophecy that God made to this Daniel. And I'm going to read it now, and it has to do with the 13th chapter and the 17th chapter of Revelation, which are inset chapters, and we will come to them later. But, let me read some of that to you, from Daniel, the second chapter. This King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. He had fortune tellers, sorcerers, astrologers and so on. So he called them in and he challenged them to tell them what he dreamed. Well they said, no man can tell him what he dreamed, if they would tell him what his dream was they'd try to tell him what it meant. Well, of course, they could make that up. He wanted them to even tell them what he'd dreamed. They said that no one could do it. Only God could do it. So





So he continued, “*Thou, O king, thou art a king of kings, for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom ... power, and strength, and glory.*” So, this was used to show the first world emperor that God rules, and that God gave him the kingdom, and that God was greater than he, and He ruled over everything. Now God was still ruling over the earth, but He allowed this Lucifer, whom He placed on the throne of the earth, to continue there. And Satan is only still there to this day because God allows it. Now, God could have intervened. He just never did. He has a purpose, and He's going to work that purpose out and that purpose would have been defeated if He had removed Satan at that time. Now he continued in verse 41.

“*And whereas thou sawest the feet and the toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided.*” Now you see, that represented that part of the image, represented a kingdom. He had said that Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold, and that another kingdom would come after him, which was to be the Persian Empire, and then the Greco-Macedonian Empire, and later, the Roman Empire. So, the final kingdom would be the Roman Empire represented by this iron. The kingdom shall be divided. The two legs showing there was a capital

in Rome and a capital in Constantinople. The kingdom had two capitals even. “*But there shall be in it of the strength of iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.*” But it was not going to stand. I won't read those other verses right there, but coming to verse 44 now, “*And in the days of these kings,*” those toes which represent a nation to be formed as I've told you, in Europe when they go together!

Now, they're trying to form that now, and this economic crisis may be the thing that will plunge them into it. “*And in the days of these kings,*” that's the ones that maybe will rise up in the next year or two or three,

or whatever. *Till the God of heaven sets up a kingdom in their days.* God will set up a Kingdom which will be, of course, the Kingdom of God, “*which shall never be destroyed: and the Kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms.*” That's the kingdoms that'll be in Europe, and that are on the earth today. “*And it shall stand forever.*” Now that'll be the Kingdom of God, and the whole Gospel of Jesus Christ is about the Kingdom of God. That was His Gospel. So, His Gospel was started out way in advance in the second chapter of Daniel.





had ten horns.” Now Daniel continues in verse eight. “*I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots.*” Now later we’ll see that he identifies the lion as the Chaldean Empire, the bear as the Persian Empire, and so on.

Now, among these came up this little horn, and that was the papacy or the Roman Catholic Church. And, it’s coming down to the time in the Roman Empire when the first four of the horns representing stages of government were plucked up by the

Now, next, Daniel had a dream himself. So, I want to come to that next. In the seventh chapter of Daniel, Daniel’s dream, and he saw virtually the same thing – that adds a point that’s very important. Well, he saw four great wild animals or beasts coming up from the sea, different one from another, and the first was like a lion, the king of beasts, and verse five, “*And behold another beast, a second, like a bear,*” and that was the Persian Empire, as we’re going to see later. And then, verse six, “*After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had on the back of it four wings,*” representing speed of flying through the air, faster than you can go on the ground. “*The beast had also four heads and dominion was given to it.*” ... *I saw in the night,*” that was the Greco-Macedonian Empire, “and “*after this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth,*” that represents the iron of the legs, which was the Roman Empire with its two divisions. “*And it*

roots, that were the Heruli, the Ostrogoths and the Van-dals. “*And, behold, in this horn were the eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.*” That’s referring to the papacy. Now continuing in verse 17. “These great beasts, which are four, are four kings,” or he uses the interchangeable between kings and kingdoms or governments, “*which shall arise out of the earth. But the*





So there was a prophecy that God would later and, of course, the time is after the Second Coming of Christ, ahead of us yet, pour out His Spirit on all flesh. Now, that has not happened yet.

