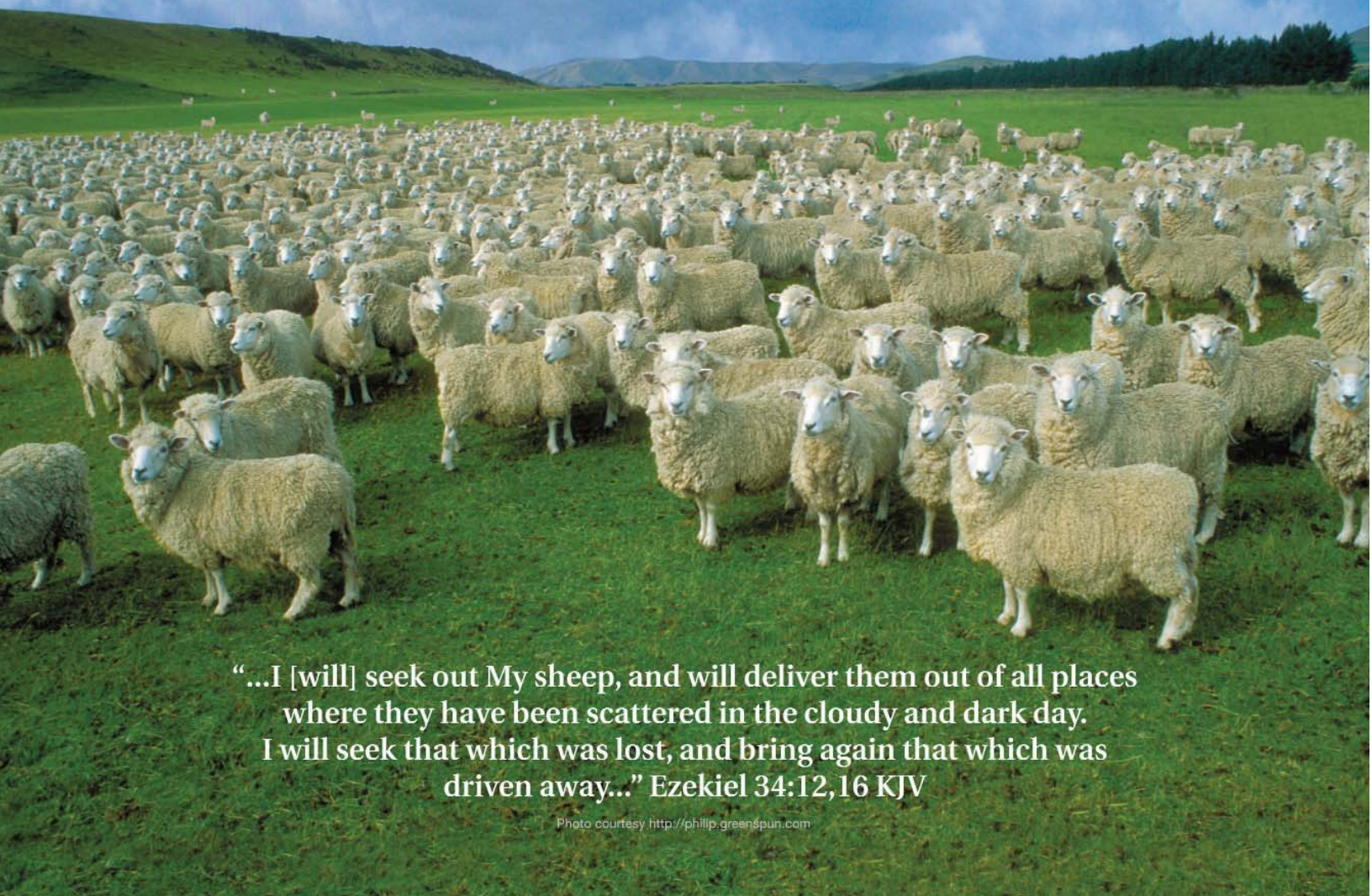


The _____ Philadelphia Remnant

Sept/Oct 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

SEPT/OCT 2009

VOL. 3, NO. 5

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

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

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

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Zerubbabel's Temple

By Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong
1978 Bible Study

Greetings, everybody! I just want to first announce to you that before the Bible study tonight, I'm going to do about a 15-minute televised talk that will be shown in all the Feast sites on the opening night. And it will be quite brief. And so I'll record this first and then we'll have a Bible study, and I'm a little disappointed that there are so few people out tonight. Someone told me that they didn't know I would be here. And that is VERY discouraging and very disheartening.

I tell you, brethren, I'm going to write an article on the purpose of the Church. I don't think many of our people know it or else most of our people just finally want to become ashes under the feet of the few of us some day in the Lake of Fire. We're not taking this thing seriously! We're in the very last days! There isn't much time left! And I tell you, the reaction is pretty discouraging. This Church has been going down, **DOWN, DOWN!** I can't bear it all up single-handed and alone. I've got to have someone here to back me up. I get letters from one now and then, "We're back of you 100 percent!" Well, I need more 100 percent of the people to be back of me.



MR. HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

This Church has been letting down spiritually. We're told to **"not forsake the assembling of ourselves together and so much the more as we see the day approaching."** And, I guess we don't see it approaching, do we? I'm going to get back to prophecy. Where are we NOW, in prophecy? I understand that our ministers are not, as far as I know, not any of them have been preaching on prophecy for the last two years. It seems like we've all got discouraged, maybe we didn't understand the prophecies, maybe they're not being fulfilled, maybe they're not working out. Well, I'll explain that! It's a lot later than you think.

But God has been holding up things. Did you ever read in the seventh chapter of Revelation, how when we get to the place that we haven't reached yet, that'll be after the Great Tribulation and after God sends these TERRIFIC, well, mind-shattering almost, signs in the heavens, in the stars, the sun and the moon, to sort of shock this world into realizing that there is a God after



SIGNS IN THE HEAVENS

all, and He's beginning to intervene. And it's said of the things going right on, that are scheduled to go at that time and the last plagues, and the Second Coming of Christ, God sends an angel that says "Wait a minute! Hold up! I've still got something else, and we've got to hold up until it gets done!"

