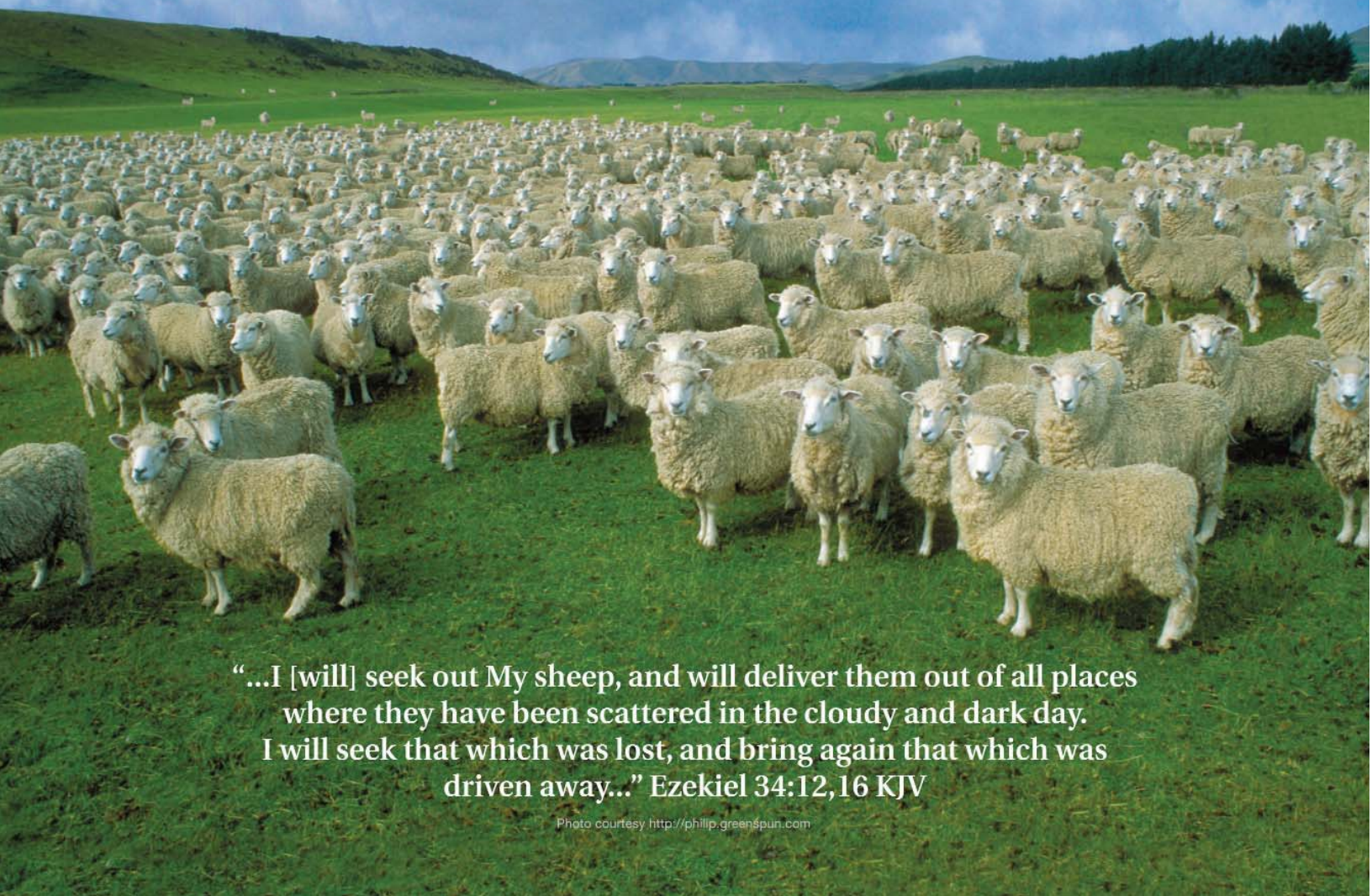


# The \_\_\_\_\_ Philadelphia Remnant

May/June 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

MAY/JUNE 2009

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

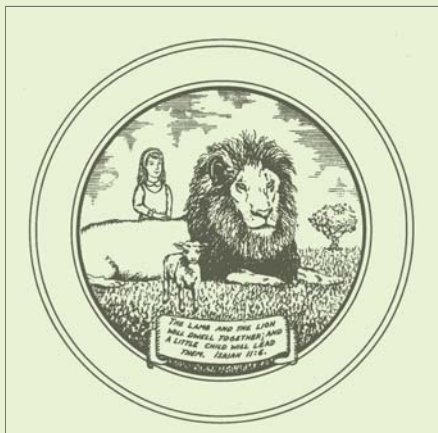
The Church of God Faithful Flock, with headquarters in Modesto, California, humbly presents this magazine – *The Philadelphia Remnant*, which continues to provide a conduit for the work Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong spearheaded, the work of reaching out to people worldwide with the message of the soon-coming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

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

*The Philadelphia Remnant* has no subscription price. This magazine is provided free of charge. It is made possible by the tithes and offerings of the membership of the Church of God Faithful Flock and others. Contributions, however, are welcomed and tax-deductible in the United States. Those who wish to voluntarily aid and support this worldwide work of God are gladly welcomed as co-workers in this effort.

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# Counting Pentecost

By Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong  
Pentecost 1980

**Y**ou'll notice I'm all loaded for bear this afternoon, but I don't know any better ammunition than three different Bibles. And by the way of just a few opening remarks, I always use the King James or the so-called "authorized Bible" because more people use it than any other, and I think they understand me better if I use that than one of the modern translations. But any number of modern translations have come out in the last three or four years, and some of them are absolutely no good at all. And I want to advise you against some of these real new, modern editions.

I think that for accuracy perhaps the Revised Standard is even a little more accurate than the King James and perhaps more accurate than any other. I was talking to the chairman of the Revised committee, who is revising the



MR. HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

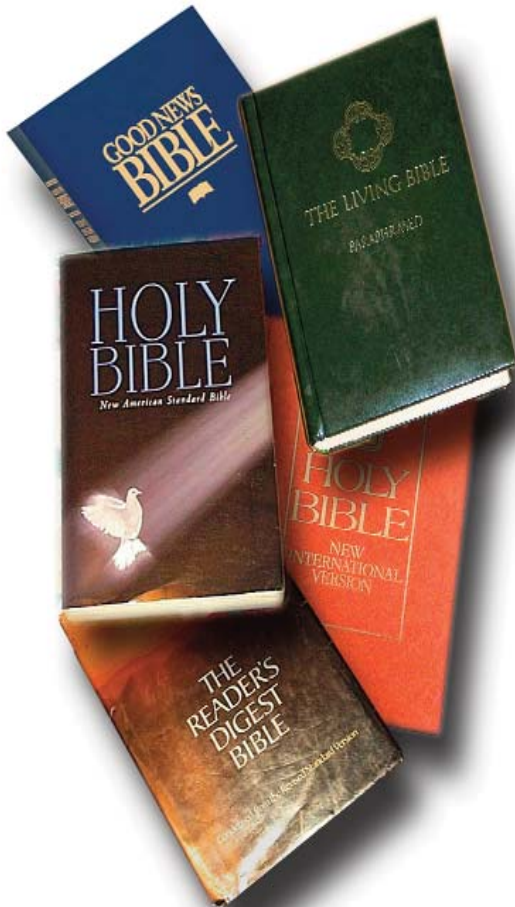
Revised Standard, a new revision that has not been published as yet, and there is one thing I called to his attention. He admitted he was wrong.

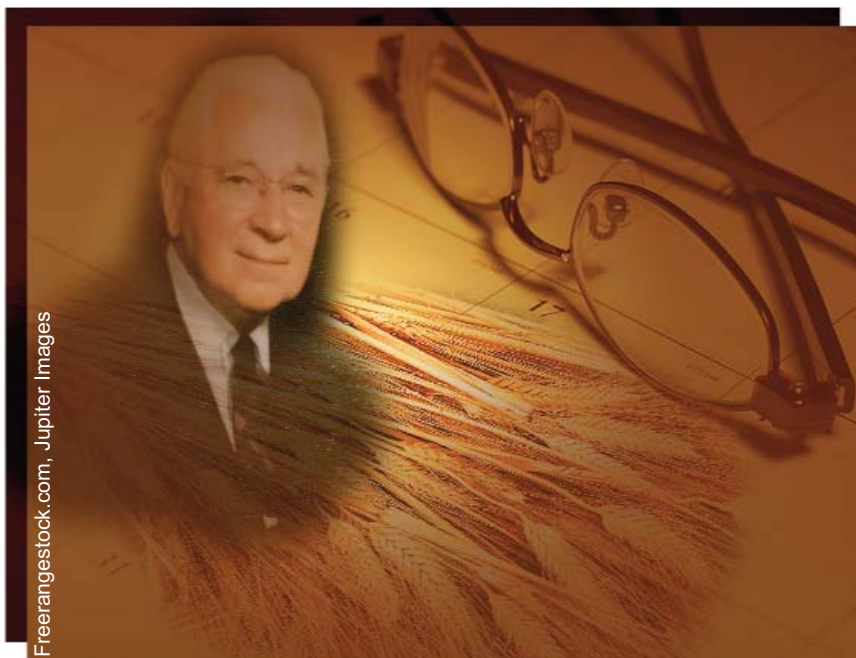
## HOW TO COUNT PENTECOST

*That's when we change the Day of Pentecost.* That's because EVERY translation of the Bible, when I first set that day about 50 years ago, every translation said that we should count from a Sunday or morrow after a Sabbath.

Now, one day from Sunday is not still Sunday or the day before Sunday or anything like that. It is Monday, and so when you count, one day from Sunday is Monday, and that's where you begin counting, and it comes out on a Monday Pentecost. And for exactly 40 years, this Church observed Pentecost on a Monday.

I went into it very thoroughly here just a few years ago, perhaps you remember better than I do when we made the change, but some of our Hebrew and Greek students had been looking into it and to be frank about it, I didn't really look into the Hebrew at the time 50 years ago because I went to every single translation in the English language that had been made at that time, and there were quite a number. The Revised Standard had not come out yet, but it





Freerangestock.com, Jupiter Images

used the same expression counting from that day. Now some of our men came to me and said that every other place the Hebrew word is used it is translated into the English word “on” and not the English word “from.”

I had a friend of mine that I know very, very well who is a lady teaching the Bible in Israel. Now, of course, in Israel that means the Old Testament, but she teaches it in the Hebrew language. I called her long distance. I asked her to just read that, and I said, “Tell me, how do you count, do you begin counting with a Sunday, on a Sunday or from it. Tell me how it would come out. I want you to count it for me and tell me. She said, “Well, it comes out that Pentecost is on Sunday.”

Later, I found, I talked to two of the translators of the Revised Standard translation, very learned men, of course, with the doctor’s degrees and a very great deal of graduate scholarship, and they tried to defend the word “from” for a while, but I showed them that “from” means “away out of,” *it never means “inside of.”* One foot from this building is

not inside of this building. It’s one foot outside of it from any direction. If you’d say one foot on the ... north side, that’s outside. “From” means “away out of,” never “within.” And he said, “Mr. Armstrong, you are right, and I’m chairman of the committee for a revision of this Revised Standard, and I will see to it that we correct it in this new translation.” Well, I hope he keeps his word. That’s all I can say.

Moses wrote the first five books all in the Hebrew language. Most all of the Old Testament was written in the Hebrew language, a little bit of it in the Aramaic. All of the New Testament was written in the Greek language. And we do have thousands and thousands of copies.

In no case is the original that was written by Moses or the original written by the Apostle Paul or the Apostle John or by Peter or Luke or one of those extant. We don’t have anywhere the original manuscript that was written by any one of them. But it had been copied thousands of times.

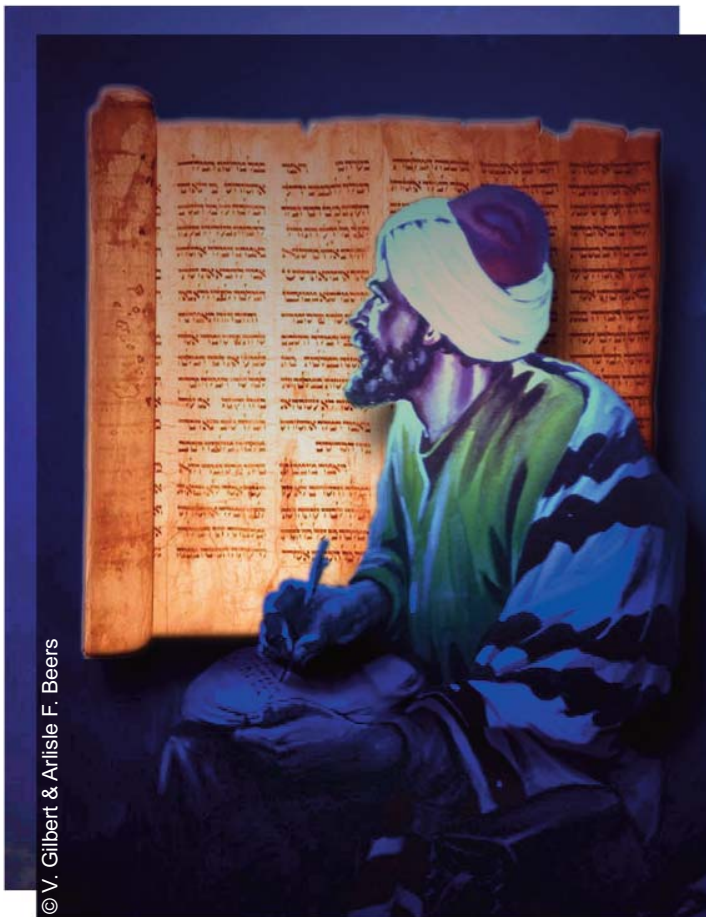


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And one thing that traditionally the Jews preserved the Old Testament for us. There is no question about that. And their scribes, and you read a lot about them in the New Testament, they were hypocrites. Jesus had a lot to say about them and against them. But there is one thing that they were very careful about, and that is copying the scriptures.

When they had copied a page, several went over it to check it whether it was right or wrong by a number of people, and if there was one mistake, they didn’t correct that mistake, they had to write that page over again until they got it perfect without a single mistake. Now, where you have thousands of copies, and we know that the ones who did the copying were that careful, we can be pretty sure that we do have the original. If out of a thousand, one of them is a little different from the other 999, we can be pretty sure,





in most cases, that the one is an error, and the other 999 are correct. Again, any passage of the scripture must sort of jibe with other passages that reflect the same thing.

### UNDERSTANDING THE HOLY BIBLE

The Bible, you know, is a great deal like a jigsaw puzzle, and a niece of my wife has been living at our home for sometime, going to high school in Tucson, and some little time ago they had a very large jigsaw puzzle. I thought they would never get it put together. The various pieces have to fit together a certain way, and if you get them put together properly, they finally come out to make a very beautiful picture. But the Bible is that way. You don't get all of the truth in any one place. For example, the first chapter of Genesis, there is a great deal that is not mentioned in the first chapter of Genesis that happened at the same time, and you have to find

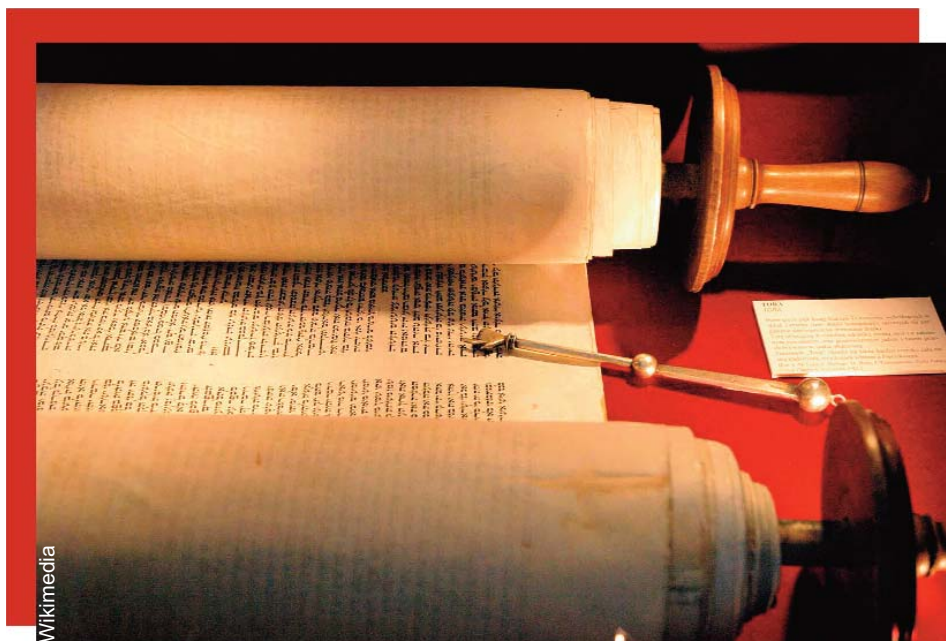
some of it in the Book of Revelation, some of it in I and II Peter, some of it in the writings of the Apostle Paul, some of it in Jeremiah, or some of it in Ezekiel or in Isaiah, and you have to put them all together. But you have to get every piece that you put together as that piece did read in its context. And so many people have been careless about that.