I'm going to show you how God has poured out His Spirit on those that God has called into the Church. Now, we have to come to that. So, in due time, the second Adam did come. And Jesus Christ, born like a baby, as was mentioned in the prophecies of Isaiah 7 and Isaiah 9, said, "I will build My Church." Now "Church" comes from the Greek word "ekklesia," and it means "called out ones." **The Church**

saints, the saints of the most High shall take the Kingdom, and possess the Kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever."
Now, Christ is the Stone that'll smite the image on the feet. But when He comes and destroys all of this, the saints are to take the Kingdom under Christ. Daniel 2 shows Christ's coming. Daniel 7 shows the saints taking the Kingdom with and under Christ.

are those that are called out of this world, which is going to crash and be destroyed. And all of those nations are going to be destroyed at the Second Coming of Christ. The saints are going to take and possess the Kingdom.

So the Church also are called the firstfruits of God's salvation. God has not saved people yet. He made an excep-

Now, God had prophesied in Joel, the second chapter, in the 28th verse, That "*it shall come to pass afterward,*" now it had been, if you'll read the verses just before this and in the context that it had talked about up to the second coming of Christ, and the Kingdom of God and immediately after Christ's coming. That is exactly what it's talking about if you get the whole context, "*shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.*"



tion and did give His Holy Spirit to the prophets of the Old Testament because they were part of the foundation of the Church born way ahead of time. But, otherwise, ancient Israel did not have any salvation. The prophets had to have the Holy Spirit to write part of the Bible for the Church, to teach the Church. So that the Church, in due time, can teach others at the Second Coming of Christ when the Kingdom of God is finally set up.

Now, Jesus, when He came, was the second Adam and He was born with the Holy Spirit. The first Adam was not. The first Adam had to make a choice. The second Adam didn't have to make a choice. He already had the Holy Spirit. He was born by it and born with it. And He had the Spirit of God and the mind of God as well as the human spirit, giving Him a human mind. Now He had with it the mind of God from the time He was born.

Now, He came to start God's world, another world, another civilization altogether, and so the Church of the Firstfruits of God's salvation. God had shut salvation up when Adam made his choice 6,000 years ago. You read that back in Genesis, the third chapter, verses 22 through 24. And the Holy Spirit is still shut off from the world! It is open to only those that are in the Church, those that God has called. Now, Jesus said, in John 6:44, "No man can come to me, except the Father which sent me draws him." They have to be chosen. And we are a chosen generation. The rest of the world is not. Now, we get back to the book of Revelation again.

And coming to the second and third chapters, it is a prophecy about the Church. The second and third chapters show the Church in seven epics or seven different eras of time. And we are in the sixth era of that time now, the Philadelphia Era. The seventh, I will tell you about later. Now Revelation 4 and 5 ... show John's vision up in heaven. And there is One sitting on the throne, which is God the Father. And in His right hand is a book, which is this book of Revelation, telling what's going to happen.

But no one is able to open the book. Now, books in those

days were rolled up like a scroll, like I would roll this up, instead of the pages like we have in books today. But it is sealed with seven seals so you couldn't unroll it or open it up.

And no one was found worthy to open it up. In other words, no one could understand it, and no one could open it up to understanding. And then there's One in front of the throne, and that was the Lamb of God, and that, of course, was Jesus Christ. And He, and He only, was found worthy to open the seals so you could read and to explain and reveal the meaning of the book. And the book was to show us things shortly to come to pass in these last days. And the whole theme was the Day of the Lord when God will intervene.

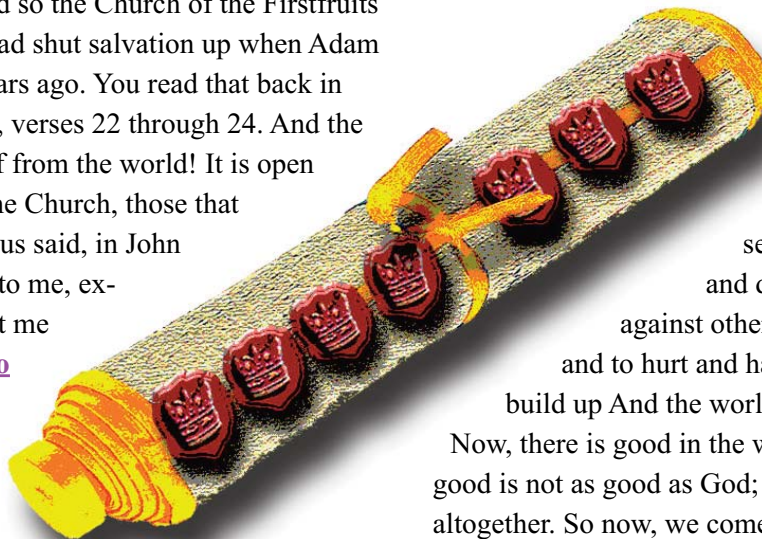
Now, we've been in the day of Satan. I've been showing you that all the way through. Adam was taken captive by Satan. Jesus came and paid the ransom price. But, the people