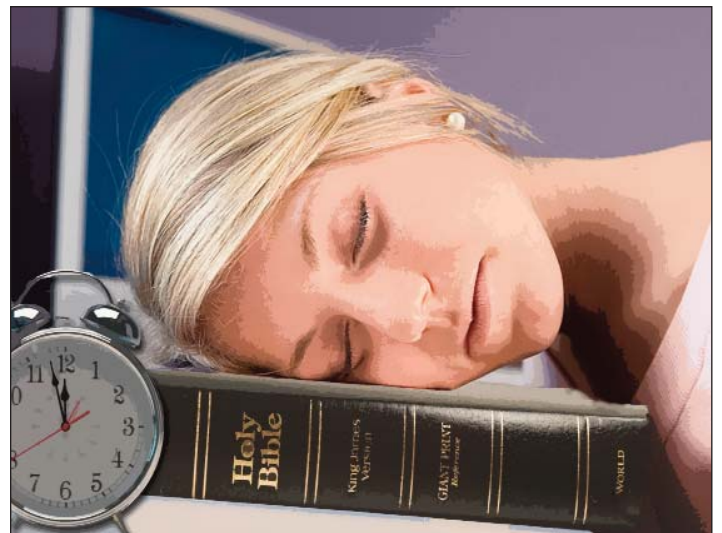
DO YOU KNOW THAT THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED AFTER 1972? AND GOD HAS HELD THINGS UP UNTIL THIS JOB GETS DONE! And so we get discouraged, and we decide, "Well, my Lord delays His coming. Maybe He's not going to come at all." Now, what I'm saying is for the empty seats that are not filled. Obviously, it's not for you people that are here, and it's just too bad that those who need it aren't here to hear it.



We need to wake up. I tell you that if you don't wake up I can't do it for you. God have mercy on your soul if you don't! That's all that I can say. And some of you are going to need it.

Well, I tell you, the day is coming and Christ needs the Church all prepared and ready, and I think we're a long ways from that. I don't know how to wake you people up. I frankly don't. I just sort of give up.

Now, we're going to have to pretend this is the opening night now of the Feast of Tabernacles if you will for just about 15 minutes.

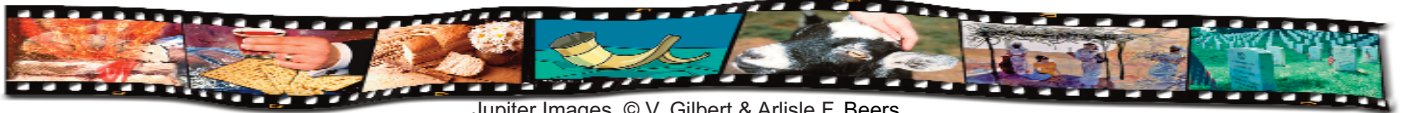


It was very disheartening for me to find that they were going to suspend the Bible studies for the summer. Now, where are the ministers?

We used to have the front row filled with ministers. I don't see a one of them. Is there a

minister here? But I can't see you over there. Well, I'm glad there's someone here. A lot of the ministers think, "Oh well, I don't have to go unless I speak, and if it's that Herbert Armstrong speaking I don't want to hear him anymore, any how."

I don't know whether that's what you think or not. I know none of you would be here if God hadn't used me. I wonder how many of you think you would be here if I hadn't been used?



Jupiter Images, © V. Gilbert & Arisle F. Beers

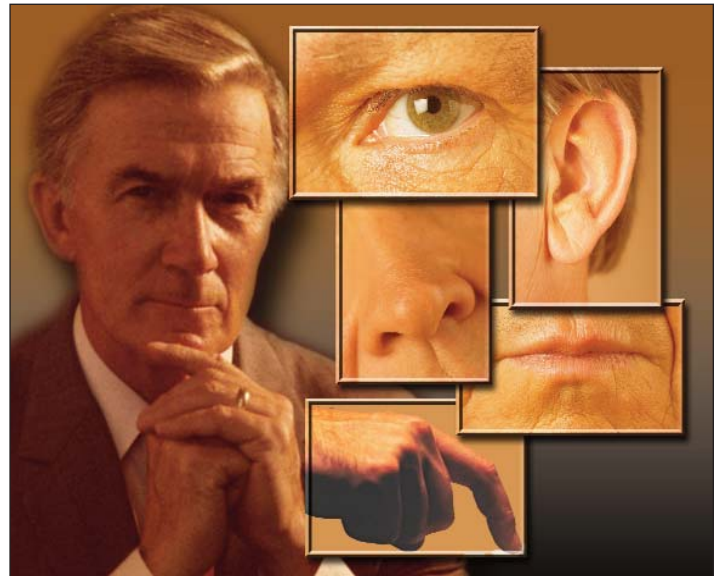
FEAST OF TABERNACLES OPENING MESSAGE

Well, greetings everybody! Once again, let me ask as I used to ask time and time again, year after year at these Festivals, WHY ARE WE HERE? Now, these annual Festivals were ordained of God not by man and if God did it, He had a reason. And if God did it, it's very important that we realize that reason, very important. Now, why did He ordain these Festivals? Because our God, our Creator, knew that His people need to be reminded year after year of what is the most important thing in the lives of us, for His people, to be reminded of what God has prepared for us if we love Him.

I'd like you to notice what it says in I Corinthians the second chapter, beginning with verse 7, "But," as Paul said in a letter written to the Church at Corinth, "we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world," that is the leaders of the world, the heads of governments, the heads of big business, big banks leaders in every walk of life in the world.

"For had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. Even "as it is written," now listen, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither has it entered into the heart of man, the things that God has prepared for them that love Him."

How does knowledge get into your mind? How do you come to know anything at all? How do you know everything you came to know? Well, it's about 95 to 98 percent through your eyes and ears, and the rest will come through the sense of smell, taste or feel.



THE FIVE SENSES

"But," it continues, "God has revealed it unto us, by His spirit: for the spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." And so, these things are revealed by God, the things that God has in store for us."

Now, to us, these Festivals are the most important thing in our lives, but the last few years we've been getting lazy. We're getting into the Laodicean condition, and that is a condition in which Jesus Christ says He will SPEW US OUT OF HIS MOUTH! You spit out of your mouth things you don't want in there any longer. And I think we'd better wake up. To us, these Festivals are important, but many of us are not considering them any

longer as important as we ought. Now, last year I heard reports of some Feast sites, that NOT ONE WORD, during the whole eight days, was spoken by any minister of telling why they were there, what the Festivals mean, what is the meaning or the purpose of having these Festivals anyway. And some wrote, "I could get better sermons if I'd stayed at home than to have gone!"



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Jupiter Images, © V. Gilbert & Arlisle F. Beers

I tell you we need to wake up and our MINISTRY needs to wake up! God's ministers need a new spirit of URGENCY and POWER! Jesus Christ the Living Head of the Church, has been moving swiftly these last couple of months, these last three, four months to put His Church back on the track, and so much the more because we now see the day approaching when Christ is going to appear. We're in that generation, and we're the ones that are getting sleepy. And we're asleep at the switch brethren! And we're deciding that "my Lord delayeth His coming. Let's slumber and sleep."