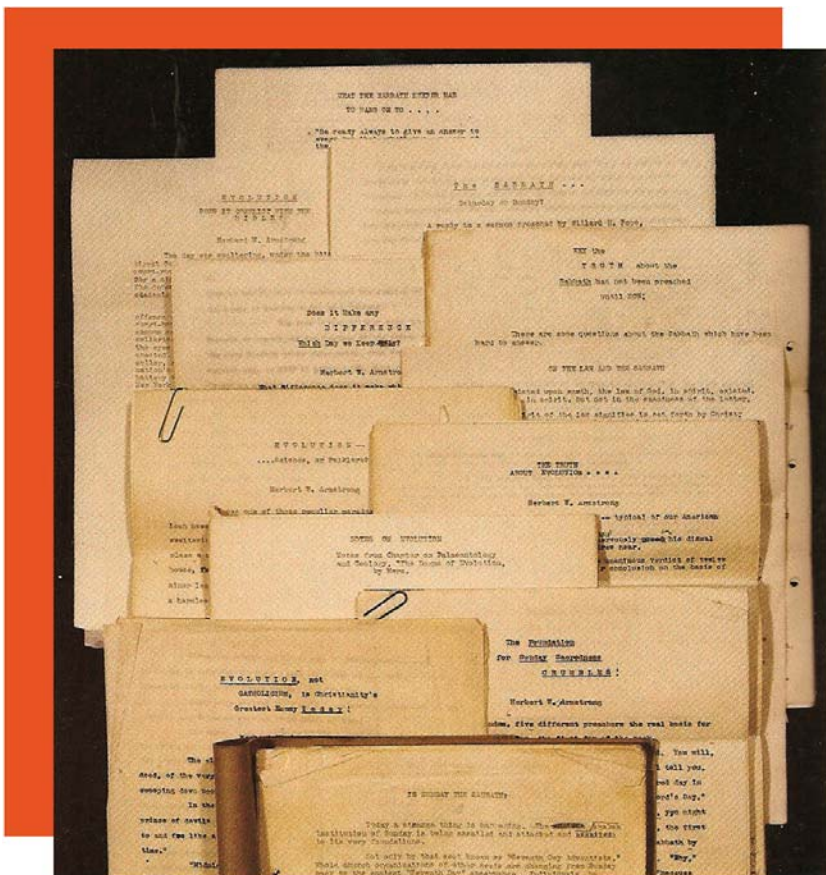
### THE TEACHER GOD SENT TO HIS PEOPLE

*Now those are some of the things that I had to learn 53 years ago, and I will say this. Everything that you people have and believe, directly or indirectly, came from me. I wonder if you realize that? In other words, putting all of these things together, into the various major doctrines, is something you didn't have to do. It was done for you.*

*Take the subject of the Sabbath. Take the subject of God's law. Take the subject of law and grace. Take any theological subject or Biblical subject, and you receive the doctrines that you believe. All came from me. Now, how did I get it?*

A minister that we have had to put out of the Church, came to see me. He thought that maybe he could save the situation by talking to me, and unfortunately he didn't. But he said, "Well, Mr. Armstrong you got all you believe just from the Sardis Church. You just took what they had and memorized it." *I did not get one doctrine from the Sardis Church. I did not get one doctrine from the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Seventh Day Baptists. I didn't get one doctrine from the Quaker church in which I was raised up*





**MR. ARMSTRONG'S SABBATH, EVOLUTION MANUSCRIPTS**



**SUNRISE OVER THE SOUTH POLE**

gument I could talk her out of it. I said, "How would you keep the Sabbath if you lived on the North Pole? We live on a round earth. You can't keep the Sabbath at the same time here that they do in Japan or that they do in Jerusalem."

Well, she had an answer for every one of those questions and, of course, I do now, and I think you do. We keep the Sabbath Day when it gets here because God sets the day when the sun sets wherever you are on earth and the sun doesn't set the same time here it does in Jerusalem. It sets here nine hours later than it does in Jerusalem. So we begin the Sabbath

here nine hours later than they do over there. We observe a day when that day comes to us.

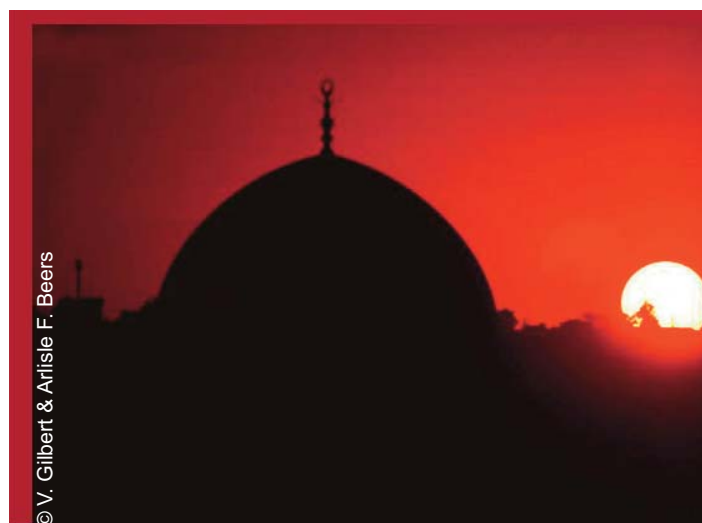
But I didn't know that then and so in order to convince my wife and to save our marriage – and incidentally that marriage did last 50 years. Now I am married again and this time again it is until death do us part.

**Continued on Page 24**

*from birth. Neither did I get a single doctrine from the Methodists, the Baptists, the Roman Catholics or any other church. I did not get one bit of what I have taught you and of the truth that you all are privileged to know and understand because it is the truth. I did not get it from MAN. I did not get it in any theological school. I was not taught it by any human being or any group of human beings.*

Let me just give you a little illustration of that so that you can know how the truth came into this Church, and I don't know of another living person on the face of the earth who received the doctrines and the beliefs in the way that God gave it to me.

My wife had been visiting a woman who happened to be a member of what we call now the Sardis Church. Now that is not an epithet. Sardis is one of the real, true Churches of God. It's the era of people who lived before us, and it hit its prime, perhaps 250 years ago, before any of us were born. I came in with those people in the latter end of that era and that time. But I was highly prejudiced against them because one of their women taught my wife to keep the Sabbath, and I thought that was religious fanaticism. I used every ar-



**SUNSET OVER JERUSALEM**



# Personal from the Editor

By Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley

**T**he **Feast of Firstfruits 2009!** This pictures the time when the final number of God's true Elect will be complete from the beginning count of Abel unto the time of the coming of Jesus Christ.

Each one of His true people having received the firstfruits of God's Holy Spirit (Romans 8:23) and begotten by It (I Peter 1:3); thus becoming the true children of our Father in heaven; men and women who are presently on hold – waiting for the soon-coming time of the new birth into God's divine Family as Spirit beings (John 3:3-8, I Corinthians 15:35-53).

## FIRST BIRTH INTO THE HUMAN FAMILY

Duality can be found throughout the Holy Bible. A major one is that of everyone having been born into their human families from the beginning of human history that began with Adam and Eve; and throughout human life their offspring would be identified with the family name (genealogical records often will aid in establishing the links).

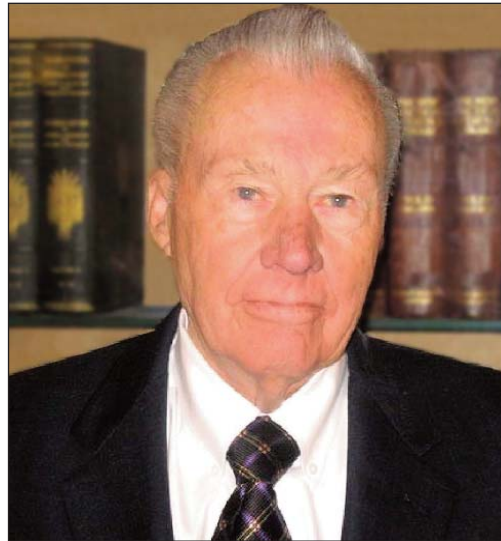
At human birth, each one is given a first name that establishes his or her individual identity.

And throughout human life each one is known or remembered by his or her first and last family name.

And hearing the name often brings instant recognition to all those who know them.

## THE SECOND BIRTH INTO THE SPIRIT FAMILY OF GOD

The same will be true when the Spirit-begotten people of God are born into the God Family (John 10:34, Psalm 82:6). Though the following Scripture speaks of the *Philadelphian Church Era*, it also applies to all who will have been given

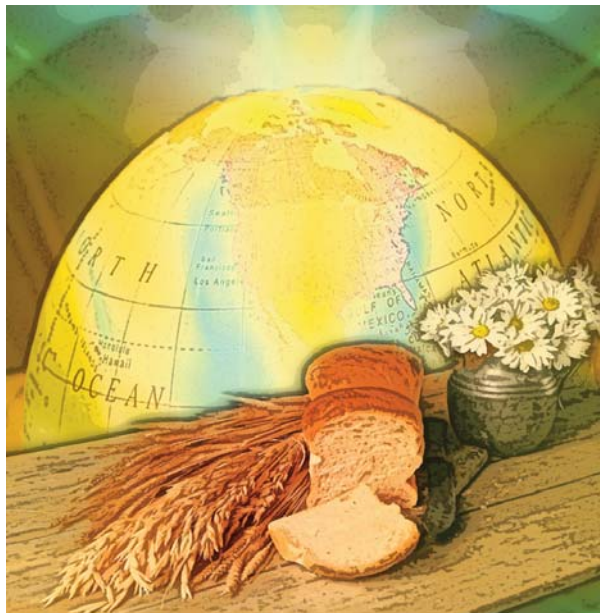


*Alton B. (Don) Billingsley*

*name that establishes his or her own identity in the God Family) (Revelation 3:12)."*

the blessing of being born into the Family of God.

**"... I will write on him the NAME of My God (family surname) ... and I will WRITE on him My new name (given a first**



## AMBASSADORS OF GOD

Scripture makes known that all truly Spirit-begotten children of God are to be ambassadors for Christ in this present age, representing the Kingdom of God wherein is our true citizenship by having our names written in God's Book of Life (Philippians 3:20, 4:3).

**"Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation ... committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ ... (II Corinthians 5:18-20)."**

## GOD'S AMBASSADORS NOT TO BECOME PART OF THIS WORLD

Ambassadors are sent to other countries to represent the country from which they are sent and are by law not to take an active part in their affairs. If they should, this would reflect in a negative manner on their country, and also jeopardize their own career and character. The same applies to each member of God's Church. We are commanded to



come out of this world and not be a part of it even though we live in it (I John 2:15-17, John 17:15-19). Rather God's people are to be **A LIGHT** to this world – meaning a living and shining example as a representative of His soon-coming Kingdom (Matthew 5:13-16).

### A WORLD IN TURMOIL, REBELLION

Considering the end-time prophecies in view of the current news events clearly make known the curtain is coming down very rapidly on the stage of this present age. There is growing turmoil in this country and world due to horrible crimes, distrust of leadership in all areas, loss of homes, high taxes, etc. It is a world fomenting rebellion.

Based on what is seen in the news, indications are that a possible revolution is brewing that could be similar to the war fought between brothers in this country in years gone by; the North against the South during the administration of President Abraham Lincoln. This could be very terrible with the loss of many lives.

### GOD'S AMBASSADORS MUST REMAIN IMPARTIAL

As ambassadors of God's soon-coming Kingdom, the true people of God **MUST NOT** become involved with any of these things in any area.

**“You shall not follow a crowd to do evil ... (Exodus 23:2, Matthew 5:38-45).”**

At all times, we must remain impartial while obeying the teachings of God. Rather we must keep our faith and trust in the promises of God and Jesus Christ to protect and provide for us in the coming difficult and trying times from the harm that could befall us while waiting for the coming of Jesus Christ and our heritage.

### THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

In the meantime, our God-given commission is to preach the Gospel to this world – letting them know a better world is coming; one that will be ruled by Jesus Christ who will begin His reign with a very firm hand in righteousness (Matthew 24:14; Psalm 1:9, 101:8).





nians 4:13-18; Matthew 24:30:31, 13:43; I Corinthians 15:35-58).

It will be at that time we will be given an active part in bringing an out-of-control world and **blood-soaked** earth into submission to obedience to Jesus Christ – who will then have been crowned KING of Kings and LORD of Lords (Revelation 19:11-16, 5:10, 20:4-6).

### THE COMING KINGDOM OF GOD

When asked of Jesus by Pilate if He were a King, He replied: “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, *My servants would fight*, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here (John 18:36).”

In addition to taking the gospel to this world, as members of God’s Church, we are to be His **WATCHMEN WARNING** them of the impending horrors (Ezekiel 33:1-11)! At the same time, we are to be crying aloud and showing the people their sins (Isaiah 58:1). Sins that are bringing all this heartache on them; and even worse are the heart-breaking times ahead, unless there is repentance of breaking God’s holy and righteous laws (Ezekiel 33:11).

### THE FEAST OF FIRST-FRUIITS – PENTECOST

The meaning of this Day of First-fruits is continuing to reach toward its collective fulfillment before the return of Jesus Christ. Then the Day that pictures the re-

We must keep in mind that our promised heritage hinges on our ongoing relationship with God and obedience to Him; and its fulfillment will begin with our birth into God’s kingdom after which incredibly great and wonderful promises will come to pass! The rewards Jesus Christ will bring with Him will dwarf anything that could possibly come our way in this world (Matthew 16:27).

Those promises will begin to be fulfilled in a most wondrous way when God’s elect will rise as Spirit beings to meet Jesus Christ in this earth’s atmosphere and will be guided by the angels of God to take our respective places in God’s new Family (I Thessalo-

**WATCHMEN WARNING** them of the impending horrors (Ezekiel 33:1-11)! At the same time, we are to be crying







turn of Jesus Christ – **The Feast of Trumpets** – will be the actual fulfillment when all of the Firstfruits dreams will become reality!

Can we grasp how close we now are to the soon-coming time when we will at last experience our new birth and then be among that elect number who will meet Jesus Christ in this earth's atmosphere as members of God's Spirit Family?

Great joy and happiness was expressed by our parents when our birth took place with a new son or daughter having been added to their family (John 16:21). However, the joy that will be expressed by our Father in heaven and Jesus Christ will be infinitely greater to have many thousands of newly-born sons and daughters added to Their Family (Luke 15:7, 10).

These men and women will be among the **FIRST-FRUIT**S that will number at least 144,000 (Revelation 14:1-5). The greater harvest, which will number

into many billions of people, will take place later on as made known by God's Master Plan. Those graced by God's awesome mercy to be harvested will then be added to Their Family as well.

*This will be a most wonderful and joyous time to see and meet Jesus Christ face to face; the dark glasses will be gone! At the same time will be the blessing of being reunited with the faithful loved ones we have known in this life and becoming acquainted with all of the others, including the prophets and apostles of years gone by.*

God encourages us by making known: “**The great day of the LORD is near, it is near AND HASTENS QUICKLY** ... (Zephaniah 1:14).”

God our Father and Jesus Christ love and desire each of us to be there with Them. And They will help all of us to that end as we cry out for it. And the power of Their Holy Spirit within each of us is there to help us to be among the Firstfruits of Their harvest (II Timothy 1:6-7, Zechariah 4:6, John 14:15-18, Matthew 28:20).

What wonderful joy awaits each one who will be so wonderfully blessed to be counted among the Firstfruits of this coming harvest. And to be graced to be among them, we MUST remain faithful to this awesome and incredible calling all the way to the end! Then, we are to be born again (Matthew 24:13, John 3:3-8).

*The quotes and pictures above are intended for educational purposes only.*





# Pentecost

## God's Spectacular Holy Day!

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By Mark Mendiola

**D**o you realize that two of the most spectacular displays of Almighty God's awesome power described in both the Old Testament and the New Testament occurred on the **Feast of Pentecost** – also known as the **Feast of Weeks** or the **Feast of Firstfruits**?

When God thundered from atop Mount Sinai and directly gave the Nation of Israel **His Ten Commandments** about 3,500 years ago, it was on **Pentecost**!

When God dramatically poured out **His Holy Spirit** on only 120 of Jesus Christ's disciples in 31 A.D., it was on **Pentecost**!

The fact our Great Creator God chose to exhibit His incredible power on **Pentecost** *shows He stamps great importance on His Annual Holy Days* – although most people

view them with indifference or even absolute contempt, instead substituting meaningless, empty holidays steeped in paganism.

Why would God decide to *powerfully* bestow the **Ten Commandments** and **His Holy Spirit** on this particular **Day of Pentecost**? What is the significance of doing so? What connection does **His Holy Law** have with **His Holy Spirit**?

Why should Christians observe **Pentecost**, and what lessons should they learn from its meaning? Pentecost underscores an absolutely vital stage in God's mind-boggling plan of salvation outlined in **His Annual Holy Days**!

### LOGICAL ORDER

God outlines the sequence of **His Holy Days** in Leviticus 23 and Numbers 28-29. *God is not the author of confusion. He does everything decently and in order* (I Corinthians 14:33, 40). **His Annual Holy Days** are no exception.





DEATH OF THE FIRSTBORN

The Holy Bible refers to **Passover** and the **Days of Unleavened Bread** in Exodus 12. There we read the Israelites enslaved in Egypt were to smear the **blood** of *lambs* on their doorposts to be protected from a plague that would strike dead all the firstborn in Egypt, both man and beast. It was a sign so God would “pass over” and not destroy them (Exodus 12:3-13).

Tens of thousands of Israelites escaped from Egypt during the **Days of Unleavened Bread** that immediately followed **Passover** (v. 14-20). It’s been estimated that up to three million Israelites were liberated from prolonged, agonizing Egyptian slavery at that time.