didn't want to turn back to their potential Father, or God, they preferred to stay on with Satan's way of vanity, of lust and greed, of self and selfishness, rebellion and destruction, envy and jealousy against other people, trying to get revenge, and to hurt and harm, to destroy instead of to build up And the world has been going on like that.

Now, there is good in the world along with evil, but the good is not as good as God; and it is good on a lower level altogether. So now, we come then to Revelation 6.

Jesus had come and taken the book out of the right hand of God the Father in Revelation 5. And now is able to begin to open it up, but even when He opens it up, we see things that He still hasn't revealed. Now, we come to Revelation 6, and we now need to come to the first eight verses, so beginning with verse one, "*And I saw,*" John is writing it, "*when the Lamb,*" which is Jesus, had "*opened one of the seals. ... And I saw,*" verse 2, "*and behold a white horse.*"

The first thing He saw was a white horse with someone sitting on it, "*and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown,*" now notice he had a crown, "*and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to con-*





quer.” Who was that on the white horse? It doesn't tell you here, but remember that Jesus Christ is the Revelator or the revealer and Jesus has to reveal it, and He didn't reveal here in this book. But He did in Matthew 24, and Mark 13 and Luke 21.

So we'll come to that in just a moment. But let's read the other seals first. Verses 3-4, “*And when He had opened the second seal,*” John looked, “*And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.*”

In other words, the sword kills, taking peace away. In other words, a time of war, so **the second thing was war.** Verse 5, “*And when He had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld.*” This is what John saw in his vision. “*And lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.*”

What could that represent, a pair of balances in his hand? Verses 6-8, “*And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny.*” **In other words, a scarcity of food, denoting famine.** “*And see thou hurt not*

the oil or the wine. And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with the sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.”

Now, let me see that we get this altogether, we'll go back now to Matthew 24, where Jesus begins to explain what those symbols mean. In Matthew 24, and we begin with the first verse, “*Jesus went out.*” He'd been in the temple and He went out, “*and departed from the temple: and His disciples came to Him for to show Him the buildings of the temple.*” Now, they're outside of the temple looking at the buildings. Verse 2, “*And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things?*” That is the buildings of the temple.

“*Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.*” And later now, verse 3, “*As He sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him.*” Now, Mark shows that there were four of the disciples that came to Him, “*saying, Tell us, when shall these things be?*” What things? He'd shown them the buildings and the temple and said they would be destroyed.

“When shall these things be? And,” they asked something else, “what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?” Now, the temple was to be thrown down and destroyed in **70 A.D., but the end of the world was not to come for 1900 years later! But they didn’t know that.** The disciples thought, and you read it in other places in the New Testament, **the Kingdom of God would immediately come in their lifetime.** So they asked Him, and they put it together and they asked Him about the sign of His second coming.

Verse 4, now, “Jesus answered and said unto them.” Now, this is not for you and me. This is what was said to them. “Take heed that no man deceive you.” This was to them, way back there in 31 A.D. Verse 5, “For many shall come in my name, saying, that I am Christ; and shall deceive many.” They would come preaching a gospel about the person of Christ, saying that Jesus was the Christ. You see, in the early stages, the Jews rejected Jesus and said that He was an imposter.

That He was not the Messiah or the Christ. Christ means Messiah. And the 12 apostles, their first preaching had to be to prove that He was the Messiah because they had been with Him 3½ years. And then after He was killed, they had been with Him for 40 days after His resurrection. And they were eyewitnesses to the fact that He was the Messiah because God had raised Him from the dead. And He said after three days and three nights, He would rise again, and that's exactly what happened.