And read in the 25th chapter of Matthew while some were slumbering and sleeping like that, the Lord came. And the DOOR WAS SHUT! And they POUNDED on the door and tried to get in, but Christ is going to say to those, "Go away! I never knew you! You haven't known me, and you haven't cared."

So, I've assigned to the ministers speaking here and at the various Feast sites the IMPERATIVE OBLIGATION to preach the meaning and the purpose of these Festivals, not only the Feast of Tabernacles, but all the Festivals that show the master plan of God working out His purpose here below.

Now, I plan to speak on this very theme tomorrow on the first of the Holy Days. Let me say that this is the 51st year of these Festivals for me. I first began keeping them with my wife, my wife of 50 years that was taken from me in

death now way over 11 years ago. She and I began keeping these Festivals alone for seven years.

Because we told the brethren that I had discovered that they were ordained forever and that we should be keeping them now, that Christ did, the apostles did, the early Church did. And when I told the brethren in the Church then, and they were the Church that we find described as the Sardis Church in the Bible, the one that was spiritually dead, they laughed me to scorn. That's all, and they would not keep these Festivals, and so far as I know those same people have not begun to keep any of them to this day.

And my wife and I kept them for seven years until the parent Church of this Philadelphia Era of the Church was founded in August of 1933 in Eugene, Oregon. And that is the parent Church. And so I've been continuing to keep these Festivals for 51 years.

Now, I know that I'm the only one here that can say that, but I just want to tell you how much gratitude it gives me to see that it has grown into what is now the largest Festival or convention or conclave held by any Church or religious organization or group on the face of this earth every year.

So now there will be announcements. I will see you again tomorrow, and so I will say, good night until tomorrow.

Continued on Page 28



KNOCKING AT THE DOOR



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THE TEN VIRGINS OF MATTHEW 25

Personal from the Editor

By Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley

WHERE IS THE TRUE CHURCH TODAY?

'Jesus Christ said, 'I will build My Church.' He did not say 'Churches,' denominations, 'sects.' He said the gates of hell would not prevail against that Church. Somewhere that original true Church exists today. But WHERE? WHICH? ...'

Booklet, WHERE Is the True Church
Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong

'SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS IN OUR TIME'

The Feast of Trumpets 2009! – Approximately 50,000 members of the 450 corporate Churches (*by actual count, perhaps more by now*) have already made plans to attend the Feast of Tabernacles in a location of their choice without realizing how close we are to *the fulfillment of the Feast of Trumpets* – the Feast that pictures the return of Jesus Christ back to this earth.

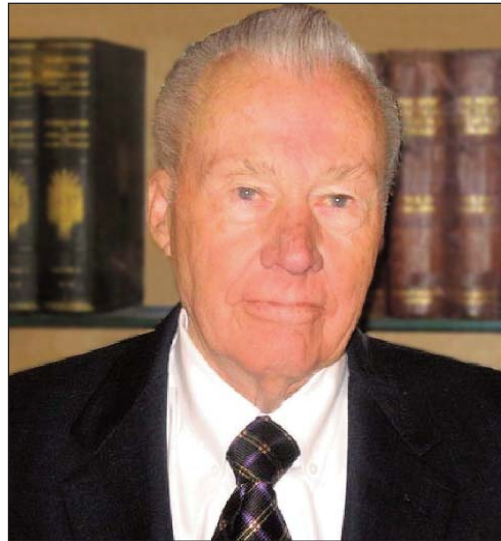
But between here and there terrible times are prophesied to befall the Church of God and the House of Israel (*Leviticus 26, Deuteronomy 28*). And from what is now being seen from various news sources, we are on the very precipice of witnessing them beginning to unfold – *possibly yet this year or in the year of 2010!*

THE SOUNDING OF THE WATCHMAN'S WARNING TRUMPET

There are the **RED WARNING FLAGS** being seen *flying all over this nation* and Britain, making known the prophesied darkness of the night is virtually upon the house of Joseph (Romans 13:11-12).

By viewing national and world events in view of end-time prophecy, we should know as individuals and as a Church we are extremely close to *the time of sorrows* that was prophesied by Christ to fully befall both Israel and the Church of God (Matthew 24:8) – *having also been forewarned* over many years by God's late apostle and the Elijah to come! (Ezekiel 6:11, Leviticus 26:14-39, Deuteronomy 28:15-68)

This will affect terribly those in God's Church who have *forsaken* Him (Matthew 25:10-12, Jeremiah 23:1-2, Ezekiel



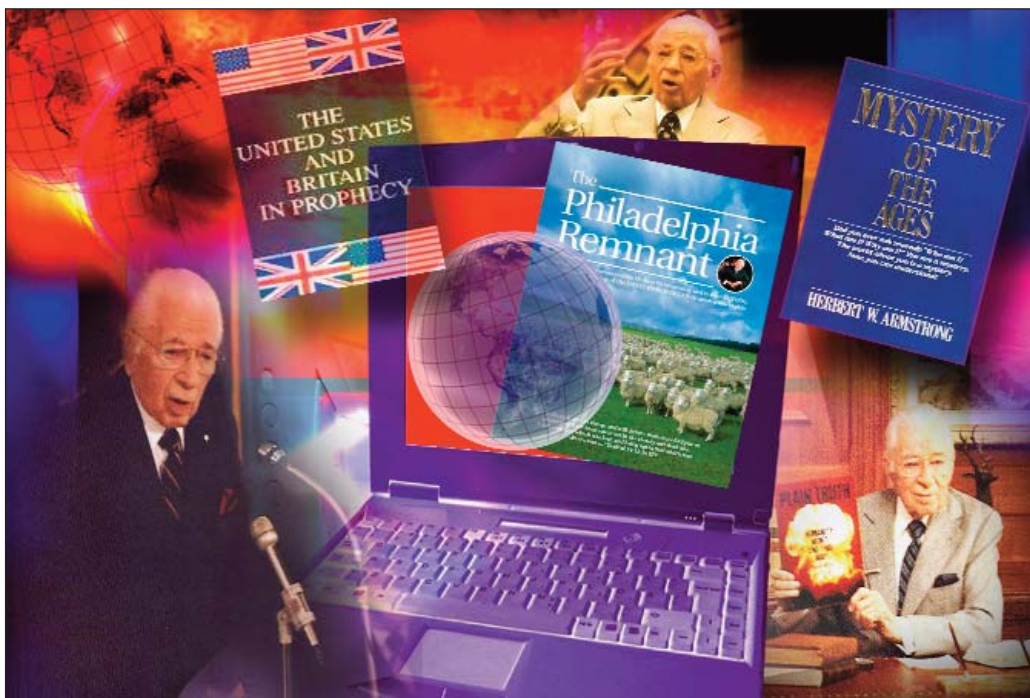
Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley

34:1-10). And unless we are on track **doctrinally** and **clinging** to God, while worshiping Him in Spirit and in Truth (John 4:24), we could very well die with them from either the famine and disease epidemics (*100 million in the United States alone, Ezekiel 5:12*) or end up in the **Great Tribulation** and have to endure **a martyr's death** (Revelation 6:9-11).