Leviticus 23 and Numbers 28-29 show the **Feast of Firstfruits** is the next *God-ordained Annual Holy Day* following the **Days of Unleavened Bread**. It is one of seven “**Feasts of the LORD**,” holy convocations or assemblies to be proclaimed at their appointed times (Leviticus 23:2, 4). *There’s*

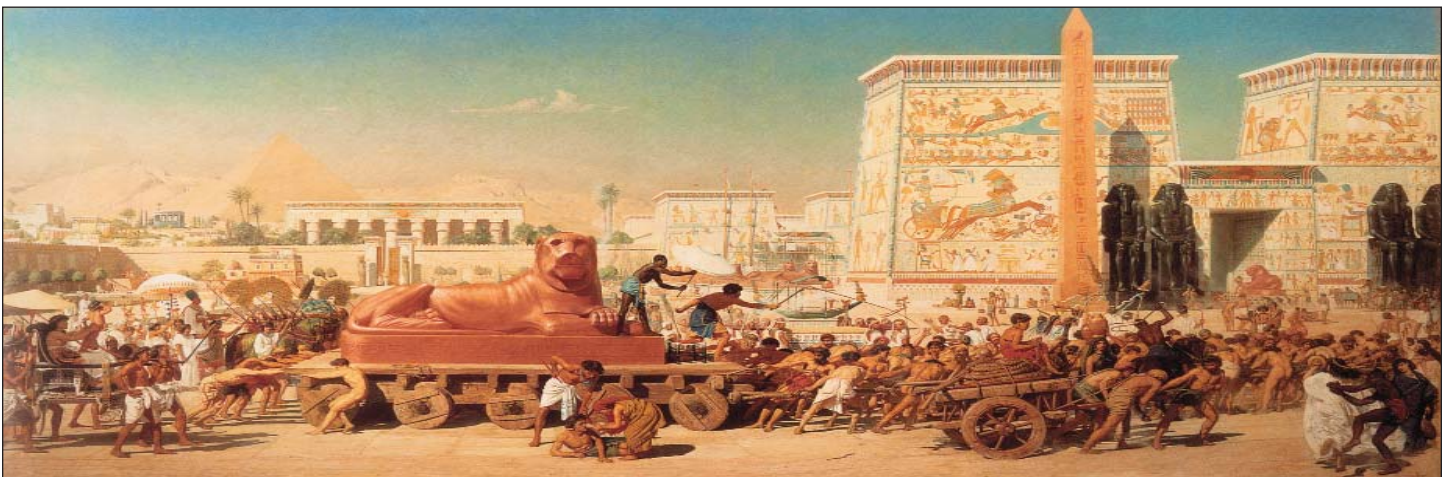
a sensible reason God organized **His Holy Days** to progress as they do throughout the year.

“And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: Seven Sabbaths shall be completed. Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD. You shall bring from your habitations two wave loaves ... They are the firstfruits to the LORD (Leviticus 23:15-17).”

That day was ordained as “*a statute forever* in all your dwellings throughout your generations (Leviticus 23:21).” It, as well as all the Holy Days outlined in this chapter, remains as binding on us today as it did for them. They have not been abolished or abrogated! To the contrary, they are even more essential to observe given their profound spiritual meanings!

**Pentecost** comes 50 days or seven Sabbaths from the time the *wave sheaf offering* was cut during the **Days of Unleavened Bread**. It is an important next step in a Christian’s march from sin into the Kingdom of God. It falls in the third month of the Hebrew calendar.

“*In the third month* after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came to the wilderness of Sinai. ... So Israel camped there before the mountain (Exodus 19:1-2).”







MOUNT SINAI

The multitudes of Israel assembled for a holy convocation at the foot of Mount Sinai to have an audience with Jesus Christ, the Word, the God of the Old Testament, on Pentecost, one of the Feasts of the LORD! They were about to enter into the Old Covenant with their Creator!

God told their leader Moses to tell them, “‘Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.” So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the LORD commanded him. Then all the people answered together and said, ‘All that the LORD has spoken we will do.’ So Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD (Exodus 19:5-8).”

The Israelites were then ordered to wash their clothes in advance of their encounter with the God who brought them

out of Egypt with one miraculous intervention after another. The scene they were about to witness on Pentecost would be so stunning and overwhelming, it would absolutely terrify them!

### THUNDEROUS APPEARANCE

“Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice (Exodus 19:16-19).”

Immediately following this utterly breathtaking, astounding display, the Eternal their God bequeathed on them what has become the most profound law ever granted a people – **the**

**Ten Commandments**, which are considered the founding principles of western civilization’s code of conduct and civility.

The Israelites were commanded to have no other gods before God, not create and worship idols, not take the Eternal God’s name in vain, and remember to keep the seventh-day Sabbath holy. God’s six other commandments encouraged them to honor their parents and not to murder, commit adultery, steal, bear false witness nor covet (Exodus 20:1-17).

“Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people

saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. Then they said to Moses, ‘You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.’ And Moses said to the people, ‘**Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that**







*His fear may be before you, so **that you may not sin**' (v. 18-20)."*

After additional divine statutes were delineated in Exodus 21-23, Moses affirmed Israel's covenant with God by ratifying it with **blood**. "And Moses took half the **blood** and put it in basins, and half the **blood** he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took *the Book of the Covenant* and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, '*All that the LORD has said we will do and be obedient.*' And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, 'Behold, the **blood of the covenant** which the LORD has made with you according to all these words (Exodus 24:6-8)."

### NEW TESTAMENT PENTECOST

At the end of His 3½-years ministry in 31 A.D., Jesus Christ was slain as a **Passover Lamb** on the very same day as the Israelites slew lambs and smeared their **blood** on doorposts in Egypt – the 14th of Nisan on the Hebrew calendar (*the night before at sunset began the 14th*, Exodus 12:6). He was the perfect fulfillment of that event about 1,500 years previously.

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

During the **Days of Unleavened Bread**, Christ was miraculously resurrected from the dead and ascended to God the Father in heaven as a perfect fulfillment of the wave sheaf offering (Daniel 7:13-14) described in Leviticus 23. *Fifty days* or *seven Sabbaths* later, another spectacular, supernat-

ural event was to occur on the **Feast of Pentecost** – just as happened with the Israelites at Mount Sinai more than 1,000 years previously! Once again, Almighty God irrefutably stamped His approval on this Annual Holy Day.

Contrary to popular belief, Jesus Christ did not nail **Passover**, the **Days of Unleavened Bread**, **Pentecost** nor any of God's other divinely sanctioned **Annual Holy Days** to the cross! To the contrary, Scripture plainly shows those days remain to be observed under the New Covenant as well as the Old Covenant! And their meaning carries even deeper spiritual significance.

Christ Himself told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they would

be *imbued with the power of God's Holy Spirit* (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4-5, 8). Perhaps little did they realize that they, like the Israelites, also were to experience one of the most spectacular displays of Almighty God's infinite power on the **Feast of Pentecost**!

"Now when the **Day of Pentecost** had fully come, *they were all with one accord* in one place. And *suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind*, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of **fire**, and one sat upon each of them. And *they were all filled with the Holy Spirit* and began to speak with other tongues (languages), as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:1-4)."

Once again, on the **Feast of Firstfruits**, God magnificently





intervened to dramatically display His limitless power and renew emphasis on the importance of **Pentecost**, which marked the begetting of His Church by His Holy Spirit. In the days of the early Church, people were not aware of electricity, but God's Holy Spirit easily can be compared to it. It is invisible, flows with a current and generates light. It was tremendous power poured out on the New Testament Church like Niagara Falls!

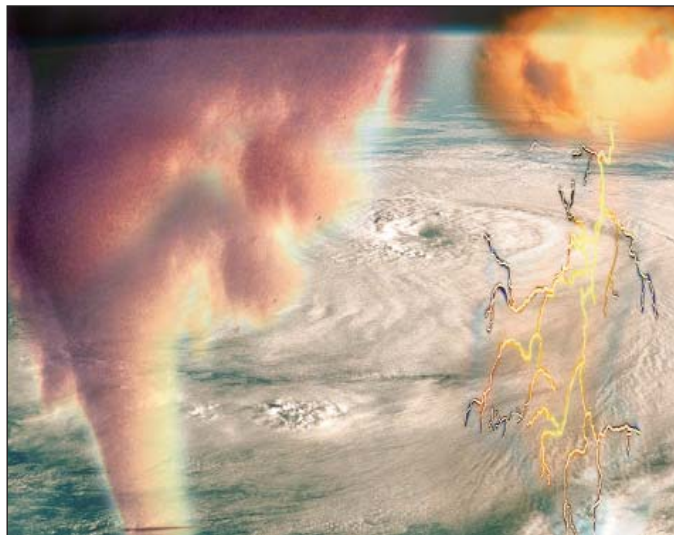
*God's Holy Spirit also is compared to a mighty, rushing wind, which – like hydroelectricity – is another source of power and has a current.* The outpouring must have sounded like a thousand locomotives! It seems like every year at **Pentecost** the hurricane season starts in the Atlantic Ocean and tornadoes increase throughout the U.S. Midwest and Southeast, as if to remind us of the tremendous power in wind. Typically, the most tornadoes in the United States are in May and June.

### DEVALUING PENTECOST'S MEANING

Many “pentecostals” more intent on *emotional sensations* than *obeying* God and His commandments cheapen the truly deep meaning of **Pentecost** by their wild antics and attempts to “call down the Spirit” at their “tarry” meetings. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong often encountered such people early in his ministry who would oppose and resist him at every opportunity.

“In Portland, I had gained some little experience with ‘pentecostal people.’ I had been somewhat overawed by their ‘speaking in tongues,’ and their glib ‘testimony.’ I had not yet at that time fully understood it. But I had noticed that *most of these people refused to obey God's commandments*; almost none had any real sound understanding of the Bible; they customarily had a wide knowledge of certain scattered texts – verses or partial verses – which they usually misapplied, entirely out of context, putting only a meaning of pseudo-spirituality on them. They spoke in what was supposed to be spiritually-sounding language. *They loved to show off – to brag, especially about their own spirituality which usually consisted of sentimentality and emotion,*” Mr. Armstrong wrote (*Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong*, Volume 1, Page 431).

The Apostle Paul wrote the Evangelist Timothy, “For God has not given us *a spirit of fear*, but of *power* and of *love* and of *a sound mind* (II Timothy 1:7).”



Yes, the true meaning of the **Feast of Pentecost** is so important to God that *thunder, lightning, smoke and earthquakes* rocked Mount Sinai to its foundation before He gave **His Ten Commandments** to the Israelites, who agreed in a covenant signed in **blood** to *obey* Him and His laws. It is so important that He also poured out **His Holy Spirit** on early Christians with **high velocity wind, loud noise and fire**.

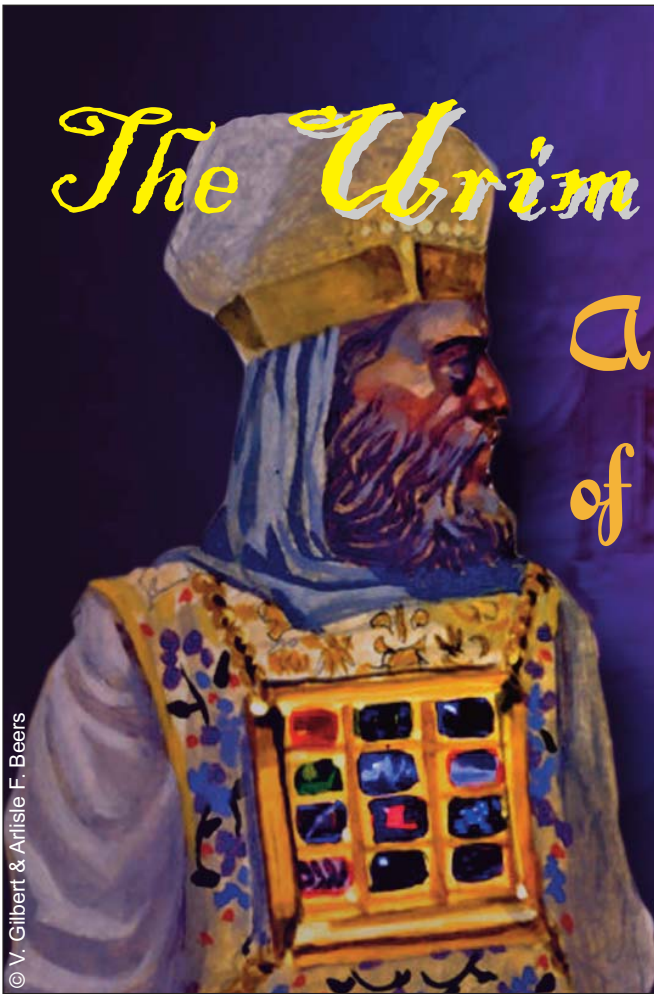
The Apostle Paul expounded the significance of these **Pentecost** miracles in his epistle to the Hebrews. He shows the first covenant failed because God found fault with the Israelites who “did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: *I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts* (Hebrews 8:7-10, 10:16).” As stated in an analogy to the Corinthians, God's law, in a sense, is “*written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart* (II Corinthians 3:3).”

Paul continues in Hebrews: “For you have not come to *the mountain* that may be touched and that burned with **fire**, and to **blackness** and **darkness** and **tempest**, and **the sound of a trumpet** and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore ... But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and *Church of the Firstborn* ... to

Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the **blood** of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel (Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24).”

One of the *spectacular* messages of **Pentecost** is that through **the power of God's Holy Spirit**, He can write His laws on our hearts just as He engraved the **Ten Commandments** on tablets of stone. Unlike the Israelites who failed to keep the **Old Covenant**, we can successfully keep the **New Covenant** by *obeying* God in the letter and the spirit of His wonderful law of love toward Him and all mankind!





# The Urim & Thummim

## A Copy and Shadow of God's Holy Spirit

'So Aaron shall bear the names of the sons of Israel on the breastplate of judgment over his heart, when he goes into the holy place, as a memorial before the LORD continually. And you shall put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be over Aaron's heart when he goes in before the LORD'

(Exodus 28:29-30, Leviticus 8:8)

By Ron Wilcoxson

One of the most mysterious and misunderstood subjects in the Old Testament is this description of the "Urim and the Thummim" that Aaron, the High Priest, wore when he entered God's holy place in the tabernacle. The literal meaning in the margin of the New King James version for "Urim" is "LIGHTS" and for "Thummim" is "PERFECTIONS."

The Jewish historian, Josephus, gives more insight into what the Urim and Thummim were and their use:

"For as to those stones, which we told you before, the high priest bare on his shoulders ... the one of them shined out when God was present at their sacrifices ... bright rays darting out thence ... which splendor yet was not before natural to the stone ... for God declared beforehand, by those twelve stones which the high priest bare on his breast, and which were inserted into his breastplate, when they should be victorious in battle; for so great a splendor shone forth from them before the army began

to march, that all the people were sensible of God's being present for their assistance. Whence it came to pass that those Greeks, who had a veneration for our laws ... called that breastplate *the Oracle*. Now this breastplate ... left off shining two hundred years before I composed this book, God having been displeased at the transgressions of His laws."

"These answers by the oracle of Urim and Thummim, which words signify *light and perfection*, or, as the Septuagint render them, *revelation and truth*, and denote nothing further, that I see, but the shining stones themselves, which were used, in this method of illumination, in revealing the will of God, after a perfect and true manner, to His people Israel ..." (Josephus – *The Antiquities of the Jews*, Book 3, Chapter 8).

### HOLY GARMENTS

God used Moses in a mighty way to establish His Old Covenant Church, the Congregation of Israel. God gave specific instructions on how He wanted each instrument patterned, according to how it would be used to work with a physical people (Exodus 25:9, Hebrews 8:5).



The garments for the priesthood were no different. These garments were holy, but not the priests who wore them (Exodus 28:2, 36, 40, 43).

But the garments made them holy, just as the Spirit of God is what makes us holy (Romans 8:9, I Corinthians 2:11).

God had them made to be used to minister to Him because God is Holy; the garments were a type, or a shadow of what God is truly seeking in His people through His Holy Spirit.

Aaron and his sons were consecrated to minister before God. They were washed with water, had holy garments put on them, and anointing oil was poured on their heads, a symbol of God's Holy Spirit.

### **GOD'S LEADERS FOLLOWED GOVERNMENT**

It's very important to note how God's servants used the Urim and Thummim to find the will of God and fulfill His purpose in their lives. It also is interesting to note that those spiritually motivated leaders had God's Spirit in them and yet God had them follow His governmental structure through the Priesthood, specifically the High Priest, who in reality represented Jesus Christ.

**“And the LORD said to Moses: ‘Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and inaugurate him in their sight. And you shall give some of your authority to him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient. He shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire before the LORD for him by the judgment**

**of the Urim; at his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he and all the children of Israel with him, all the congregation** (Numbers 27:18-21).”

David also often sought God's will by inquiring of the ephod which bore the breastplate of judgment and within were the Urim and Thummim. It is noteworthy that David not only consulted God frequently, **he also followed the instructions given** (I Samuel 23:2, 4, 6, 9-12, I Samuel 30:7-8, 18 II Samuel 2:1, 5:19, 23, 21:1).

### **MAN HELPLESS WITHOUT GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT**

Ancient Israel was a physical people, a physical nation and only given physical promises, but without the promise of eternal life for they did not have God's Holy Spirit (John 7:39). The things we read about them are for our admonition and learning (Romans 15:4, I Corinthians 10:1-11). Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, an Apostle and the Elijah to Come, sent by Jesus Christ Himself (Matthew 17:11,



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Malachi 4:5, 6), sheds more light on this important subject:

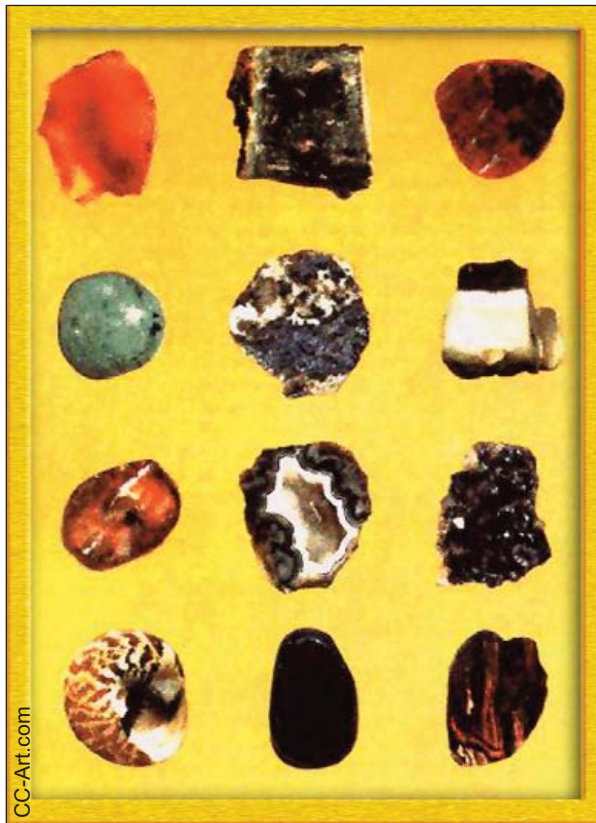
### FULFILLING THEIR ROLE DESPITE THEMSELVES

*Mystery of the Ages*, pages 174-175, Mr. Armstrong wrote: "But in what manner did the ancient nation Israel play a part in preparation for the KINGDOM OF GOD?"