Verses 5-7, now, “for” He said, “many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and deceive many. And you,” those disciples back then, “shall hear of **wars and rumors of wars**: see that ye **be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.**” Now, they asked Him about the time of the end, and the end of the world. And **He said it wouldn't be in their lifetime then.** They didn't know that, they thought it would be. Now He plainly told them that it would not be. “For,” now at the end, “**nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.**”

It wasn't nation against nation then. The Romans occupied it, and they came into their own territory to destroy the

temple of Jerusalem, and they ruled over the Jews. It wasn't nation against nation at that time, but at the end it was going to be and **that is what's happening today in our time.** “And there shall be,” coming or leading up to that time, “**famines.**” Now there's the war, nation against nation and kingdom against kingdom. That was **the red horse, the second horseman.**

The third horseman, **the black horse, was famine.** Now notice, “and there shall be **famines** and” next, “**pestilences.**” that was the pale horse, pestilences are the result of the famine killing people. Now we've already had foretastes of that. But the real thing is yet to come. And it's going to be terrible when it does. It'll come at the time as part of **the Great Tribulation. The main part of the Tribulation, however, will be nuclear war.**



Verses 8-13, “All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise,” and they'll be saying that Jesus was the Christ and deceiving people, “and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”

Now, it begins to talk about the end. Verse 14, “And, this gospel of the Kingdom,” the Gospel He preached about – the Kingdom of God! Now in the meantime, they weren't preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, they were preaching merely that Jesus was the Christ! **That's all!** And that's been going on for 1900 years. It started, as you read in the first chapter, verses 6 and 7 of Galatians, they'd already turned to another gospel, not the Gospel of the Kingdom, but a gospel about Christ. Not the Gospel of Christ.

And it was precisely 1900 years later – that is one century of time cycles. God opened up the most powerful radio station on earth to me, which was Radio Luxemburg, in the heart of Europe. **And the True Gospel of the Kingdom began going to all the world.** Now you read here, “and this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the

world for a witness unto all nations;" only as a witness, "and then shall the end," the end of the world "come," and the Second Coming of Christ.

Verses 21-22, "For then," when we get down to that time, "shall be Great Tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world ... nor ever shall be, and except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved (alive). But for the elect's sake," and the elect are those who God has called, the Church, the firstfruits, that's this Church. "For the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

Now, let's look on ahead, in verses 29-30, "*Immediately after the tribulation of those days*" will come a time when the sun shall be darkened and "the moon shall not give her light," and the stars in heaven shall fall from heaven, and "the powers of the heavens shall be shaken and then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

Now, that's where Jesus was explaining about those seals. The first seal, the white horse, was the false prophets. The red seal was the war that was to come at that time. And later, near the end, there would be nation against nation, wars.

Then, great famine and the result of the famine, pestilence. And now at the end time just before that, the Gospel of the Kingdom will be proclaimed. And this Church has been doing that. And it did not go out until this Philadelphia era of the Church had been born. And God has raised it up. And He raised it up for that purpose, and also to prepare a people for Christ's coming to be among the saints that shall rule with Him and take the Kingdom forever and even forever.

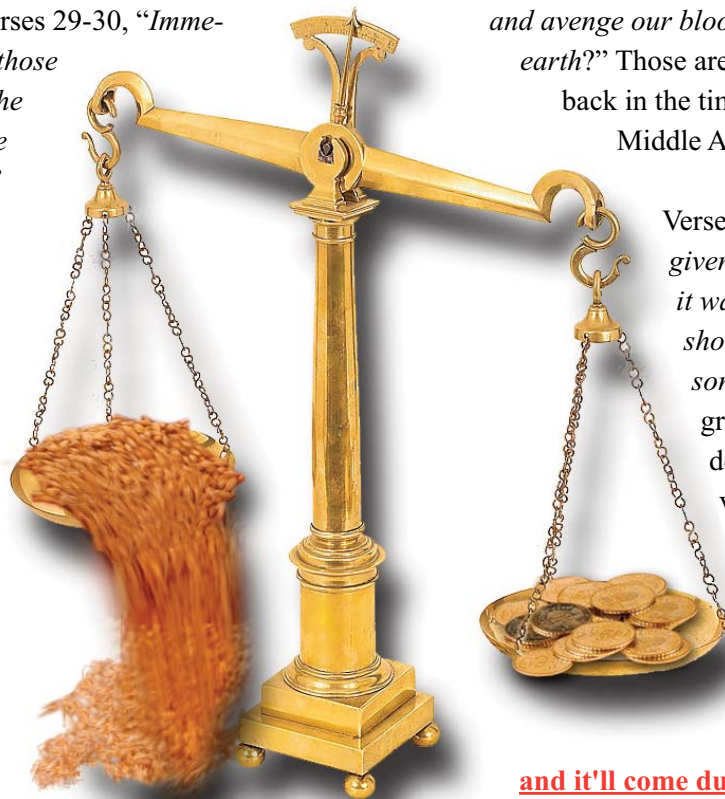
Now, we go back and read in Revelation 6, beginning with verse nine, "*And when He had opened the fifth seal,*" now the first four, you know, where they had false Christs with the false gospel, and war, and famine and pestilence, and now came the Great Tribulation. So now notice here, "*And when He had opened the fifth seal,*" that's the next, right after the four horseman, "*I saw under the altar of them that were slain for the word of God,*" in other words, they're martyrs.