THE 19-YEAR TIME CYCLES

How close are these horrors? A very strong indication of the answer can be found within a study of the **19-year Time Cycles** as God's apostle did learn from them in former years:



The Good News of Tomorrow's World – Personal from the Editor (Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong), February 1972 – “The 19-Year Time Cycles – What HAPPENED January 7”:

“I think I have told you in former letters how 19 years is a complete time cycle. Days, months and years, as God counts time, are measured by the movements of the earth, moon and sun, in relation to each other. The earth, moon and sun come into the same relation to one another only every 19 years.

“The preaching of Christ's Gospel to the world by the Apostles covered exactly two 19-year cycles. The first 19 years was confined to Palestine and Asia Minor. The second 19 it expanded into Europe.

“... Jesus began teaching His disciples in the autumn of 27 A.D., and I was converted and started being taught the true Gospel from the written

Word (Jesus was the spoken Word of God) in the autumn of 1927 – exactly 100 time cycles later. The Apostles were ordained and started on their ministry of Christ's Gospel in the spring of 31 A.D., and precisely 100 time cycles later, late spring or early summer 1931, I was ordained and started full time preaching Christ's Gospel.

“Christ OPENED THE DOOR of radio and the printing press early January 1934. And 19 years later, early January 1953, He

opened the door for the broadcast to leap over to Europe!”

The Plain Truth, January 1968 – “THE BIBLE ANSWERS Short Questions FROM OUR READERS” – By Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong:

“... But Jesus also had declared, prophetically: ‘This Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached [and pub-



lished – Mark 13:10] in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end [of this world's civilization] come' (Matthew 24:14). This proclamation was to be the SIGN of His coming!

“Just as God had allotted two 19-year time cycles at the BEGINNING of this New Testament era for the proclaiming of HIS Gospel, so He has decreed for its worldwide proclamation AT THE CLOSE of the age — preparing the way for His return!



TRASHING THE PAST

“The first week in 1934 that SAME Gospel of the Kingdom started going once again to the world. Christ had OPENED THE MIGHTY DOOR of radio and the printing press.

“But just before it is the Church which carries this end-time vital Message! It is small. It is weak. But it is faithful, as few have been, with GOD'S WORD! It rises at the time Daniel prophesied, when ‘KNOWLEDGE shall be increased’ (Daniel 12:4). ...

“Now I want to tell you the TRUTH about the two 19-year time cycles, ending January 7, 1972 ... But MORE ASTOUNDING than I had noticed or written then: We started on the air on the little station in Eugene, Oregon, the first Sunday in January 1934. That first Sunday was January 7. For some time, I talked of starting

also on the air in Europe during the FIRST WEEK of 1953 – 19 years later – not the first Sunday, but the first Wednesday ... that Wednesday was January 7, 1953! 19 years to the exact SAME DAY OF THE YEAR – 19 years TO THE VERY DAY!

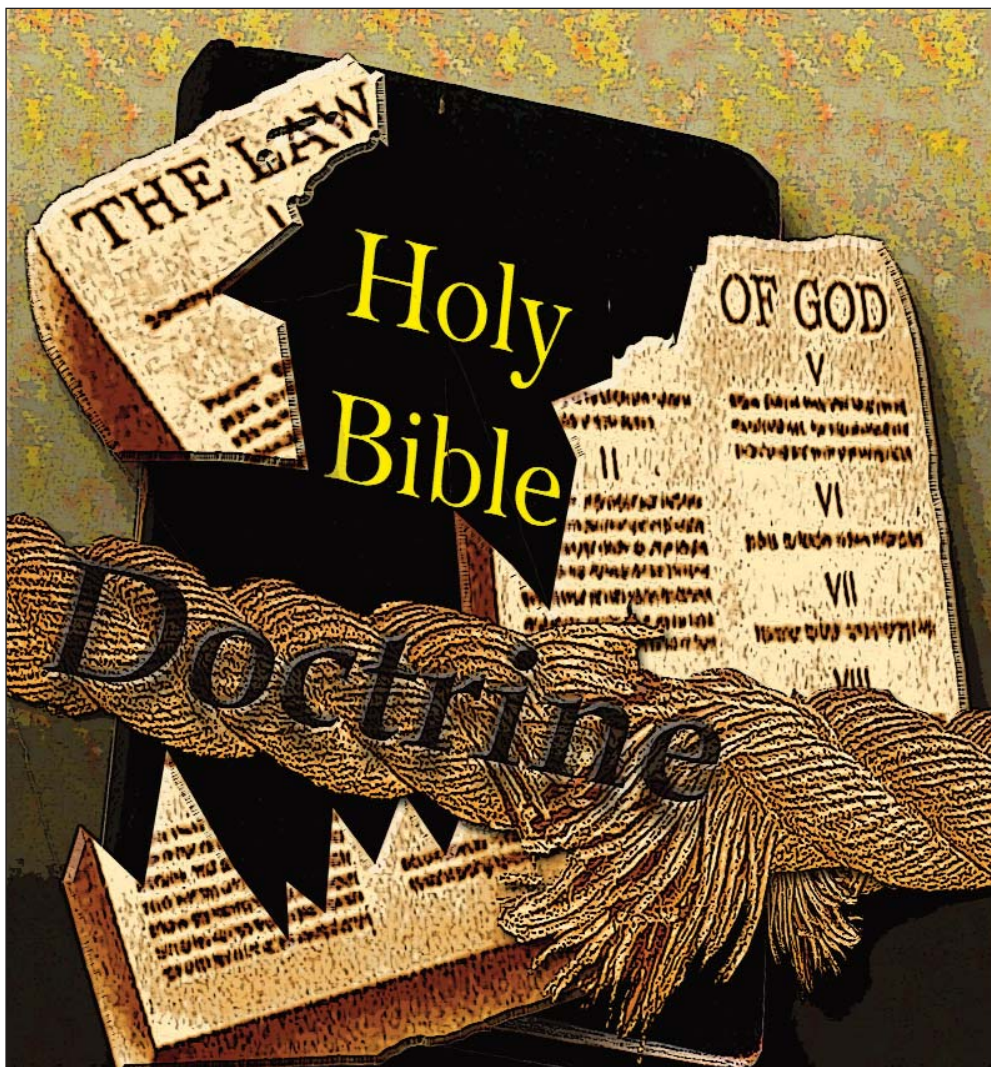
“That seemed SIGNIFICANT, to say the least!