"... God let many generations of ancient Israel and Judah prove by hundreds of years of human experience, that the best of humanity, without God's Holy Spirit CANNOT SOLVE HUMAN PROBLEMS AND EVILS!

"... The problems and evils are of a spiritual nature. And a carnal mind without God's Spirit cannot come to grips with spiritual problems. The many decades and centuries of ancient Israel PROVED THAT!

"Until Israel, God withheld knowledge of the right ways of human living from mankind. To Israel God gave His statutes and judgments, as well as His spiritual law. But these perfect laws did not, without God's Holy Spirit, solve the nation's problems! God could say: 'I am GOD. Take my word for it.' But God gave PROOF, through Israel, that WITHOUT the Holy Spirit, MAN IS



HELPLESS! They even had GOD to appeal to. But they did not have His Spirit within them."

We should be able to see why ancient Israel thought of the Urim and Thummim like good luck charms. They were taught God's commandments, statutes and judgments, but they as a physical people couldn't keep God's spiritual laws.

As God's people with His Holy Spirit, we can only keep God's spiritual laws of love because Jesus Christ is living His life in us through the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9, I Corinthians 2:11, 12:13, Galatians 2:20).

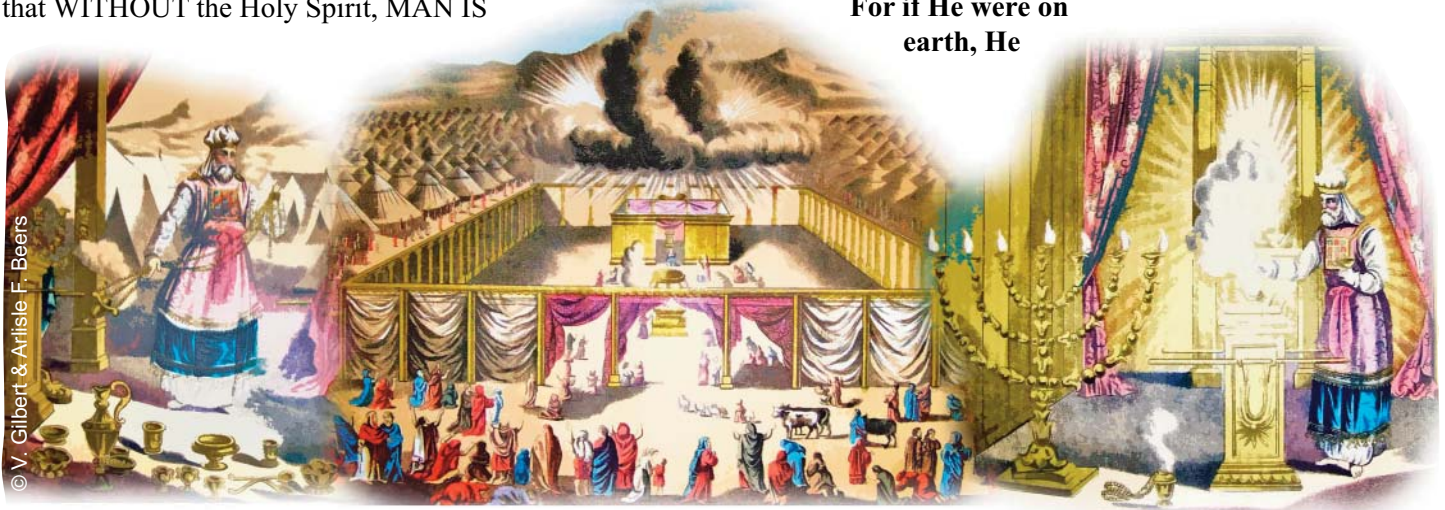
### CHRIST OUR HIGH PRIEST NOW IN HEAVEN

As the 'I AM' and Eternal God of the Old Testament, Christ personally was Israel's "Light and Perfection" or Urim and Thummim. He emptied Himself of His Divine privileges, but not of His Divinity, and became Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:7).

Christ came in the role of a servant to become our Savior, Author and Captain of our salvation, who now resides in heaven, at the right hand of God the Father, as our High Priest (Hebrews 2:10, 5:5, 6, 9-10).

**"Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man. For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer.**

**For if He were on earth, He**





would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, *‘See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain’* (Hebrews 8:1-5).”

### SCRIPTURE SHEDS MORE LIGHT ON URIM AND THUMMIM

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. ... That was the true Light which gives light to every man who comes into the world. ...”

(In reality, both the Word and God were Light and Perfection, because they were in complete harmony with each other. In addition, Christ’s brother, James, makes reference to the Father of Lights in James 1:17).

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:1-5, 9, 14).”

As Christ was the true light for all of mankind ever to be born, He also was our example to follow. “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: *‘Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth’* (I Peter 2:21-22).” Jesus Christ tells us to let our lights shine. “You are the light of the world, a city that is set on a hill



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cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:14-16).”

We must remember God’s Holy Spirit is the power source for these lights. “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105).”

The Apostle John admonishes us to walk in the light. “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin (I John 1:5-7).”

### GOING ON TO PERFECTION

Just as we were required to walk in the light as Christians, we also are told to be perfect. “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect (Matthew 5:48).”

The word “*perfect*” comes from the Greek word “*teleios*” (tel’-i-os), Strong’s number 5046. It means: “brought to its end, finished, wanting nothing necessary to completeness; consummate; human integrity and virtue; full grown, adult, of full age, mature, that which is perfect.” It is very easy to understand the definition of the word perfect.





It literally means **PERFECT**. But as humans, we are not perfect! However, God tells us that we are saved by grace through faith.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:8-10).”



HIGH PRIEST

The point Christ is making is that we must use His Holy Spirit and His faith to strive for perfection (Matthew 5:48).

The Apostle Paul also exhorts us to **go on to perfection** (II Corinthians 13:9; Hebrews 6:1; 7:11).

The Apostle Peter equates suffering with perfection. “**But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while,**

**perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you** (I Peter 5:10).” We have trials because we are not perfect yet, we need them to refine, purify and perfect our character (Acts 14:22, James 1:2-4, I Peter 4:12-13).

### PETER REMINDS US WE ARE A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (I Peter 2:9).”

As the Feast of Pentecost approaches, let us be wide awake and strive to stay off Satan’s dark path by using God’s Holy Spirit to give as much light as we can before our work is done.



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Those shadows to come in the Old Testament are now a reality for every true Christian with God’s Holy Spirit. **Let us now walk in God’s light and be perfected.**



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# Tears a *MUST* in the lives of God's People

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**By Ron Wheeler**

I appreciated the opportunity to give two sermons at the 2008 Feast of Tabernacles in Tucson, Arizona. I had given both sermons before. However, the members of Faithful Flock in Tucson had not heard them. The first sermon, titled “Tears,” covered a MAJOR subject in the Bible, though not doctrinal, *per se*, but nonetheless it is very important in the lives of God’s people.

Briefly, let’s review the subject of tears and weeping as an introduction to the rest of this article because it ties in completely with the subject of the feelings and emotions that God’s people too often have suppressed due to a lack of understanding.

## **TEARS AND MOURNING**

The subject of tears was not taught in the Worldwide Church of God’s sermon and article repertoire because of a concern about Pentecostalism. Many years ago, there was concern that if the Church (as a whole) ever displayed their

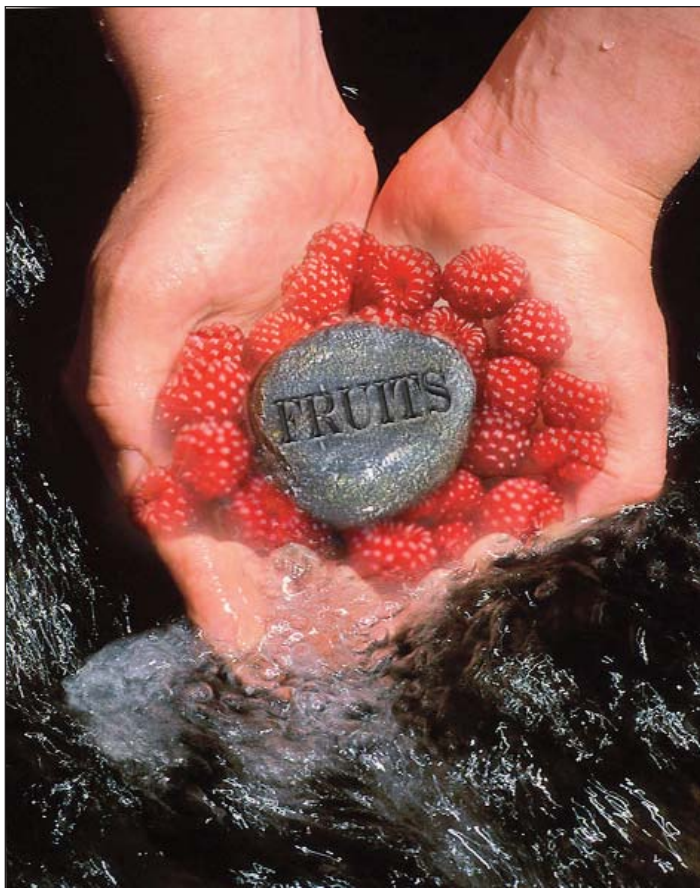
emotions – especially in public – they would “descend” into the whooping, dancing and shouting of the Pentecostals.

It was with this in mind that Mr. Armstrong expressed the thought at times over the years in sermons that we as God’s people needed more expressed emotion, but in a right and balanced way.

And just before he died, Mr. Armstrong can be remembered as admonishing us, telling us that he thought we had stifled our emotions in the Church too much over the years. I was one of those who heard him say that!

There are several Biblical examples about the importance of emotion, particularly tears and weeping. In Hebrews 5:7, we see that “... **when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears ...**” Christ, our Savior, actually cried out His whole heart to His Father. He pleaded with God for the help needed not to sin and





thus disqualify Himself as our Savior. The shortest and perhaps easiest verse in the Bible to remember is John 11:35, **“Jesus wept.”**

It is impossible to cover that whole sermon here, but the summary is that tears, weeping and mourning somehow connect our heads to our hearts, and then to God. There is no explanation as to how this works, but it works, and Scripture clearly reveals that it does work! **“Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning (Joel 2:12).”**

Here we find that Joel 2:12 gives us the formula for getting close to God. (The apostle James also has the same formula, James 4:7-10!)

And IT IS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR that if fasting were enough, verse 12 would have stopped there! But God adds weeping and mourning. **THE SHEDDING OF TEARS IS REQUIRED TO GET CLOSE TO GOD.** But over the years, as far as is known, no minister was telling us that! Satan hid the truth from us through the teachings of our youth with one of the simplest of all his sayings, *“Big boys don’t cry.”* This was instilled within us! Well, we have just read about the Creator of the Universe crying. They don’t get any bigger than that!

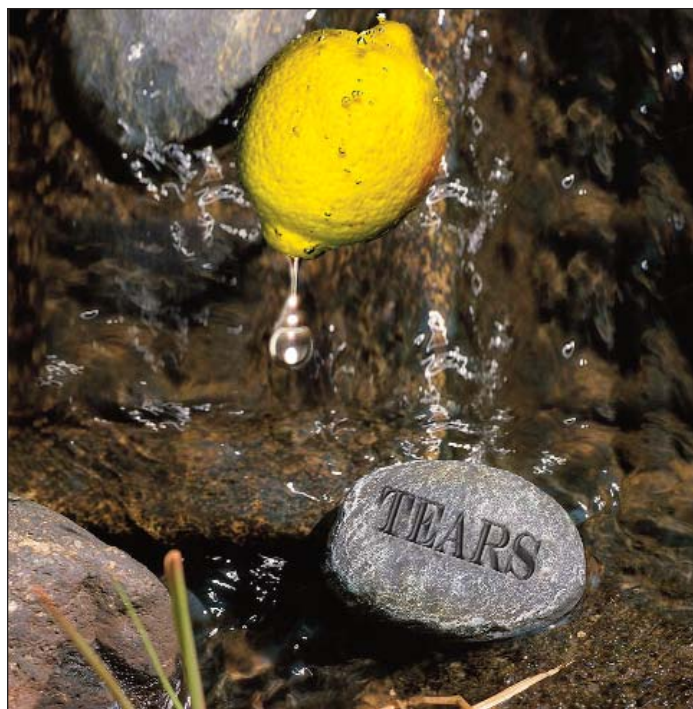
PLEASE do your own study of these words and their variants: tears, weep, wept, mourn, sigh, sorrow, grieve, grief and groaning. **You will then see *clearly* that this absolutely vital information is sorely needed during troubling times in our lives.**

And those very hard and trying times are just before us when there will be a great need to cry out to God with strong tears: **“Now therefore,” says the LORD, “Turn to Me with ALL your heart, with fasting, with weeping and mourning (Joel 2:12-13).”**

The Scripture from Joel clearly makes known that such an attitude of crying out to God with fasting, weeping and mourning is due to *an established intimate relationship with God* that Satan through his false ministers continues trying hard to destroy. This we saw almost right away after the death of Mr. Armstrong when divine healing was dealt with by removing the substance from it by saying there is no such thing as physical sin. This directly connects with the Passover and our relationship with God and Jesus Christ. And Satan was trying to destroy it.

Aside from Mr. Armstrong and the very few faithful ministers, there have been MANY more unconverted ministers than has been realized (*Mystery of the Ages*, page 262). They really DID creep in unaware – and we missed that fact at the time.

**“The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; and he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat?” says the LORD.**







**‘Is not My word like a fire?’ says the LORD, ‘and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces? Therefore behold, I am against the prophets,’ says the LORD, ‘who steal My words everyone from his neighbor. Behold, I am against the prophets,’ says the LORD, ‘who use their tongues and say, ‘He says.’ ‘Behold, I am against those who prophesy false dreams,’ says the LORD, ‘and tell them, and cause My people to err by their lies and by their recklessness. Yet I did not send them or command them; therefore they shall not profit this people at all,’ says the LORD (Jeremiah 23:28-32).’**

And just as the false prophets were creeping in during Paul’s day, they crept in during ours as well (II Peter 2:1-3, Jude 3-4)! But it is actually MUCH worse than just the understanding of tears that has been kept from us! It includes what Mr. Armstrong was concerned about when he said we have stifled our emotions and feelings WAY too much. Let us try to fix this here without jumping into the hypothetical Pentecostal ditch.

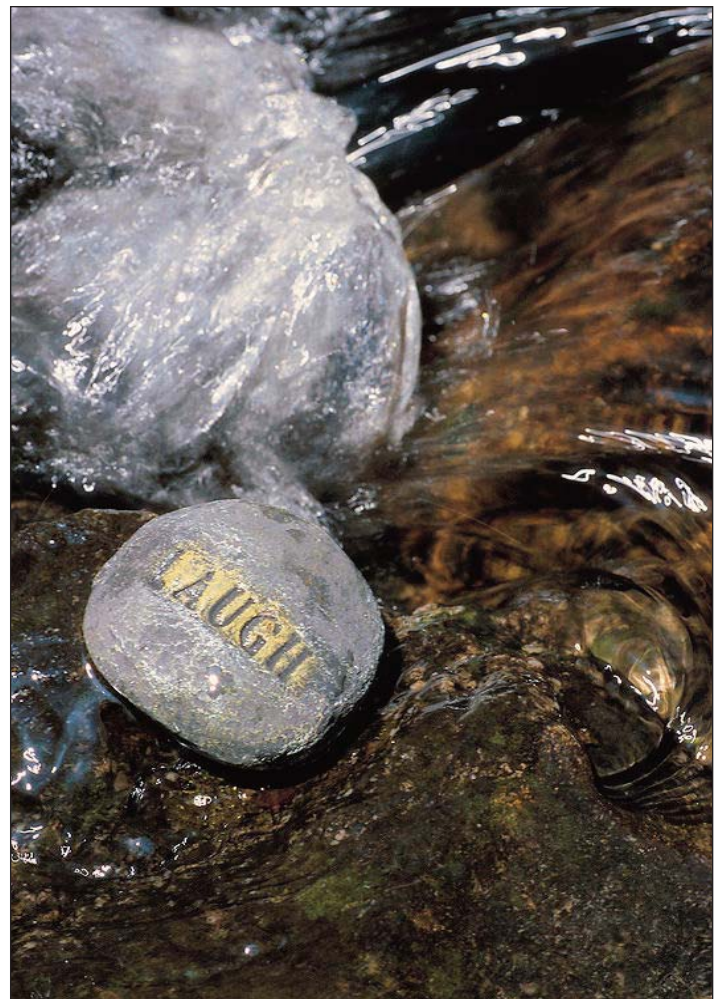


## **THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT:** **JOY**

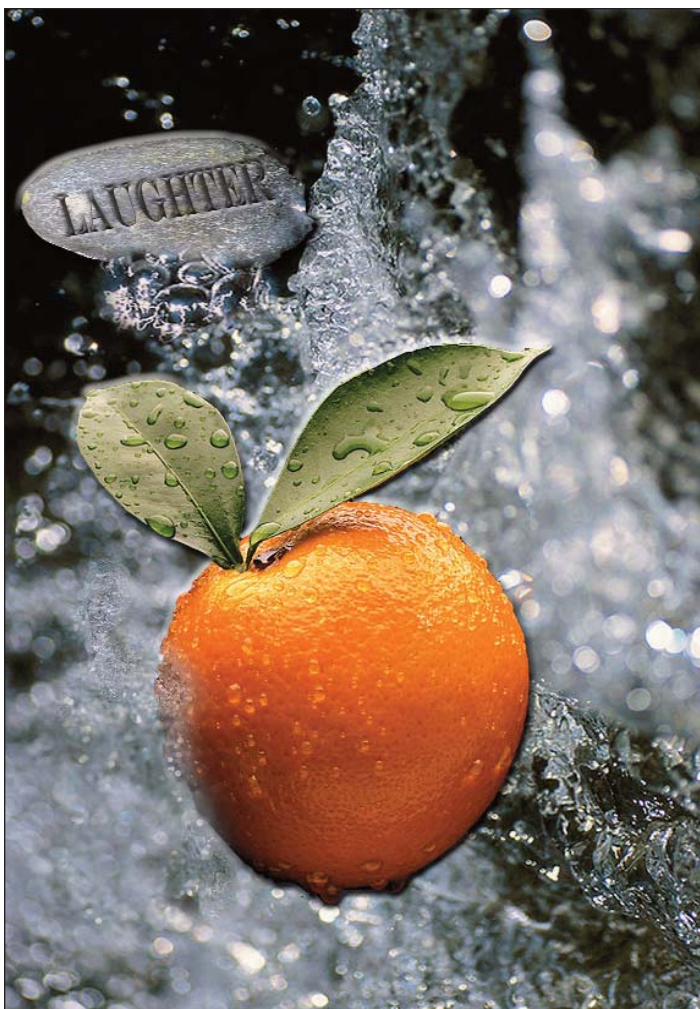
There is another emotion hardly spoken about over the years – joy! Is joy an emotion? You bet it is! Do we have to “feel” it? Absolutely! I think there is even a commercial that says, “Feel the joy.” Does God want us to feel it? Yes to that as well. Notice in **John 15:11**, “**These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full,**” and again in John 16:24, “**Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.**”

Joy is the second fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22. Is the joy in our lives full? Probably not. Why not? The answer: Because we have kept it from ourselves due to a lack of closeness to God. I

will apologize up front if someone thinks I am talking too much about myself in this article, but you see, it is the only thing I know and thus can convey to you with certainty.