Verse 10, "*And they cried with a loud voice,*" they're already dead, but they seem to be crying out, "*saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?*" Those are the martyrs that were killed back in the time of the apostles and in the Middle Ages.

Verse 11, "*And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season,*" and that was in their graves where they were resting, dead, "until their fellow-servants, and their brethren, that should be killed as they were," that is those here at the last time.

There's going to be another martyrdom of saints and it'll come during the Great Tribulation.

Verse 12, "*And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal,*" now I said in the sixth seal, after the Great Tribulation. What was going to come? They were going to see the Son of Man in heaven immediately after the Tribulation, and finally the sun and moon would be dark and then Christ would come. Now, notice here in Revelation same thing. "*And I beheld when he'd opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became as black as the sackcloth ... and the moon became as blood;*" they didn't give their light any longer, that's to happen yet. Verse 13, "*And the stars of the heaven,*" just exactly as Matthew 24 had it. Verses 14-15, "*And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and*



island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men ... the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains.”

This is the time, when they see up in the sky, I mean, they see the sign of the coming of Christ, just before He comes. Now, that brings us down to the seventh chapter of the book of Revelation. I want to read just a little of this seventh chapter of Revelation.

“And after these things, I saw four angels, standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth,” that they *“should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.”* Now these are the trumpet plagues. The time of the trumpet plagues has come as you read on, and if you read on past this, and you blow on a trumpet, so these winds represent the winds that blow on these trumpets, and they are plagues that are to come at the beginning of **the Day of the Lord**. That’s what the book of Revelation is all about – the Day of the Lord. And at the very beginning, God holds back these plagues. Now the plagues come from God. The Great Tribulation really was the result of Satan’s wrath and anger. **The Great Tribulation came because of the sins of the world**. But the plagues that follow, God is going to send.

Now, I want you to notice what's going to happen now just before God's plagues come. **The Great Tribulation is all over now**. *“And, I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God, and he cried with a loud voice,”* saying *“to the four angels whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, saying Hurt not the earth neither the sea,”* these plagues that hurt the earth and sea rather than people, nor the trees, **“till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.”**

Now I want you to notice, they were already the servants of God. That is the Church, and it is the Philadelphia era of the Church. And there are two other passages in the book of Revelation, in the 12th chapter and also in the third chapter of Revelation, that show that the Church, and it's this era of the Church, is be taken to a place of protection and safety from the Great Tribulation. They'll not have had to go through and suffer in the Great Tribulation. **But they are the servants of God!** Which shows that it's the Church that are serving God. And **I heard the number of**

them that were sealed and it was a 144,000. And we won't take the time to read all of that, but it was 12,000 of each of the tribes; and Dan was left out but Joseph had the two tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, so it was still 12 tribes.

Verse 9, now, and *“after this, I beheld and lo **a great multitude which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds and people and tongues stood before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes.**”* **Now that is the righteousness of saints**. Now, **this is other people that are righteous**, and they're going to be protected from God's plagues just like the children of Israel were protected from God's plagues in the days of Moses, back when the plagues were coming on Pharaoh of Egypt.

“And palms in their hands,” now I won't read every verse skipping down to verse 13, *“and one of the elders answered saying unto me, ‘What are these which are arrayed in white robes,’ this innumerable multitude and where did they come from? ‘Whence came they? And I said unto him, ‘Sir, thou knowest.’”* In other words, John, who is writing this, didn't know. He said to the angel, you know. *“And he said to me,”* John is writing, *“These are they which came out of,”* it says, **“great tribulation”** in the King James but others say, **“the Great Tribulation.” They were converted during the Great Tribulation; an innumerable multitude**.