“One point remains. The question, HOW THOROUGHLY does God intend His Work to reach the nations? It DID take a second 19

years to get the message into all nations – but, as of January 7th, 1972, we had reached many of them ONLY SUPERFICIALLY – not intensively!

“I know of no place in the Bible where, in specific plain words, this question is answered. The one possible answer is in Matthew 24:14, the very prophecy defining our COMMISSION for this latter day. There we are to preach and publish this Gospel OF THE KINGDOM in all the world FOR A WITNESS unto all nations. ‘God never sends judgment without previous warning.’

“In Amos 3:7 may be found a corollary: ‘Surely the Lord Eternal will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets (Amos 3:7).’ The inference is that God's servants warn the people, as Jonah



UNRAVELING TRUE DOCTRINE

did Nineveh, of God's judgment to come. "If that is the meaning intended, then we must say that God does intend many nations to be warned more intensively than as of now.

"In view of WHAT DID HAPPEN, on January 7th, it seems God has revealed in no uncertain language, BY THE VERY THINGS THAT HAPPENED on that day, that we must now reach all nations MORE INTENSIVELY!"

The Death of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong – January 16, 1986 – *He died a peaceful death in his home five years short of the beginning of the third 19-year time cycle. With the death of God's apostle, and the Elijah to come, the very man that God had sent to mankind (Malachi 4:4-6, Matthew 17:10-11), the door was then closed by Jesus Christ for preaching the gospel and the Ezekiel warning message (Revelation 3:7).*

Though others claim they are preaching the gospel, based on their departure from some of the doctrinal teachings, and rulings made by Jesus Christ through him, there is no real indication that Jesus Christ is using any of them to do it (Matthew 7:15-20, Luke 6:46).

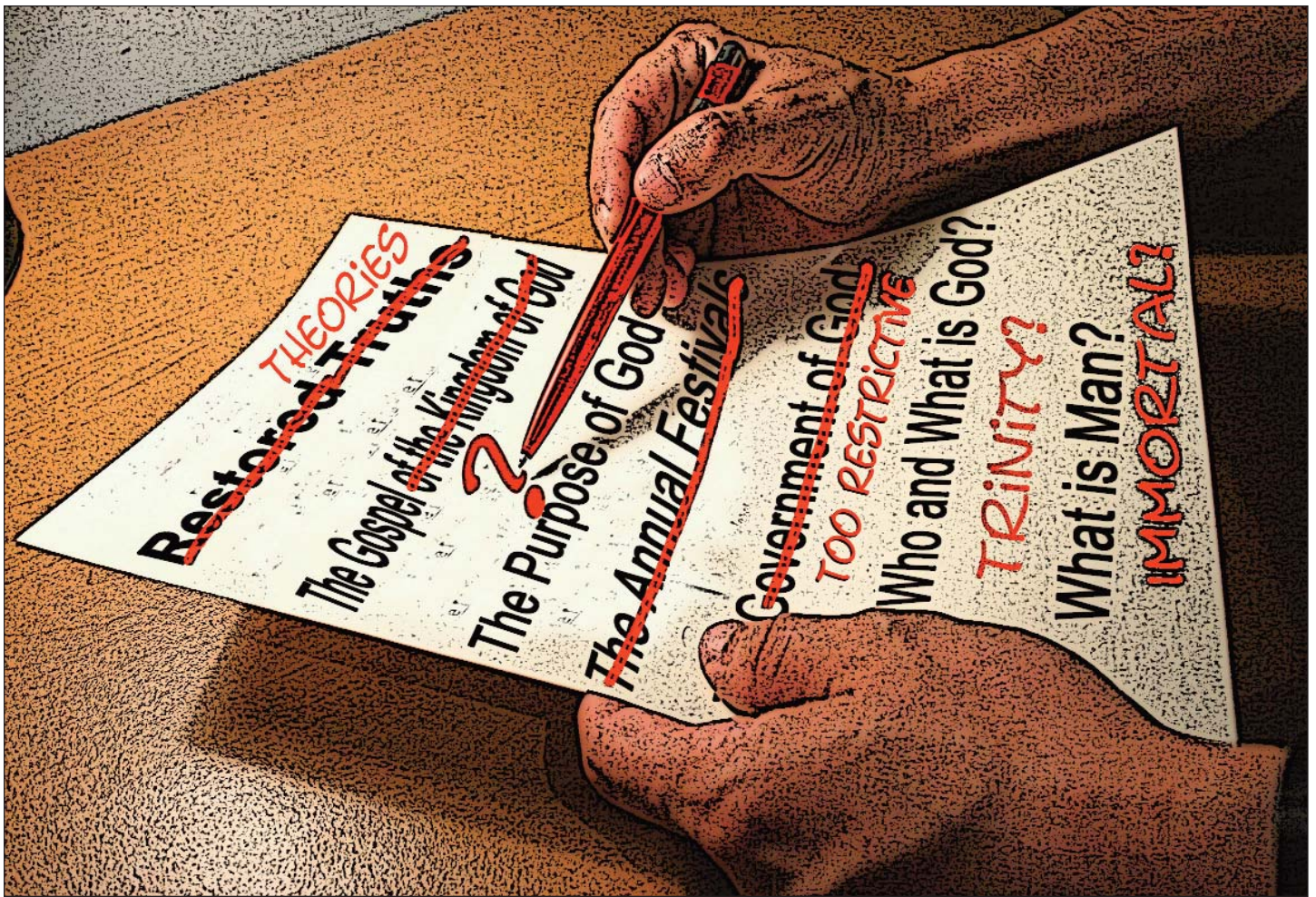
With the door being closed at that time to preach the gospel due to the death of the man God had sent to mankind, and **no human chief shepherd to restrain the forces of Satan (II Thessalonians 2:7),** the type (*within the Church*) of the lawless one to come (*the pope*), who replaced God's apostle, began almost immediately to unravel the doctrinal teachings Christ had used him to restore within His Church.