I have been told that one of the few good qualities about me is my laugh. People tell me it is infectious. Most people can hear me laughing at all of the ministry's jokes aisles away. I try to be sure that I really am full of joy and happiness. But I had that confirmed in the most unusual way.

At the end of the Feast in 2007, they took up a survey as to how the accommodations were at the Branson Feast site that year. One essay question was, "What was the highlight of your whole Feast?" One woman came up to me on the Last Great Day and wanted to show me that what she wrote as the answer to that question was, "It was Mr. Wheeler's laugh." WOW! I have never had *that* happen before. To be the highlight of someone's Feast?

But my dear brethren, except for love which is first, joy beats anything else vying for second place! I want to be full of joy, and I'm sure you do as well. But Satan has robbed us of this emotion also. Satan is the ultimate downer, discourager, negative attitude, etc. The only good news is that I HAVE heard sermons on joy over the years.

If Satan can keep us constantly down, discouraged and disheartened – for WHATEVER reason, then he has us! **And**

**aside from the rare sermons on the subject of joy, he has kept from us the very words of Jesus Christ wherein Christ wants our joy to be full.**

### **PEACE**

Do we all understand the concept listed in Philippians 4:7 ("... **the peace of God which surpasses all understanding**"), in conjunction with the emotion of joy? Paul couldn't explain it – it passes all human reason and understanding. But this "emotion," this peace, like tears, has *never* been explained by ANY sermon that I have ever heard. There IS an incredible tangibility of this peace. The reason it surpasses all understanding is because there is nothing like it. It is more like a glow and warmth in our minds put there by God's Spirit. It truly IS peace. It smoothes everything out, keeps us from getting upset by Satan and his world. It is the opposite of his agitation and fears. It truly IS peace. As Christ said in John 14:27, "**Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**"

**This is Christ's peace IN us by way of His Holy Spirit.**

And notice that in the fruits of the Spirit it is listed third after love and joy. These first three are the fruits that have been little understood and experienced as they should have been! Notice the implied tangibility Christ puts on **His peace**. It is NOTHING like the world or humanity can give. It is His peace which can be distinguished clearly! Until we have this peace ourselves, we cannot completely understand what is being said here. The goal is SO worthy, that once we obtain this precious peace, we will wonder what we have done without it all these years. This peace, joy and love ALL come as tangible manifestations of God's Holy Spirit. We have to be close to God to have them – but they are ALL promised as fruits of His Spirit and as the world says, "you can put that in the bank." They are **tangible** assets!







### **LOVE AND THE REWARDS OF THE SPIRIT**

Love is the last of the first three fruits of God's Spirit we have not yet covered. And it might just have the biggest physical manifestation of all. Notice in **John 7:38**, "**He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water** (KJV)."

The New King James translation renders this "**out of his heart**," but I believe the old King James definition as "**belly**" is slightly better, because it feels more like it is coming from one's solar plexus. God's Spirit FLOWS! And what a wonderful feeling it is to love our neighbor, like gushing torrents of living water flowing out of our being!

Mr. Armstrong understood this perfectly. He compared God's love flowing out of us in love and good works and then returning like an electrical circuit back to God. God's Spirit can be felt by the inward feelings of the warmth of true love, joy and peace! These rewards of His Spirit are intended by God! They are like rewards for being close to God and having His Spirit fully in us! There is NOTHING WRONG with seeking these feelings and seeking God's rewards! "***But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him*** (Hebrews 11:6)."

Yes, these rewards of love, joy and peace are spiritual. However, they also have physical manifestations. How could we feel them otherwise? In the past, aside from Mr. Armstrong and the very few faithful ministers of God, some of the *obviously false prophets* have declared that one cannot feel anything connected to God's Holy Spirit.

This is untrue as one can find from the both Scripture and from the personal experience of Mr. Armstrong—but certainly not to the extreme as in Pentecostalism (*Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong*, Vol. 1, Pages 319-320). By so doing, they were cutting us off from expecting these true

rewards from God. Truth was stolen from us as God said it would be. These fruits of the Spirit are just that – FRUITS!

We need to enjoy the fruits of the labor we have exerted to get close to God and bask in His Spirit! Notice the incredibly positive Scripture in Romans 15:13, "**Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**"

Again, we read in Romans 14:17-19 that, "**The kingdom of God is not food and drink, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.**"

The ENTIRE purpose of this article is to reverse the damage that Satan has done by robbing us of the overwhelming and tangible rewards of God's Holy Spirit, both for the future but **also for the here and now!** The love, joy and peace that flow from God are the MOST PRECIOUS commodities a human being can obtain.

God promised us a Comforter (John 14:16). That IS His Holy Spirit – and IT TRULY COMFORTS as we can see in the Scriptures quoted here. One of His names is the Father of mercies and the God of ALL comfort! (II Corinthians 1:3) Satan is the father of discouragement, fear, unrest and ALL the negativity this world proffers and has kept this precious truth from us! This wonderful TRUTH is refreshing and encouraging to realize we no longer need ever to be afraid to shed any tears.

Brethren, let us seek these fruits of the Spirit and obtain the love, joy and peace that God so richly offers by drawing nigh to God that He may draw nigh to us (James 4:8). As they say, "You will be blown away by the results!"





# Counting Pentecost

Continued from Page 4



HERBERT AND LOMA ARMSTRONG NEAR DeSOTO

Well, anyway, I had to start studying the Bible. I found myself wondering if there is a God after all. *I began to realize I had never proved whether God exists.* I'd been brought up to believe there is a God. Now, why did I believe it? Well, I'd been taught it since I was a child, and I took it for granted. I had never seen proof and now I said, "I have to see proof! I've got to prove whether God exists!"

Now, before I began to learn any of the doctrines that you have now learned, I had to prove absolute proof that God exists. And I proved it by several infallible proofs. And I have been able since to convince atheists and communists that they are wrong and that God does exist and make them admit that I had proved it to them.

*The next thing I had to come to is the Bible.* Now, I know that the Koran is the religious writings of the Islamic peo-

ple and which of these writings is the real revelation of God and how does God talk to man?

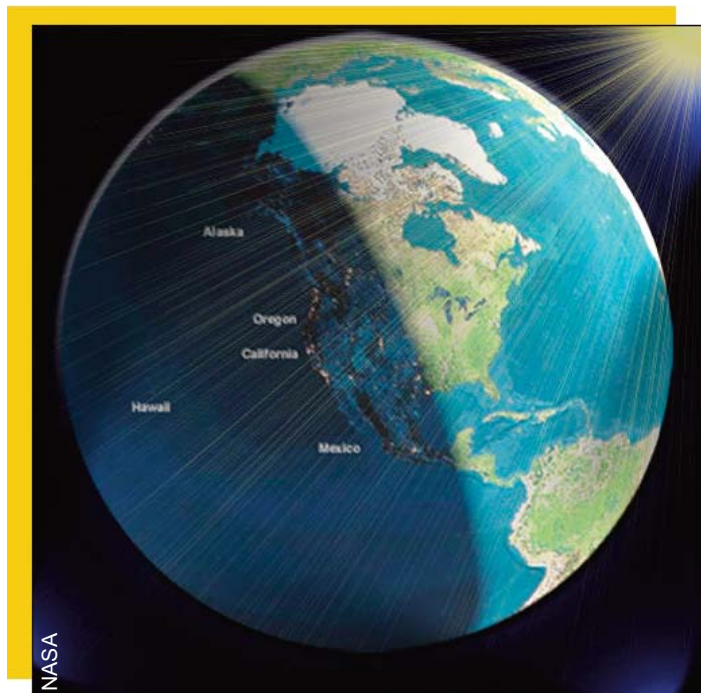
*I started with the Bible, and before I got doctrines I had proved that this book, the Holy Bible, is in its original writings, and we do have several translations, and it was originally, of course, mostly in two different lan-*



16TH CENTURY HEBREW BIBLE

guages, part of it, and then a third language – Aramaic. But I had to find, and we can get at the original if we will have the patience and study, that it is the inspired and authoritative word of the Living God. I found that I could believe this book, but I had to, in some cases, go to the original languages.

I had to study different translations. That much I did have to do in some cases, but not many, because the King James Bible is about 99.9999 percent correct as far as that goes. And as I say, the only one that I know that might even have been an improvement on it is the Revised Standard.







Ark Stock Photos

speak in very simple language. I don't talk to them about the Ten Commandments. They don't understand that. *I just say that there are two ways of life, and you either go one way or the other.* There is no other way at all – two broad ways. And I make it so simple a little child can get this.

*There are two ways to live, and one is the way that I call "give." Now, you know what that means. And the other is the way that I call "get" or "take." Now everything is "give" or "get," and there are two different ways. Now, God's way is the way of "give" and that is the way of out-flowing love.*

Now, I brought along with me today the Moffatt translation. I use Moffatt quite a little ... Moffatt did not exactly transliterate. He put what he thought was the meaning and in some cases he was wrong.

So, I would recommend that you use the King James as your main Bible. And if you can afford two, and I think that any of you could, I would say get the Revised Standard. But these more modern translations that have come out in the last two, three, five years, I will not recommend a one of them because today there is an absolute tendency everywhere to water down, to change, to liberalize and to, in other words, go more toward Satan's way.

### THE MESSAGE OF GIVE VERSUS GET

Now, when I talk to audiences overseas and in other nations, and in some cases they speak a different language, but I speak to the chief people, and people high in government and education who also understand English. And when I do, I

Now, you children each have a mother, and your mother loves you because you mean an awful lot to her and that is real love and that is "give." That is mostly "give." Maybe some mothers get a little bit of "get" in it here and there, but mostly a mother is one who gives to her child.

So I just put it in that kind of plain language, and they begin to understand it. Now, the way of "get," the way of this world, is *self-centeredness*. It's everything comes to me. I, me, I'm number one. I don't care about you. I'm only



A MOTHER'S LOVE





### GETTING

concerned about me. No one else is going to look after my interests if I don't. I want to get all I can get. I want to take whatever I can take. If I'm a child, I want to take the other child's toy and play with it. I want to get everything I can get. I want to have what I can have. I want to have this, and I'll cry if I don't get it.

Now, it is the way of vanity then, of self-love, of self-centeredness and it is the way of coveting what someone else has or the way of lust and greed. It also is the way toward other people of envy and jealousy, and the way of competition to compete with others.

Now, every one of our games and sports, at least almost every one, is a matter of competition. You take football, basketball, anything of that kind. It's a matter of trying to keep the other side from getting anything if you can. Don't let him get anything, but get all that you can get yourself. The one who gets the most and has the highest score wins. That's the devil's way of life, and competition leads to strife and finally vio-

lence and then to war, and that's why we have wars all over the world. It also is the way of jealousy and envy, and it is the way of resentment of any authority over you.

But now, "**give**," that's the way of love going out toward others, the giving way, not lust, but love. *And love is giving, and the greatest giver of all is God. God is the great giver.* Now the way of love is cooperation, not competition. It is the way of giving instead of taking away from others. It is the way of sharing, and saying, "I want others to share what I have, too. I want to share it with them if I can."

Now, it's all right to look after your own interests. You have to look after number one, but it is stated in the Bible of love toward others that you shall love your neighbor as yourself. You have to love yourself, too. But loving yourself, you have to remember that this self that is you is something God created and gave you and made you responsible for, and if you love yourself, you often take good

care of yourself, of this little body that is yours, and this mind that is yours. And you'll take good care of it. And it isn't giving others to the extent you harm yourself. You don't want to harm others. You don't want to harm yourself. You want us all to be happy. It is the way of cooperation, of sharing, of giving, of helping, of serving. Jesus came as a servant. He came to serve others and help. He



### GIVING



## A collage of sports images. In the top left, a basketball player in a colorful jersey with the number 1 is seen from behind. In the top right, two basketball players are playing on a court. In the center, a large, stylized orange hand is pointing upwards. In the bottom left, a football player in a white jersey with the number 22 and the name N. GRAHAM is running. In the bottom right, a soccer player in a yellow jersey is kicking a ball into a goal. In the middle right, a soccer player in a red jersey is running. In the bottom center, a football player in a dark jersey is running.

U.S. Nav. Jupiter Images

didn't come to lord it over others and say, "You listen to me, or I'll do so and so to you." He didn't come like that. He came with love. He came wanting to help and wanting to share.

[illegible]



has happened all through the time from 31 A.D. when Christ ascended to heaven until now.

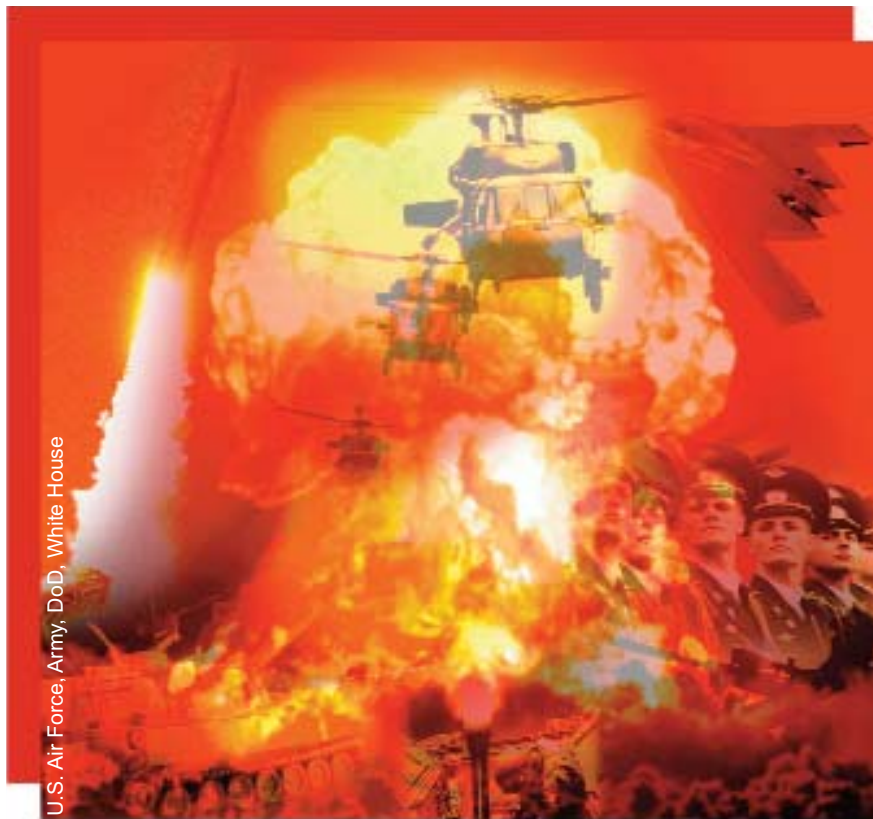
**“And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all of these things must come to pass BUT THE END IS NOT YET.”** Now that shows, that’s not the sign of the end.

**“For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom,” and there shall be famines and earthquakes in different places and “all these are the beginning of sorrows.”**

Really there are two kinds of sorrow. One, as we are sorrowful as we come to the Passover that Christ had to die for us, and we’re partly sorrowful that He had to pay that price, but we caused it. It’s because we have sinned, and we have done wrong that He had to give a life that had never sinned, in our stead. That’s one kind of sorrow. We’re sorry He had to pay that price. But I think along with it perhaps that we should be a little bit sorry that we have done what we did to cause Him to have to die for us.