Brethren, I want to tell you, almost every little while I meet people who have listened to our radio program for years, and I meet others who have read the *Plain Truth* for years, and **we've never heard from them. They've gotten this truth. They haven't done anything about it**. There are **millions** that we are reaching. The *Plain Truth* goes out **seven million copies every month now, in seven different languages**. Now, surely at least two people read every copy, and **most magazines estimate that four people read every copy**. And if they do with other magazines, I'm sure they do it with the *Plain Truth*.

Millions are hearing and doing nothing about it. But when these things happen, and **the Great Tribulation** does come that I've been prophesying. And nobody else has been foretelling it, but our telecast and our broadcast and the *Plain Truth* magazine. And we've been telling millions of people about it, and when it actually happens many of them are going to do something about it, and **that's this innu-**



merable multitude. Now you can't find any other explanation, the 144,000 of the 12 tribes of Israel. Now, you go back and read in the New Testament and you'll find that in the 11th chapter of Romans, all of the ancient Israelites are broken off of the Israel tree ... are like branches of the wild olive tree and grafted into the Israel tree.

And so, those in the Church that have the Holy Spirit are spiritually Israel. And the 144,000 merely represent the Church. Now to say that it's exactly 12,000 out of each tribe, and to take that literally, the book of Revelation is in symbolic language. And you have to see it symbolically. God isn't going to take it and then refuse after the 12,000, and refuse the 12,000 and first one that he can't get in. So, it merely represents a complete number. Twelve is a number of beginnings and completeness, and consequently it does represent the Church. And then another innumerable multitude. Now they naturally come into the Church, but that will be the Laodicean Church, the seventh and last era of the Church.

Now, they are people that will finally come because they're frightened into it. And I think you will find that half of them will, maybe, receive the Holy Spirit ... And half of them, the oil will go out of their lamps. In other words, I'm referring now to the 25th chapter of Matthew and the 10 virgins, just before the Second Coming of Christ; that has to be the Laodicean Church. They're

lukewarm, as the Laodicean Church is. They come in because they're frightened and scared. But half of them are going to get through, then the doors are shut into the kingdom, half of them are left out. Then it comes, beginning with verse 32, in the 25th chapter of Matthew, of the time of Christ sitting on His throne and all nations will be before Him, *and He will divide them "as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats": those on His right hand, the sheep, He will say, "Come, you blessed of My Father inherit the Kingdom."* They will inherit the Kingdom of God, and that'll be in the beginning of the Millennium. So, I've given you just a quick bird's eye

view from the beginning clear down into the Kingdom of God and the time of the Day of the Lord. We've been in the day of Satan for 6,000 years. There's so much more in the way of prophecies to be filled in, and I won't take any more time, at this present time. But I think we've got to get back to study a little more now in the prophecies.

I think I shall probably go back into prophecies a little more on the air, on the television programs. **Because things are going to begin to happen very soon now, I feel. I think that God has delayed things in order that this message can get out. But I think the time of that delay is about up. And remember, there's not much time, and we are the ones who have got to inherit that Kingdom, and we are called as the first-fruits to learn and not just to get us into the Kingdom, but that we can then rule and teach. We'll be kings and priests. And we shall reign on the earth. We're the saints that will take the kingdom and possess it when Christ comes.**



Editor's Comment: To make room for this Bible study to fit into an article, it was necessary to edit out a large portion from it. However, what was removed did not take away from the subject matter. For those who would like to have the complete sermon, please write or call, and it will be mailed to you on a CD or cassette.

Alton 'Don' Billingsley

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

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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.losttentribes.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

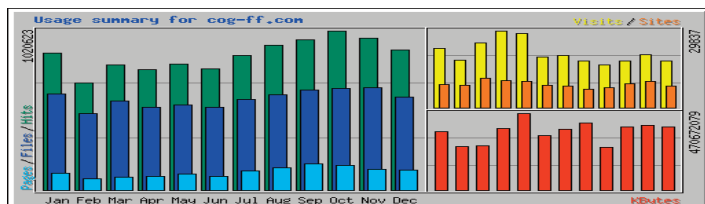
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www.sabbathcentral.com

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

COGFF – Home School Association
www.coghomeschool.org

Herbert W. Armstrong – His Life & Work
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An Open Letter to the Scattered Flock
www.bodyofchristonline.us



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