The 1991 Time Cycle— Though rulings and teachings had taken place during the last five years of the 1972 time cycle, major ones

began taking place in *the very beginning* of the new time cycle that severely affected the meaning of the true gospel:

R/Mills – on the <http://wgc.org> web site at <http://wgc.org/lit/aboutus/history.htm> tells the following for 1991: "In 1991, [Joseph] Tkach revised the church's explanation of what it means to be born again, noting also that humans will never become God. He also announced a study about the modern identity of the lost ten tribes [*later rejecting it*], and accepted the divinity of the Holy Spirit [Trinity]. Membership, attendance and income began to decrease slowly."

The Satanic changes reached their ultimate objective during the month of December 1994, when it was announced by *the apostate leader* that the laws of God had been done away with *the erroneous claim* they were under the Old Covenant.



OTHER SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS

The tenure of Mr. Tkach, as pastor general with *the death of Mr. Armstrong* on January 16, 1986, was only nine days after naming his successor and ended with a horrible and painful death in the hospital – nine years and nine months later (January 1986 to September 23, 1995).

“The number ‘nine’ – marks the completeness, the end and issue of all things as to man – the judgment of man and all his works” (Internet; Companion Bible, Appendix 10, The Spiritual Significance of Numbers).

Holy Scripture makes known there is often great significance to be found in numbers in it, such as the number that will identify the coming Beast, **666** (Revelation 13:18).

THE DOOR TO THE GOSPEL OPENS AGAIN

*Twenty years after the death of God’s apostle, the door to the preaching of the gospel opened once again during the Passover season of **2006**. Doubling the number $10 \times 2 = 20$ signifies the same meaning – *a new beginning!* Notice the*

following from the Internet: **Twenty** is the double of *ten*, and may in some cases signify its concentrated meaning. But its significance seems rather to be connected with the fact that it is one short of twenty one, $21 - 1 = 20$; that is to say, if 21 is the three-fold 7, and signifies Divine (3) completion as regards spiritual perfection (7), then *twenty*, being one short of 21, it would signify what Dr. Milo Mahan calls *expectancy*, and certainly we are not without illustrations in support of it:

- *Twenty years* Jacob waited to get possession of his wives and property, Genesis 31:38, 41.
- *Twenty years* Israel waited for a deliverer from Jabin's oppression, Judges 4:3.
- *Twenty years* Israel waited for deliverance through Samson, Judges 15:20, 16:31. But his work was never much more than "begun," Judges 13:25.
- *Twenty years* the Ark of the Covenant waited at Kirjath-jearim, I Samuel 7:2.
- *Twenty years* Solomon was waiting for the completion of the two houses, I Kings 9:10; II Chronicles 8:1.

Expectancy! It is because of the expectancy of the fullness of the horrors to begin falling out on Israel and the Church that Jesus Christ has once again **OPENED THE DOOR** to His Gospel Message and the Ezekiel warning message – **as a last ditch-warning!**

A SERIES OF MIRACLES

It was through a series of miracles that Jesus Christ made known to this little flock that He was once again opening the door to the preaching of the gospel and sounding the Ezekiel warning message by REVIVING and USING *the recordings of His late apostle's voice and writings via* the use of the 14 web sites that were freely and voluntarily given to this tiny little flock during the Passover season – 2006!

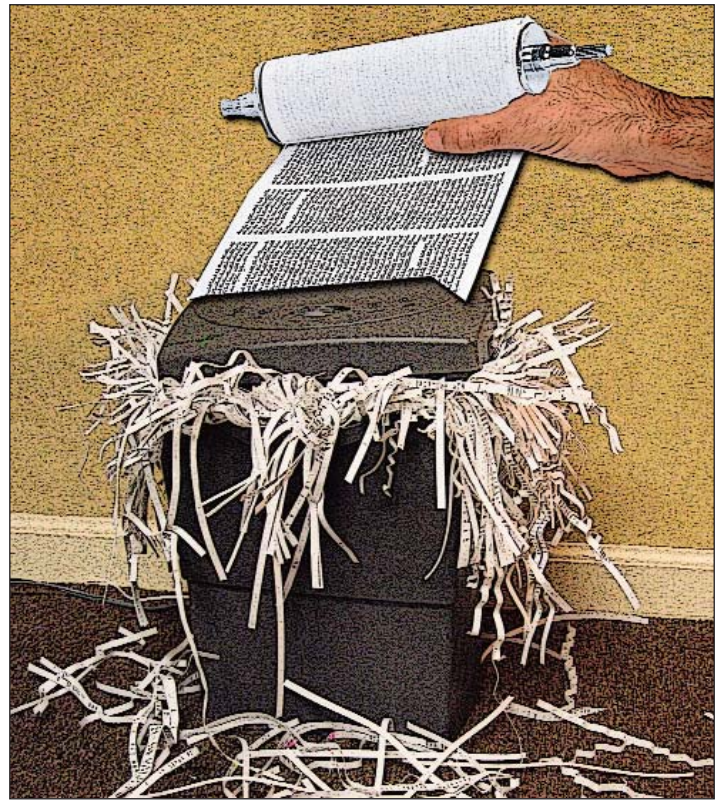
Through those miracles, Jesus Christ made known that He would be using this tiny flock *as a conduit* to do a final Work and Warning; and He would make it known through His prophets:

“Therefore, behold, I WILL AGAIN do a marvelous work among this people, a marvelous work and a wonder; for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hidden (Isaiah 29:14).”

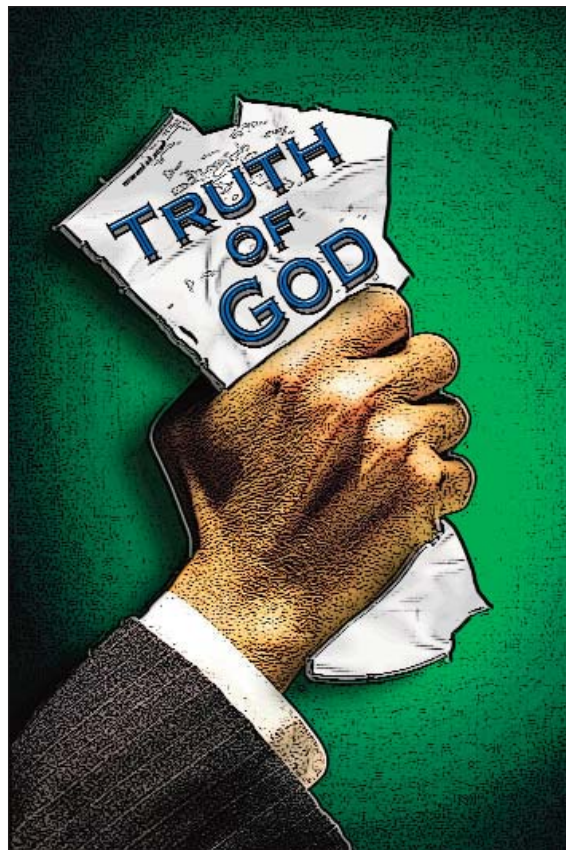
“Look among the nations and watch – be utterly astounded! For I will work a work in your days which you would not believe, though it were told you (Habakkuk 1:5; 2:2-4; 3:2).”