But there is another sorrow, being sorry for what you did. You did something wrong, and you wake up to it and say, “Well, I sure am sorry that I did that.” But just sorrow alone or being sorry or remorseful is not repentance. Repentance is something very much deeper than that.

And He said, **“All these are the beginning of sorrows.”** So we’ve had a time of sorrow for 1900 years. **“Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and you shall be hated of all nations for My name’s sake.”** Now, that began with the early apostles. Many of them were martyred and if any of you, I wonder if you have



read *“Foxe’s Book of Martyrs?”* That shows how actually millions of Christians were martyred and tortured and put to death for believing in Jesus Christ. That has been happening for 1900 years. That is not the sign of the end.

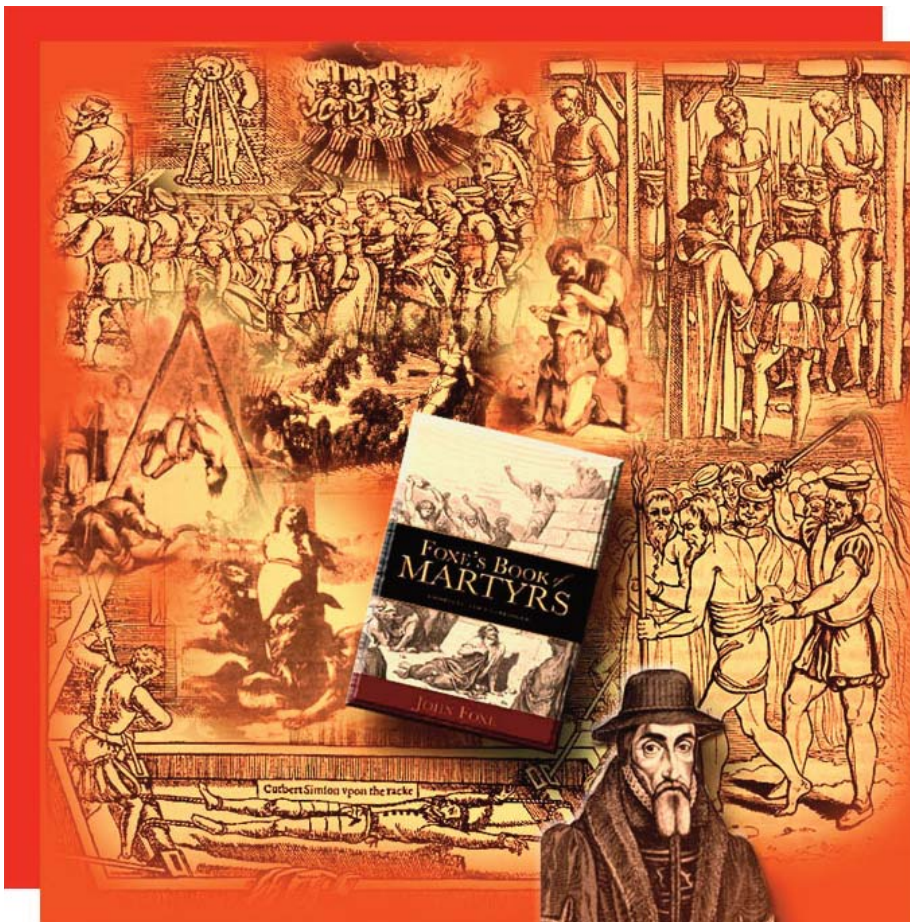
And, He says, **“Then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise.”** Now, false

prophets have risen, and they began rising almost immediately. And they had actually turned the churches in Galatia to another gospel by the time that Paul wrote the Book of Galatians as you read in the first chapter and verses six and seven. Galatians 1:6-7. Already the true gospel had been suppressed. The gospel that Christ brought is the gospel He preached. The gospel Christ brought is the message God sent by Him. *He was the Messenger with a message (Malachi 3:1; Mark 1:1-3, 14-15).*

Well, what is the gospel they are preaching today? They are preaching a message about the person of the Messenger, but they don’t preach anything about His message. Now, we believe in His message, and that is the Kingdom of God is coming. Now, He came preaching the gospel of the Kingdom, the gospel of the Kingdom of God, and that’s what they turned away from. **“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.”**

In other words, He was telling them then, and all ever since that read this, that we have to endure these trials and these things. And the one that endures to the end will be saved. Paul used it like a race. You can have say a mile or a two mile race and one man may be pretty well in the lead





halfway, but he can't endure and others can and so he falls back and he doesn't win at all. The one who wins is the one who is there at the finish. And that's the way it is. He says that **"he that shall endure unto the END, the same shall be saved."**

But now we come down, the next verse is where Jesus finally gave them the only place that He gives *the sign* of how we'll know that the Kingdom of God is coming and that Christ's Second Coming and the end of THIS world is at hand. It doesn't mean the end of the earth. It's just the end of this world, this civilization. That's in verse 14.

**"And, this gospel,"** this gospel Jesus was preaching. This **"gospel of the Kingdom shall**

**be preached in all the world, for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."**

When will the end come? When the gospel of the Kingdom, they had turned to another gospel. They had turned to a message about the person of Christ. It could not be a sign that Christ was coming if that gospel had been preached all along. The very fact that that gospel was not preached for a thousand, nine hundred years shows that someone was going to come and preach that gospel just before the Second Coming of Christ.

So, He said, **"then shall the end come. When you therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judea,"** not those that are in Tucson, Arizona, but **"let them which be in Judea**

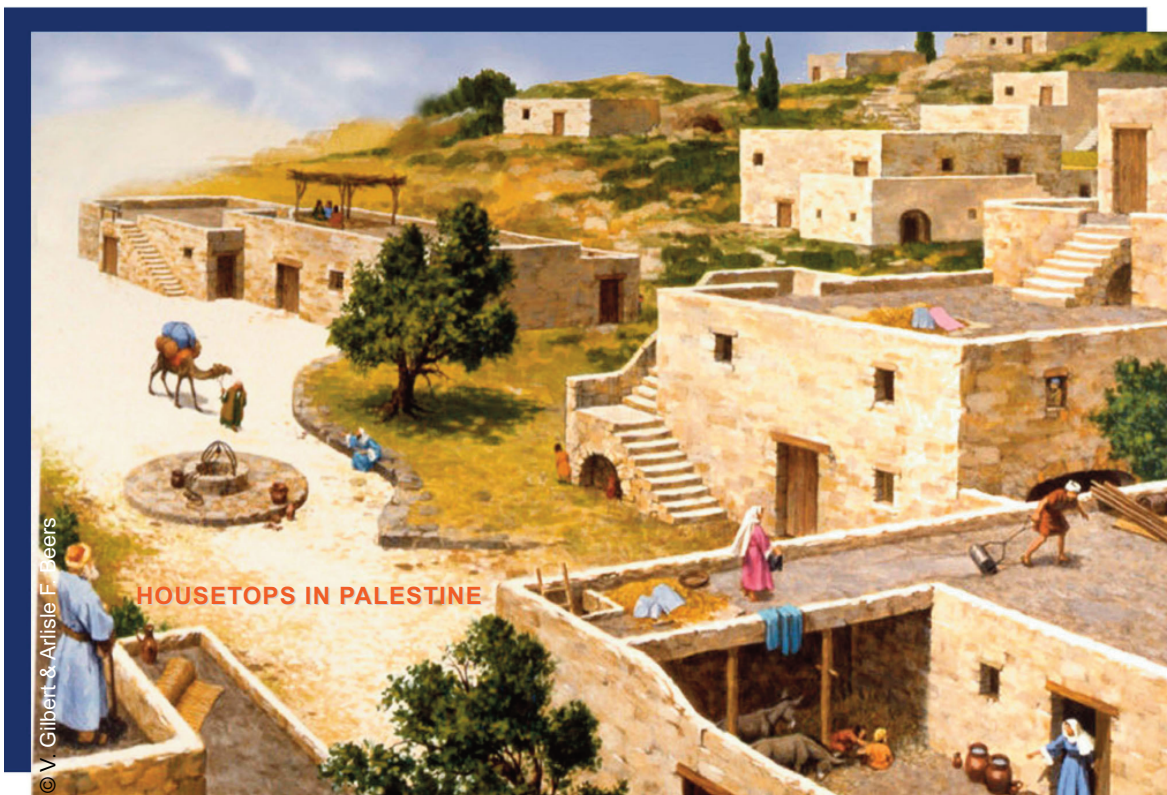
**flee into the mountains, and let him which is on the housetop not come down, to take anything out of his**

**house: Neither let him which is in the field return to take his clothes."** *But they are going to have to run and flee in a hurry.*



But now He says here, **"when you shall see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet stand in the holy place,"** then you are to flee to the mountains, those in Jerusalem. Now then, what did He mean? Many of our ministers even have said, and I'm trying to straighten them out on this, that that was a case of Antiochus Epiphanes in the year 168 B.C., but Antiochus Epiphanes put a statue of Jupiter Olympus, which is an idol, of course, into the Holy of Holies, an abomination, and that that's what it means.





not a statue of Jupiter Olympus. Well, I just wanted to clear up that little point as we get along.

Now, He says, **“Woe unto them that are with child and that give suck in those days! Pray that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath Day,”** but that is those that happen to be in Jerusalem at that time, that might be some of us.

Well, I’d like to show you what it means. Now, if we would turn over to Luke 21 and in verse 20, Luke is writing about the same things, but he puts it in a little different language, the same thing, and he says, **“When you shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.”** It’s those armies that are going to make Jerusalem desolate, not a statue thrown into a holy place, and beside, *there is no such holy place in Jerusalem now.*

Anyway, I can show you that back in Daniel’s prophecy, in Daniel 11 and it comes in verses 30 and 31, **“For the ships of Chittim shall come against him: and therefore he shall be grieved, and return and have indignation against the holy covenant: and he shall do, he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant. And arms,”** now that means an army, this is speaking of Antiochus Epiphanes, **“arms shall stand on his part, and they,”** these armies, **“shall pollute the sanctuary of strength and shall take away the daily sacrifice and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.”** *It is the armies surrounding Jerusalem that are going to make it desolate,*

**“For then shall be GREAT TRIBULATION.”** Now, that’s spoken of in, about let’s see, about two or three other places. Daniel 12 speaks of it, **“a time of trouble such as never was before.”** And in Jeremiah 30 it speaks of “trouble such as never was before,” couldn’t be but one such time, and it then calls it, really, it’s the trouble that comes on America and Britain, if you understand it.

**“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.”**

Now, how great is that time of trouble? That’s just ahead of us now.

**“And, except those days should be shortened there should no flesh be saved,”** and other translations have it **“saved alive.”** That isn’t talking about spiritual salvation. It’s talking about saving your life, “saved alive,” your physical life. **“No flesh should be saved alive,”** in other words every human being would be killed, **“but for the elect’s**



ANTIOCHUS  
EPIPHANES/  
JUPITER COINS





JERUSALEM PANORAMA

sake, those days shall be shortened.” *And we are that elect.*

Now, if you go on it comes down finally: “Immediately after the **tribulation** of those days,” verse 29, “shall the sun be darkened, the moon shall not give her light and the stars shall fall from heaven and the powers of heaven shall be shaken.”

For then “shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, for they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” *That is the Second Coming of Christ.*

Now, in other words, that will come right after this **Great Tribulation**, but it’s those signs that God will set in the heavens that are going cut short the days and stop that terrible, **Great Tribulation**.

### THE DEMISE OF ISRAEL AS NATIONS

Incidentally, let me tell you, that is a time that foretells that in the United States and Britain, and Canada, that *one third of our people will be killed because all of our cities will be destroyed.*

Now, that means nothing but nuclear energy, hydrogen bombs and other forms of nuclear destruction, nothing else could destroy enough cities to kill one third of all our people. *Another third will have died just prior to that as a result of a disease epidemic caused by famine and lack of rain. And the third that remain, are going to be taken as slaves over to Europe and perhaps some of them will even be taken down to South America, but the Bible doesn’t give the exact destination of where they will be taken.*

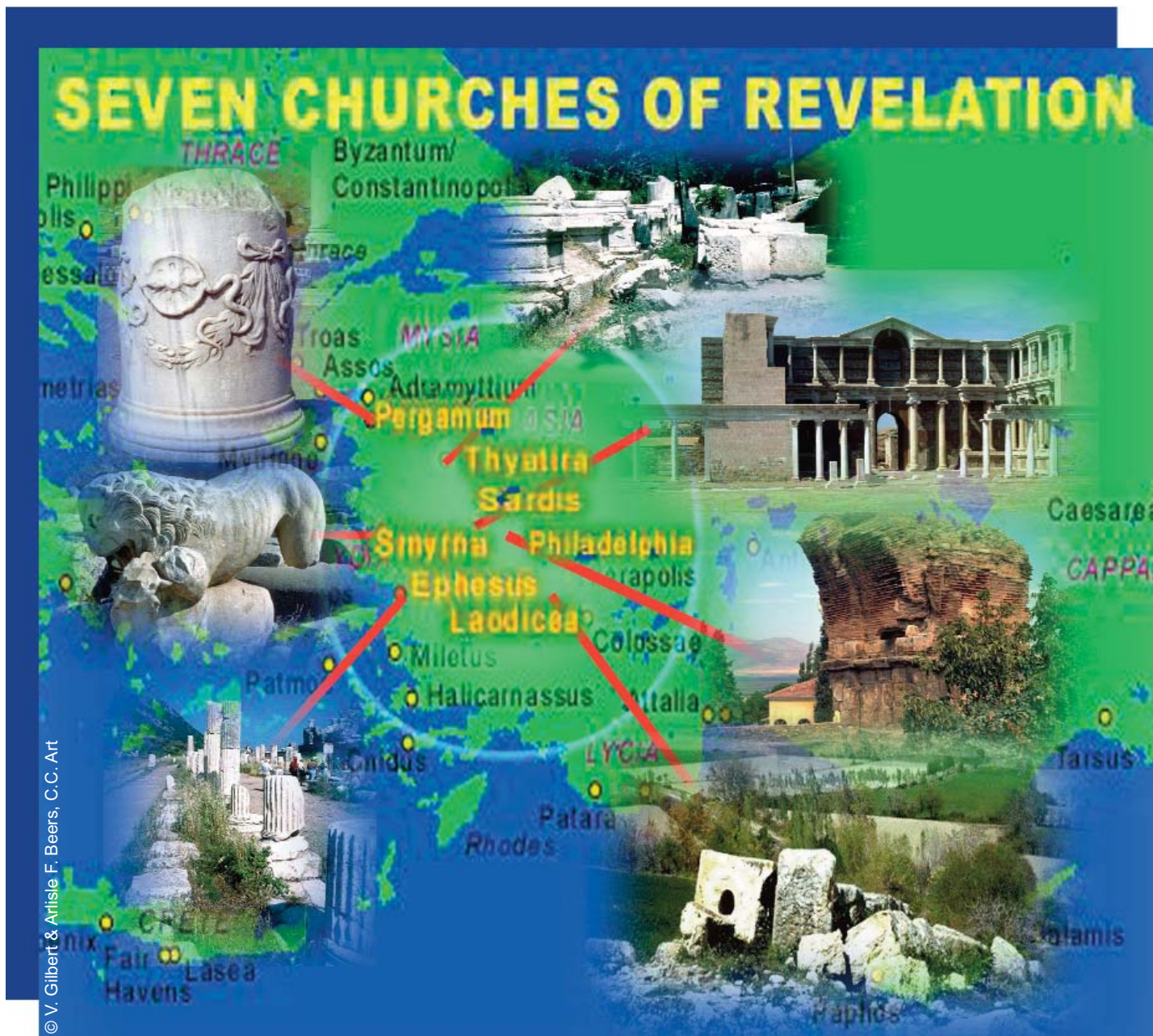
Now, if you have a copy of our booklet, *The United States and the British in Prophecy*, that will explain all of that. I won’t go into it further at this time. But now, Matthew 24 is explaining the book of Revelation, and I would like to turn for a moment over to Revelation and show you how it starts out. **“The Revelation of**

**Jesus Christ to John.”** It is not the revelation of John, but of Jesus Christ. **“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him to shew to His servants things which must shortly come to pass.”**

And it’s a message to the seven Churches, and in the 10th verse he shows the theme of the whole book of Revelation, how in a vision in the spirit, he was taken into the Day of the Lord. And there is the only place in the Bible it is called the “Lord’s Day,” but the **“Lord’s Day”** is the *“Day of the Lord.”*

The second chapter of Revelation goes a little further and shows the setting in heaven and the throne of God and the third chapter, well, the third and fourth chapters are the messages of Christ to the Churches. Now, we’re one of





those Churches, but we're in what we call *the Philadelphia era of the Church*, which is a time element considered.

Now, chapter four, **"after this I looked, and behold a door was opened in heaven"** and so on. **"And immediately I was in the spirit,"** or as in a vision, **"and behold a throne was set in heaven"** and it shows God sitting on the throne. Now, it shows later here, I think that's in the fifth chapter, the One sitting on the throne has a book and it's a scroll.

Well, that's the way books used to be. They weren't like this where you come to page 13 and 34 and 147. They weren't that kind of books like we have today. They didn't

put them together that way. They were just one long roll.

And the One sitting on the throne has this book, and no one is able to loose the book from its seven seals that seal it, so you can't unroll it and read it. And then finally, One comes up who is able to loose the scrolls and tell you what's inside of it and explain it. And that, of course, represents Christ. So, Christ is the One who can reveal what was there. Otherwise, it was hidden from mankind, except as Christ reveals it.

Now, you come to the main prophecy in chapter six, and just to give you a little bird's eye view in a hurry, **"I saw when the Lamb,"** which is Jesus Christ, **"opened one of**





the seals.” Now, chapter six gives six of those seven, there were seven seals altogether that sealed it. And that is explained by Jesus in Matthew 24 and Luke 21 and Mark 13, and *The Book of Revelation Revealed at Last*. And, if you’d like to study that you’d find it

very, very interesting, and it gets right down to the time we’re living in now.

Now, in Matthew 24, the first thing Jesus saw was *a false Christ coming*. And that really represents what was seen there of the white horse because the white horse is not the same white horse that you see pictured in the 19th chapter of Revelation. In the 19th chapter of Revelation is a white horse, and that is Christ on it. He has a sword, but that sword is in His mouth and the Word that He speaks. And Christ’s Word sometimes cuts us pretty deeply like a sword would cut. But the one in the book of Revelation, in the sixth chapter, I might just read that to you, let’s see, “a white horse ... he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering and to conquer.” *That is the picture of the ministers of Satan and not of Christ, the false prophets.*



Now, *that can only be the sign if the world had not heard that gospel for a long, long time. No one living today had ever heard it before [that is, before Mr. Armstrong began preaching it, ABB].*

Now, I want to give you a few things. Maybe they are just coincidence and maybe they are not. The



And, *the black horse is famine, and the pale horse is the death that follows the famine*, and then when He’d opened the fifth seal, it’s the Great Tribulation. And the sixth seal is where the tribulation is ended by the great signs that God will have in heaven, the

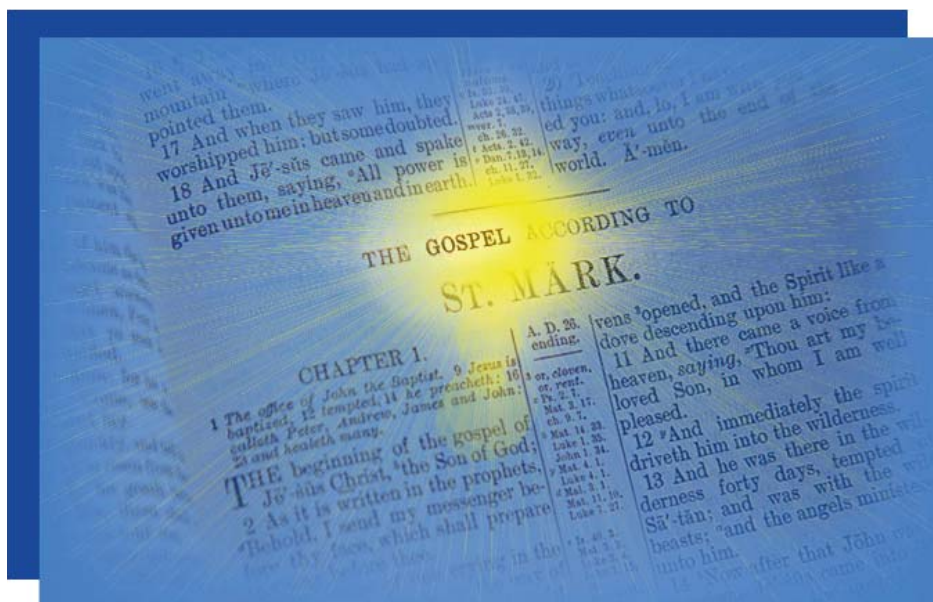
sun and moon being darkened and the stars falling from heaven, which probably will mean a meteor shower. I don’t

know how else to explain it, because many of the stars are a million times larger than the earth, and it would be pretty hard for them to fall on the earth. But that will rather explain that.

So, now let me get along a little farther here. *I wanted to show you though that it comes down to the time when this Gospel of the Kingdom was to be preached in all the world, and that is the sign that we are reaching the end.*







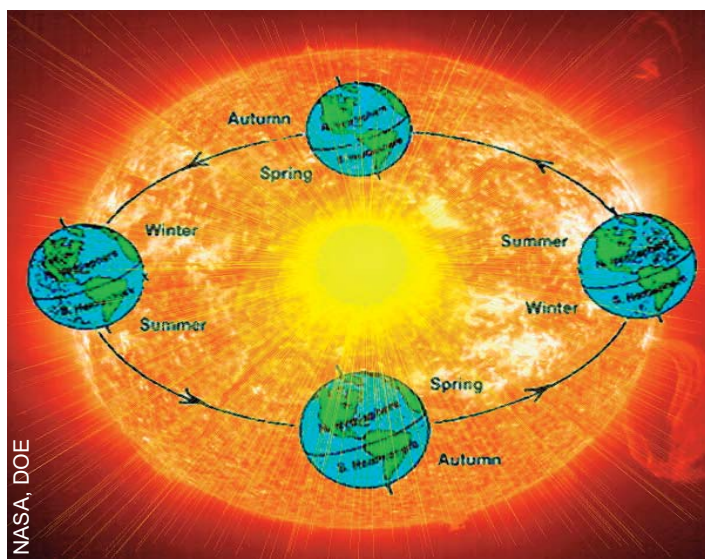
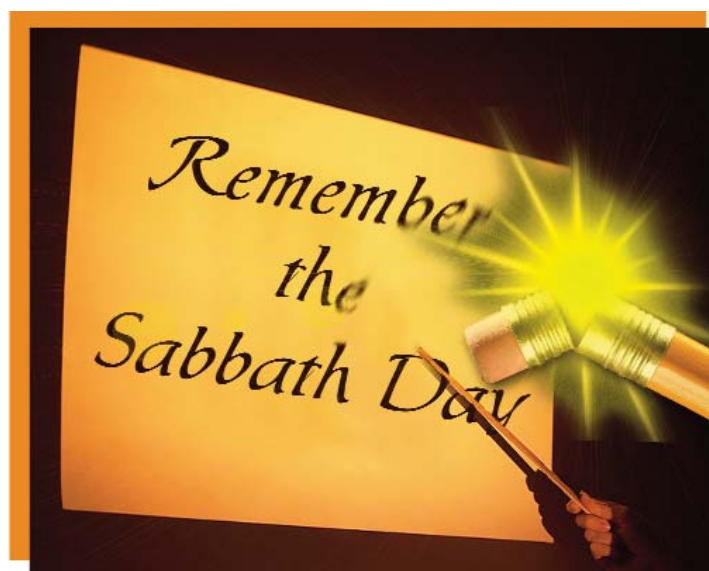
## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TIME CYCLES

Now, let me give you something about the way that God has set things in the heavens to measure time for us. Now, actually, God set certain signs in the heavens to mark off spaces of time. He set the sun and the moon and the earth in their orbits as they are to mark off spaces of time. One revolution of the earth on its axis is a day, but how do we tell? There is only one way you can mark off how that day begins or ends and that is according to the sun and God starts it, the day starts, one day ends at sunset and another begins at sunset. And

gospel was suppressed you read in Galatians one, verses six and seven. And, now, let's see, I brought along these Bibles, and I want to make a little use of them. Here is the Revised Standard translation. Now, in Romans chapter one, verse 18: **"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of men, who by their wickedness suppress the truth."** *The gospel was suppressed!* You read of that in Galatians one, verses six and seven, as I mentioned. And, it says **"who hold the truth,"** and it means **"hold back,"** in the King James, but that makes it very plain there.

And also, Galatians six and seven show that the gospel was to be held back from about 52 when Paul wrote that, or 53 A.D. the gospel was to be held back. Now, Jesus said the Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness and that is the sign of the coming of Christ.

it's the earth turning on its axis as measured by the sun.



Now, one revolution of the moon around the earth is a lunar month. And according to **God's Sacred Calendar**, He counts months beginning with the new moons, a revolution of the moon around the earth.

One revolution of the earth around the sun is one solar year. *Now, the only thing that God ever gave us to set apart a week so that you know when one week begins and another ends is the Sabbath.* That's why Satan has tried to destroy the Sabbath and got people all over the world observing Sunday.

Because that is **the sign** God gave, by which we would know who God is, because it's a memorial of creation and





Now, Jesus began teaching His disciples in the year of 27 A.D. That's when He called them and began preparing them to go out, but He had to teach them, but they didn't, well He did send them out on one trip as you'll read in the ninth chapter of Luke and the 10th chapter of Matthew, and He told them to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. But they were not ordained in the regular ministry as yet.

Now, before Jesus rose to heaven, it was before the **Day of Pentecost**, but after Jesus resurrection, after 40 days Jesus told the disciples, **"Don't go out and start your ministry until you be embued with the power of the Holy Spirit not many days from now."**

by which God knows who His people are because they're the only people who obey Him, and there is no reason in the world for you to observe Saturday instead of Sunday, except to obey God. That's why we do it, to obey God, and nobody else will do it.

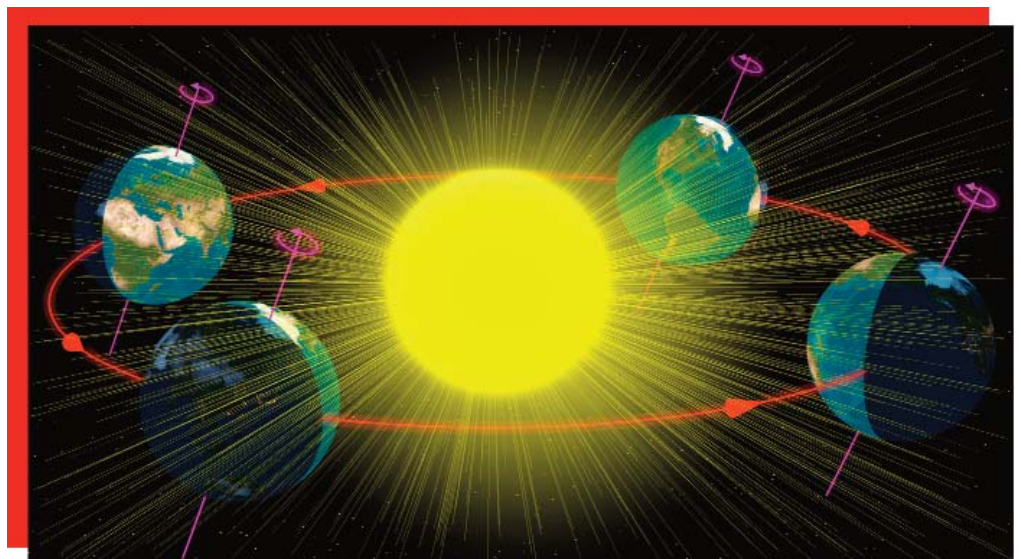
*Now, what is the next largest number of years? We come into a time cycle. The sun and the moon and the earth get into the exact same position or orbit once in 19 years. That becomes a time cycle and is measured as a 19-year period.*

What is the next largest number of years as God mentions it? A century or a hundred years. What is the next largest number of years? A millennium or 1,000 years.

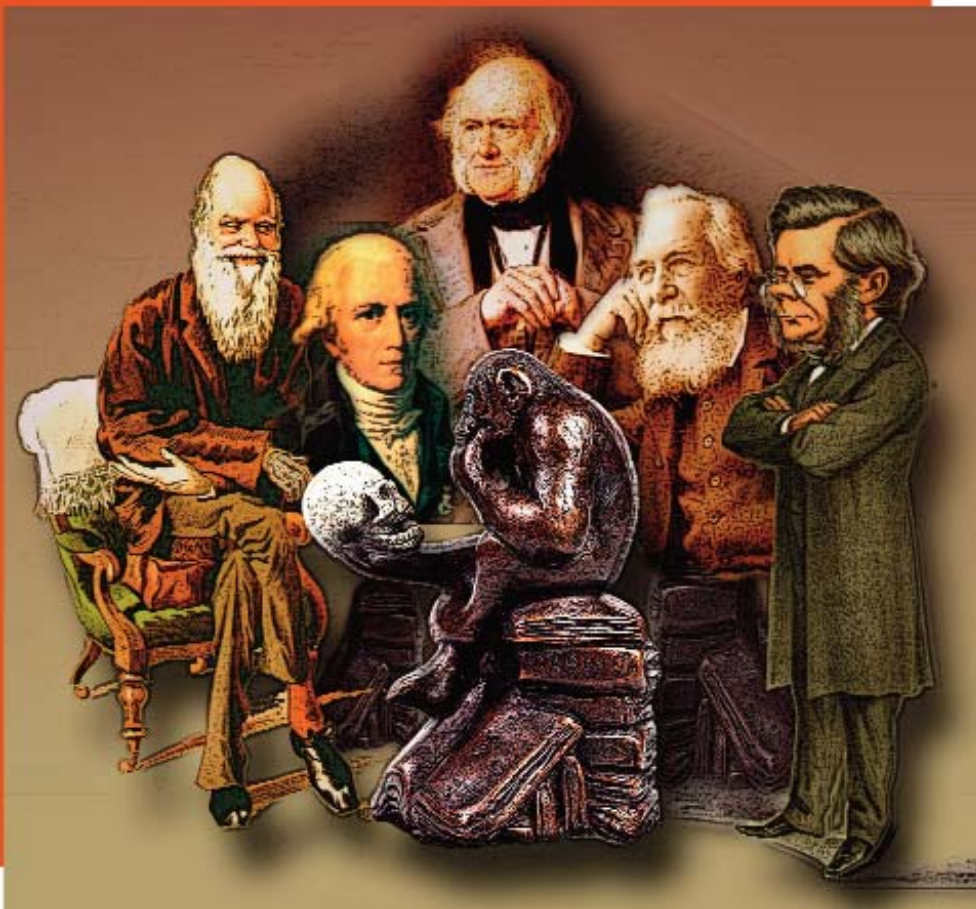
Now, the gospel was suppressed about the middle of the first century, and by about 53 A.D. Paul was writing to the Galatians that already they had turned away from the true gospel and the true gospel was being suppressed. A century of time cycles, now I'm taking God's units of time. *Nineteen years is a time cycle, a century of time cycles is 1,900 years, 19 centuries of 19-year periods.*

Now, it was 10 days later that they came to the **Day of Pentecost**. On that day, the Holy Spirit came and that was the day when the disciples, as they had been, were really ordained as apostles and inspired by the Holy Spirit to go out and preach. That was in June of 31 A.D.

*Now, in the year of 27 A.D.* Jesus began teaching His disciples. My wife began keeping the Sabbath in the autumn or the fall of 1926. I was studying evolution and the Bible and the Sabbath for six months, almost night and day. *I had not come to the place where I could accept it and was baptized until in the spring of 1927, or exactly a century of time cycles.* I began being prepared for the gospel. I was converted







**MR. ARMSTRONG STUDIED DARWIN, LAMARCK, LYELL, HAECKEL, HUXLEY**

and preparing and that's the time my real Bible study started, *and that is a century of time cycles from the time that Jesus was teaching His first disciples.*

*Now, they were, you might say, ordained and filled with the Holy Spirit and sent out on the gospel ministry on the Day of Pentecost, which came in June 31 A.D. What is a century of time cycles from 31 A.D.? It would be in June 1931. In June 1931, I was ordained and sent out to preach the gospel, exactly a century of time cycles later. And the Gospel of the Kingdom had not been preached in the meantime.*

Now then, the Gospel of the Kingdom stopped being preached around the middle of the first century. Paul wrote to the Galatians how it had already been. They had turned to another gospel in 53 A.D. I began preaching on the radio in 1933, but I had only preached it over the United States, and I was 19 years, or one time cycle getting the gospel where it went, fi-

nally, coast to coast, and then I leaped over to Radio Luxemborg, the most powerful radio station on earth.

*And the first broadcast went to all of Europe on January 7, 1953, or exactly one century of time cycles from the time that the gospel had been suppressed.* The gospel was not preached then for one century of time cycles until 1953, and it has been going in more or less great power ever since that time.

### **GOING BEFORE WORLD LEADERS**

Now, I have talked to more kings and emperors and presidents and prime ministers than Mr. Kissinger or any other man that I know of that is living today. I am the only man who is not in any official capacity and never has been in government service who has ever been granted a PRI-

VATE interview, a very personal, private interview with the emperor of Japan, Hirohito. I was allowed to take no one with me but the United States ambassador, and all he could do was just to go in and accompany me, and he said not a word, except to acknowledge and bow and to acknowledge the emperor when we came into his presence.

I sat down and the emperor and I talked for 35 minutes. And, once I didn't understand, we had to talk through a translator, an interpreter rather, and I didn't understand what the inter-

preter had said one time, and the ambassador whispered into my ear what he said and that is the only thing the ambassador was allowed to say. And then we bowed, both out ourselves together. I had to go with morning attire and that's a cutaway long coat with tails in the back and striped trousers and so on. No one is allowed to go into the emperor's palace unless he is dressed like that in the daytime.







MR. ARMSTRONG AND SPECIAL JAPANESE MEDAL

But I had that privilege, and I have been given the highest decoration and the highest honor by the Japanese government that has ever been given to any non-government official who is a non-Japanese. And God has given me those honors.