Using such a tiny group of people would be as laughable (*by everyone*) as was Sarah when she was told she was going to give birth to a son at age 90. What did the LORD say to Abraham about her laughing at what she had heard Him say: **“Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?’ Is anything too hard for the LORD? (Genesis 18:13-14).”**

The analogy is the same with us today! How could this be done with



such a tiny handful of people? God's answer: **“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the LORD of hosts ... for who has despised the day of small things? (Zechariah 4:6, 10)”**



THE TEACHER SENT BY JESUS CHRIST

It should be remembered that it was Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong who was the apostle, the teacher, as well as the Elijah to come, whom Jesus Christ SENT to Israel and His Church to preach and teach the gospel message, along with the Ezekiel warning message!

At the same time, he had the mission of *PREPARING THE WAY* for Christ's return to this earth, just as *the second Elijah* (John the Baptizer) was to *PREPARE THE WAY* for the Messiah to come the first time. Both the Holy Bible and LOGIC (*based on timing and fruits*)

should enable all truly converted members to know, and *know that we know*, that Jesus Christ would be using *the same man once again* with the final warning; *and no one else!* Scripture does not reveal Christ would send any other man to replace him.

We are in the day of scattering with no chief human shepherd, and each of us is being proved whether we will cling to God and the true doctrinal teachings that Jesus Christ re-stored through Mr. Armstrong in His Church and endure to the end (Daniel 12:7, 10; Matthew 17:10-11).

And **IF** we are vigilantly observing the **SIGNS** all around us in view of end-time prophecy, we cannot help but realize we are in the time of the end (Luke 21:29-33).

A PROPHETIC QUOTE

Without realizing the *TIMING*, and *HOW* a continuation of the Work could be done, Mr. Armstrong wrote the following:

The Plain Truth, January 1968 – “**THE BIBLE ANSWERS Short Questions FROM OUR READERS**” – By Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong:

“In view of **WHAT DID HAPPEN**, on January 7th (1972), it seems God has revealed in no uncertain language, **BY THE VERY THINGS THAT HAPPENED** on that day, that we must now reach all nations **MORE INTENSIVELY!**”

This is now being done by him once again *via his recorded works* and has been since just before the Passover, and at the beginning of the Last Day of Unleavened Bread, 2006.

MAJOR CHANGES COMING SOON

TIME CYCLE 2010 – January 7 – This coming year, month and day (*Thursday*), undoubtedly will prove to be very significant – *just as in the previous time cycles* for it ties in with them and *the gospel message*.

Could it be possible that Jesus Christ will then *close the door to the Gospel Message* going forth to Israel and the Church (Revelation 3:7)? If so – this would probably mean the beginning of **the famine of the Word!** (Amos 8:11-12)

How could this be possible? The answer could be in ways that are not yet evident, but from the news and talk shows on FOX News, it would appear a possible revolution is developing and could take place in this country, for one reason or another, by that time or shortly thereafter. The economy also could totally crash as well. Either one could bring it about.



Prophecy also makes known that in the very beginning years of this coming new 19-Year Time Cycle, 2010, will bring with it the fullness of the prophesied famine, disease epidemics, **Great Tribulation** and the *demise* of Israel as nations, captivity, slavery and **marttyrdom of the saints!**

There is an urgent need to make fully sure from Scripture where the **physical remnant** is that Jesus Christ is using of the Philadelphia Era of God's true Church and then become an active part of it (Romans 11:5).

They can be easily identified by the study of the sixth Church Era in Revelation 3:7-13. Accompanying it should be the study of the last book Mr. Armstrong wrote in the last year of his life, "The MYSTERY OF THE AGES."

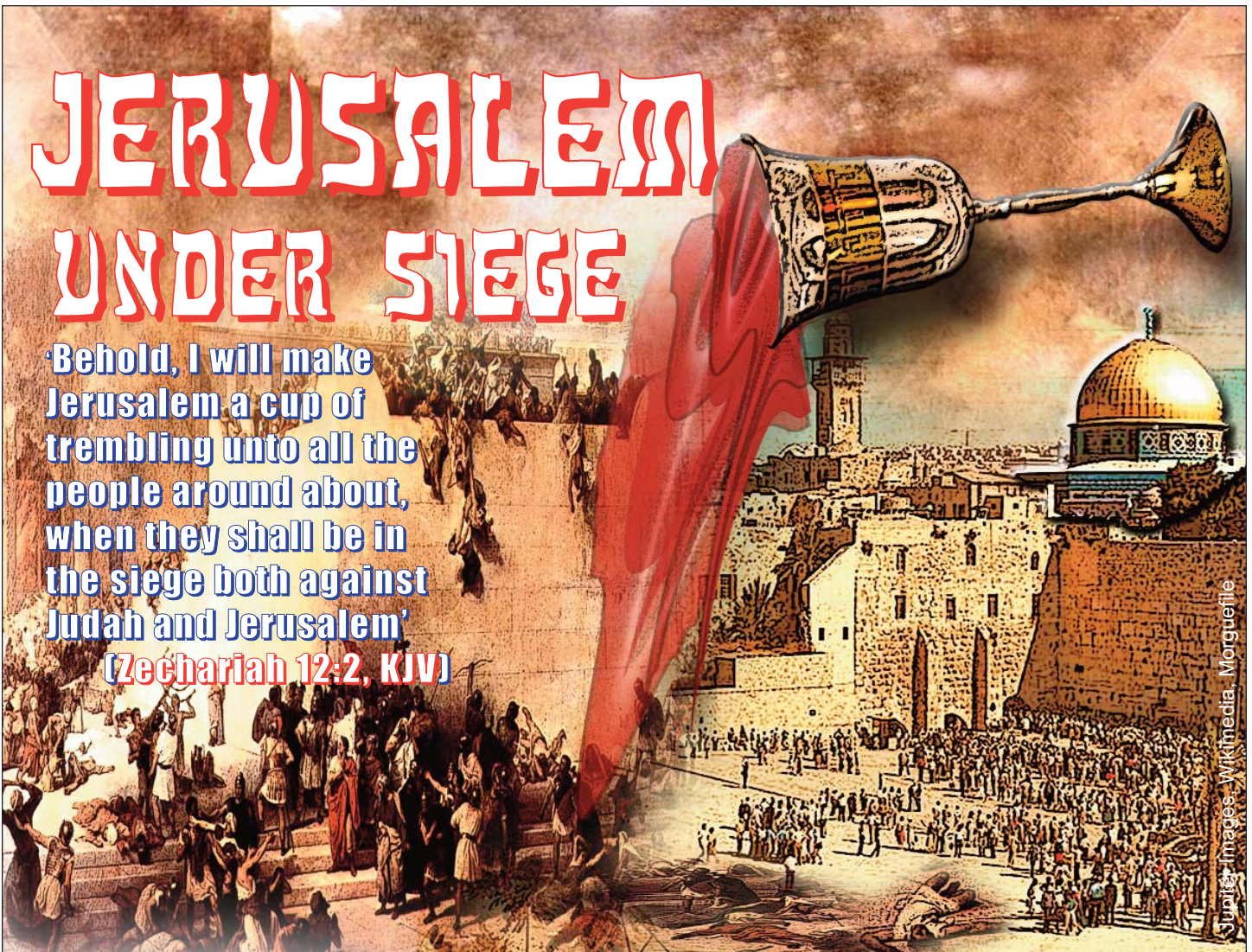
This is essential for it is only the members of it who will be counted worthy to escape those soon-to-come **horrors**. My *heartfelt plea* to all members is to please consider where you now are – and *where you should be!* It could make the difference. *Time is running out!*