#### A MESSENGER FROM THE HOUSE OF DAVID

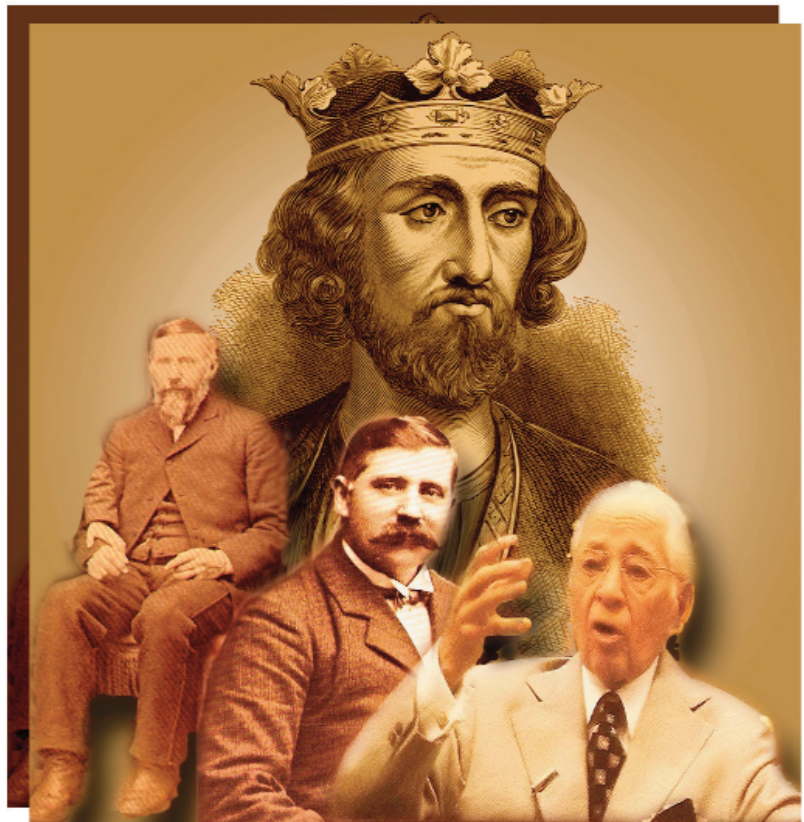
Now then there is something else I wanted to read to you in Zechariah 12, beginning with verse eight in the Moffatt translation. It's the same in all translations, but Moffatt just makes it a little more clear, in verse seven or the beginning of verse eight, **"On that day,"** it's talking about the day just before Christ comes, the day that we're in right now, **"On that day shall the Eternal protect the dwellers in Jerusalem, even the lame among them on that day shall be like David himself."**

In other words be as powerful as David, those in Judah, in Jerusalem, like David himself. **"And David's house, or the house of David, shall be like God Himself, like the angel of the Eternal who is their leader."**

Now, if you look at it in the King James: **"In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and he that is feeble among them in that day will be as David,"** in other words will be strong as David. **"And the house of David shall be as God and the angel of the LORD before them."** Now, "angel" really means a messenger, that's why I read it to you as Moffatt has it, their leader. That their leader in that day will be of the house of David.

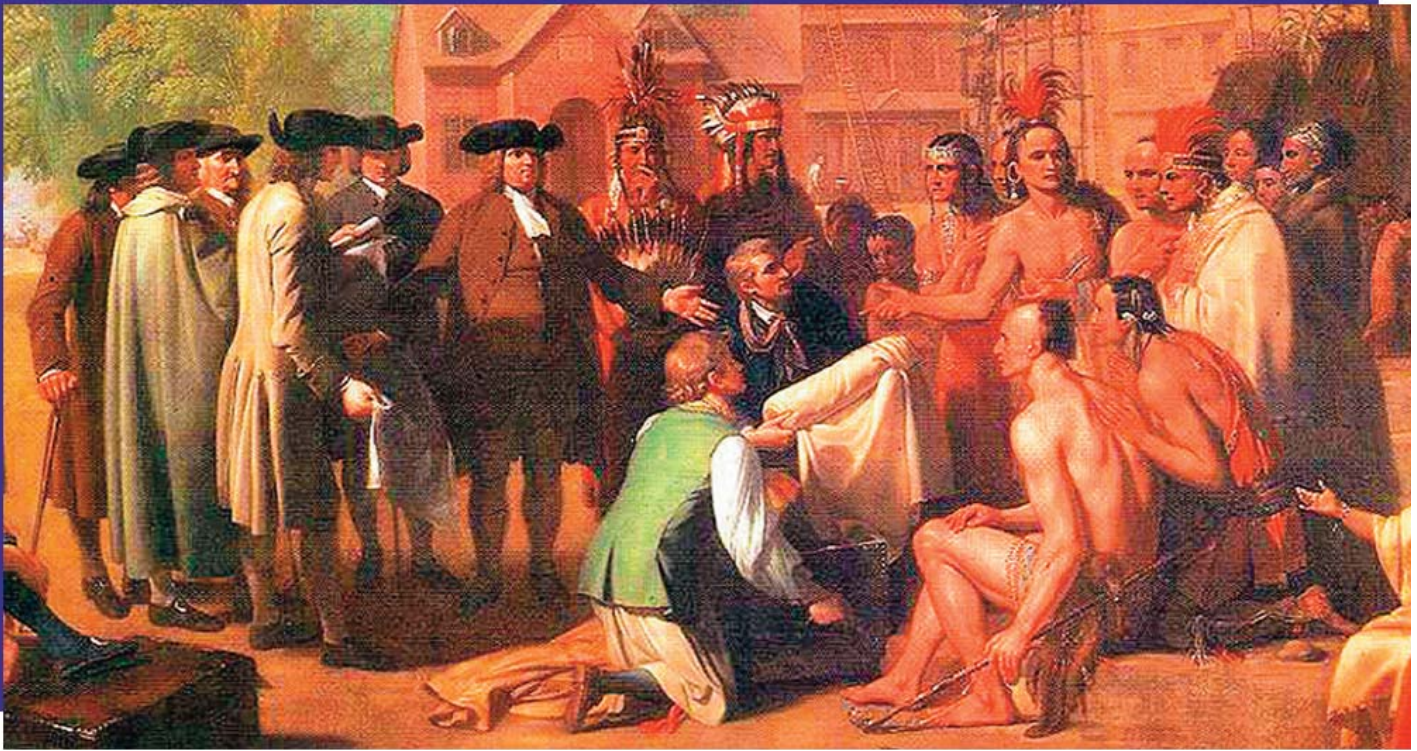
Several years ago, (before we came down to start Ambassador College, and this goes back to about the year of, I would say 1941 or 1942, when we were still up in Eugene, Oregon), another minister visited me, and he stayed all night. And I had been going through the Sabbath question with him the night before, and lo and behold, he accepted it. And he was a very rare minister. And he was a minister of a church in Oakland, and they held their church services on Sunday, and I went into the Sabbath with him, and he accepted it.

Well, I supposed he would turn away from it as soon as he left my home, but the next morning he was shaving in the



MR. ARMSTRONG, HIS FATHER, GRANDFATHER, KING EDWARD I





**WILLIAM PENN MAKES A TREATY WITH INDIANS**

bathroom, and the door was open, and I standing and talking to him, and he says, "Say, something just came to me," he said, "Mr. Armstrong, you are going to find that you are of the house of David."

"Well," I said, "now what made you say that?"

He said, "I don't know, it just came to my mind this minute. You are doing things that only someone in the house of David could be doing."

"Well," I said, "I don't know. If I'm of the house of David I sure never knew it."

Do you know, it wasn't very long after that until I was contacted by a certain foundation that had been left a lot of money, and the whole purpose of the foundation was to track down the genealogy of a certain family.

Now, my great-grandmother had been a member of that family and married my great-grandfather, who was I believe Silas Armstrong, my great-grandfather.

My grandfather I remember, when I was just a little bit of a kid, maybe about three years old, and he was Nathan Armstrong, and my father was his oldest son, and his name was

Horace Elon Armstrong, and I'm, of course, my father's eldest son. My father was the eldest and so on, it goes back.

Well, that family's genealogy they wanted me, because they wanted to get all of my children and all of my brothers and sisters because they go into this family back in the time of my great-grandmother. And so, I got the whole genealogy and lo and behold I found that my ancestry goes back, and I have it every generation back to Edward I of England, King Edward I. That's a long time back, but my ancestry splits off from one of King Edward's daughters. That's where I leave the royal line. She became, let's see, she married a duke, and she was a duchess, but their son was a duke, but pretty soon they came down to lower rank, and it came on down. My family left England with William Penn and emigrated to Pennsylvania, and that was a hundred years before the United States became a nation, even. That was about 1660 or 1670.

Anyway, the royal family has the genealogy all the way back to King David, every generation. And of course, in the Bible, I have my genealogy all the way from David back to Adam. How many people do you know who can show their genealogy generation by generation all the way back to Adam? Not very many. *But I was struck somehow by the fact that I am of the House of David.*



*Now, God called me and began teaching me for the ministry exactly a century of time cycles from the time He began teaching His early apostles. I was ordained and sent out into the ministry exactly a century of time cycles from the time they were sent out. The gospel was not preached for exactly a century of time cycles, from the middle of the first century until I was preaching it into Europe and America in the middle of the 20th century, exactly a century of time cycles.*

Now, of course, that is probably all a coincidence. It just happened, or was it? Well, I won't answer that. I'll just let you answer it. But the Gospel of the Kingdom of God has not been preached before the world before.

Now, right here in Tucson I really died about 2½ years ago. My heart stopped completely. It was total heart failure, not just a heart attack, complete heart failure. There was no pulse. There was no blood pressure. I was not breathing. My face was all blanched, and my fingernails became, I don't know what color it is, but I don't remember, but I only know what the nurses told me.

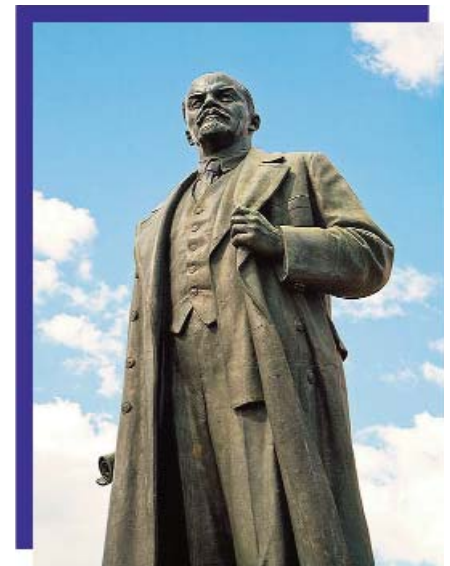
I don't remember a thing about it, but they brought me back by mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, but if they had not done that, I would have been pronounced dead by a doctor as soon as they'd gotten one there, maybe about 30 minutes or an hour later. I know there is some reason why God brought me back. And God is giving me strength and more

vitality and more strength and more power, now year by year and month by month than He ever has before.

### THE WAY TO PEACE AND LOVE

When I go to an atheist country, a communist country, their religion is atheism. They don't believe there is any God. They don't believe in the Bible. I talk about the two ways of living, one is "get" and the other is "give." And they understand that.

And I show them that every trouble in the world, every evil, everything that's wrong in the world has come from people living the way of get, the way of self-centeredness of vanity, of coveting and wanting to get everything, of jealousy and envy, of resentment of authority of competition, and I say that we will never have peace until we repent of that. We've got to turn away from that and turn to the way of giving.

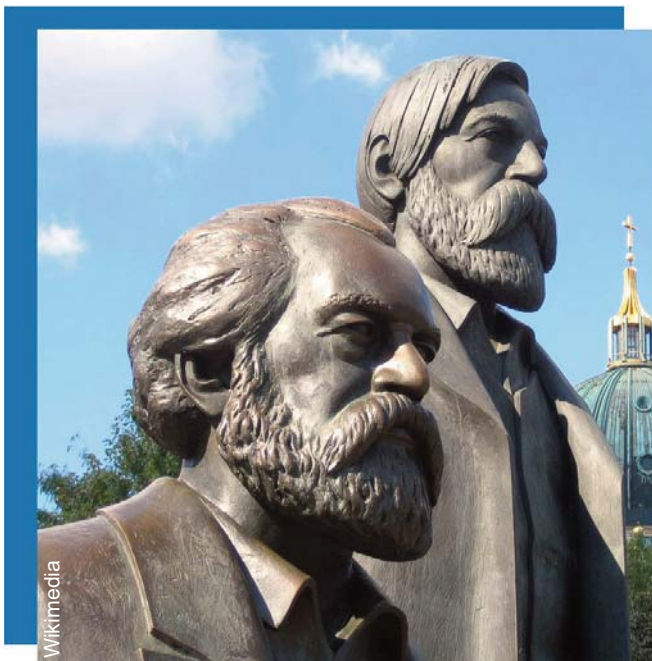


VLADIMIR LENIN

That is the way I tell them to repent and turn to God's way. The Ten Commandments are the way of giving and the way of outgoing love, and I express it that. I say that giving is the way of outgoing love, love that flows out from you to other people.

Now, I've been invited to visit the top men in the Kremlin in Moscow, proposing a scholarship over there. We're not called to try to fight communism or to fight this "ism" or that "ism."

We're called to proclaim the Kingdom of God, and we're just not in politics one way or the other, and they know that, and that's what we presented to them. They know that we are not communists, and we are not coming, not going to pretend to be communists, but we are not going to fight against it.



KARL MARX, FREDERICK ENGELS





They know that I formerly, oh, 25 to 35 and up to 50 years ago I used to write against communism, but I don't do that anymore. I'm not here to fight those things. I'm only here to proclaim the Gospel or the "Good News" of the Kingdom of God. And that's what I'm going to do.

But I have had to learn how to get the gospel over to them. I tell them about the Kingdom of God in this way, that this world cannot go on the way that it is. Now, I can say in Russia, there were two men in Germany here quite awhile ago, Karl Marx and Engels, and they saw that the governments in the world are not right and conditions are not right, and they thought up their idea of what they thought would be right. Now then, Mr. Lenin was sold on it and thought it was a good idea, but he was able to put it into work and to create a new government based on that. All right, if you ask me, I don't believe in democracy, either! Democracy is no more the way of God than communism is, not at all. And I hope you brethren realize that.

### THE GOVERNMENTS OF THIS WORLD

What actually happened was, when God drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden because they disobeyed Him, and they rejected His government. He said you won't accept My government so go form your own governments until the Second Coming of Christ and God's government will not be on earth until Christ comes to set it up. And it'll be the kind of government we have in this Church. And I don't think any of you people have ever smarted under the government, of the rule that is in the Church, because we don't rule that way. We rule in love and not in harm or in anything of that kind.

### GOD'S THEOCRATIC RULE OF GOVERNMENT

But the rule in this Church is not democracy, either. *We don't vote!* The government in this Church is theocracy. It's government from God, and Christ is the head of the Church. Christ is the real ruler. I'm only following Him. And I say follow me as I follow Him. You have to follow someone. Now, some of those who have gone off from us





you do it that way, you come out on Sunday, and that's of course, the way we're doing now. I found I was wrong. I changed it! I would have changed anytime in that 40 years if anyone could have shown that to me, but no one did, and Christ didn't show it to me. So that's the way it is and that's the way this Church is and there is no other Church like it on the face of the earth.

Well, I've taken up a lot of time today, but it's the first time I've had the opportunity of just talking directly to you people. Always before, you were

say, "Oh well, don't follow a man. If you're in that Church you're following Armstrong." That is not true!

So, if you think that the doctrines of this Church are not right, it's not your place to start preaching to other people. It's your place to come direct, well, first to your own pastor and then to me. And my mind will be open. I've proved that. I don't have to prove that again. And now that's the way it is.

I found that the translators were wrong on translating that word "**from,**" and that changed **the day of holding Pentecost** after we'd had it that way for 40 years. Well, all God called me to do was to count, and I counted 50, and I counted the right way. The mistake wasn't in my counting. The mistake was in the translating of the Bibles, and I was not a Hebrew scholar, and I still didn't accept it until I made the Hebrew scholars admit that ... in other words those whose native language is Hebrew and who learned English afterwards will make the mistake of saying "**from Sunday**" and they mean **beginning with Sunday**.

But it should not be stated that way, it should state "on," count "on Sunday" or beginning on Sunday, 50 days. And if

just listening in on a telecast, and I wanted to talk to you. We are all fellow citizens, and I like it very much here in Tucson. I think this is a wonderful climate, and, oh, I say have we had some wonderful days lately. Now, we get some rain, and we get some storms once in awhile.

Well, how are you going to enjoy the beautiful days if you don't have a few of them once in awhile? But I don't know where you could find a nicer climate than we have. We are blessed above all the people on earth right here. So let's count our blessings, and let's thank God all the time. He's been so merciful to us, and I hope I can come back and speak to you again sometime. So thank you all and thank you for allowing me to have this much time.



*Editor's Comment:* It is with sorrow that we are compelled to edit out large portions of this sermon given by Mr. Armstrong due to a lack of space though the continuity has not been affected. Emphasis has been added by the Editor. This sermon is available in its entirety to those who will write or call us (P. O. Box 8819, Modesto, CA 95357, Phone # 209.772-0737.

**Don Billingsley**



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

**Church of God Faithful Flock**  
[www.cog-ff.com](http://www.cog-ff.com)

**Watchman for the House of Israel**  
[www.ezekielwatchman.org](http://www.ezekielwatchman.org)

**World News Bulletin**  
[www.worldnewsbulletin.com](http://www.worldnewsbulletin.com)

**Lost 10 Tribes of Israel**  
[www.losttribes.org](http://www.losttribes.org)

**The Ten Commandments**  
[www.10commandments.ws](http://www.10commandments.ws)

**Prophetic Events**  
[www.propheticevents.us](http://www.propheticevents.us)

**What Do You Mean Born Again?**  
[www.begotten.net](http://www.begotten.net)

**Restored Truths of God**  
[www.restoredtruths.net](http://www.restoredtruths.net)

**Pagan Holidays or God's Holy Days?**  
[www.holy-days.org](http://www.holy-days.org)

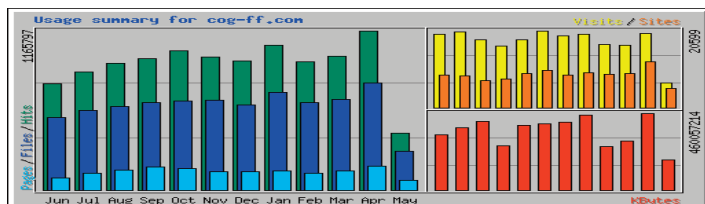
**Which Day is the Christian Sabbath?**  
[www.sabbathcentral.com](http://www.sabbathcentral.com)

**Herbert W. Armstrong – Apostle of God**  
[www.herbertarmstrong.net](http://www.herbertarmstrong.net)

**COGFF – Home School Association**  
[www.coghomeschool.org](http://www.coghomeschool.org)

**Herbert W. Armstrong – His Life & Work**  
[www.herbertwarmstrong.info](http://www.herbertwarmstrong.info)

**An Open Letter to the Scattered Flock**  
[www.bodyofchristonline.us](http://www.bodyofchristonline.us)



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