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JERUSALEM UNDER SIEGE

Behold, I will make
Jerusalem a cup of
trembling unto all the
people around about,
when they shall be in
the siege both against
Judah and Jerusalem'
(Zechariah 12:2, KJV)



By Mark Mendiola

On his first major trip to the Middle East to make an unprecedented speech to the Muslim world, U.S. President Barack Obama visited Saudi Arabia and Egypt, but bypassed Israel – only an hour's flight from the Saudi capital. Many supporters of the Jewish nation viewed Obama's deliberate omission of a visit to Israel on his itinerary as an insulting diplomatic snub.

Relations between the United States and Israel – a tiny Mideast oasis of democracy surrounded by hostile Arab dictatorships – have frayed badly since Obama's inauguration as U.S. president in January and Benjamin Netanyahu's installation as Israel's prime minister in March.

Many Jews fear the sands are shifting against America's historic reliable support for Israel. A rift between the once-close allies is widening. Obama's plan to bring sweeping

change to the strategic region by openly courting the world's 1.5 billion Muslims clashes directly with Netanyahu's dogged determination to preserve and defend the embattled Jewish state of Israel.

Obama's June 4 speech from Cairo to the Muslims further exacerbated U.S./Israeli tensions, heightening suspicions among Jewish leaders about his motives and ultimate agenda. He warned in his speech that Israel must not build or expand Jewish communities in Judea or Samaria. Obama said Washington "does not accept the legitimacy of continued Israeli settlements."

Obama's frequent citing of Islam's Koran, which he referred to as a "holy" book four times, opening his speech with an Islamic greeting in Arabic, emphasis on his Muslim heritage, never using the word "terrorism," insistence on a Palestinian state and implied support for international control of Jerusalem did little to allay Jewish fears.



U.S. PRESIDENT OBAMA CASUALLY CONVERSES WITH ISRAELI P.M. NETANYAHU

"His only reference to Jerusalem was a quote from the Koran that describes Moses, Jesus and Mohammed joining together in prayer, and a call for 'Jerusalem [to be] a secure home for Jews, Christians and Muslims'," Arutz Sheva, IsraelNationalNews.com, reported (*The Koran refers to Moses and Jesus as equal prophets of Allah with the Arabic names of "Musa" and "Isa"*).

During a French television interview prior to his speech, Obama referred to the United States as "one of the largest Muslim countries in the world." The *Weekly Standard*, however, noted the U.S. Muslim population (about 2.5 percent) would barely place the nation in the top 42 Muslim countries. "Actually, if you look at the number of Jewish Americans, we'd be the largest Jewish country in the world after Israel. And America is the largest Christian country in the world," Michael Goldfarb wrote.



PRESIDENT OBAMA RECEIVES MEDAL FROM SAUDI KING

During a BBC interview, Obama said Iran might have a right to nuclear energy, indicating the U.S. may not oppose Iran's nuclear development program, a frightening prospect for Israel, which would be the primary target of an Iranian nuclear attack. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad repeatedly has urged that Israel be wiped off the map and has denied the Holocaust. In fact, most Arab states do not show Israel on their maps of the Middle East – as if it does not exist.

Following Obama's June 4 speech, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton rejected a promise

that U.S. President George W. Bush made in a 2004 letter to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. In it, Bush vowed Israel would be allowed to keep large Jewish population centers in disputed areas. Clinton said Israel must surrender all of Judea, Samaria and Gaza for a Palestinian state to be created, which would require the expulsion of tens of thousands of Israeli Jews in those areas.





Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1948 DECLARATION OF STATE OF ISRAEL

JEWISH REACTION

Knesset member Yaakov Katz, head of the National Union Party in Israel, was blunt: "Let's not mince words. The Obama-Clinton 'no natural growth' policy for 650,000 Jews in Judea, Samaria and Jerusalem is nothing less than anti-Semitism."

Speaking on Israel National Radio, Katz said: "In the past, other administrations have also pressured us – but this is the very first time that they are actually saying that the Jewish people have no right to give birth, or to build kindergartens, or to grow. President Barack Hussein Obama is the first one to say that a population of 650,000 Jews in Israel is not allowed to build even one square meter.



ISRAELI STUDENT MURDERED BY TERRORISM

Pharaoh decreed so many years ago, that Jews must not give birth!"

Referring to the Holocaust of World War II, Katz continued: "The American people must not be silent – and the fact that they are not shouting is what is scaring me! Something happened 70 years ago in Europe, and no one stood up to stop it – and no one is standing up to Obama now either, to say, 'Shut up! You have no right to tell the Jewish people that they cannot have children in their own land!'"

Obama's use of the word "occupation" to refer to Israel's military presence in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem also sounded alarms for Jews suspicious of the U.S. president's intentions. His comparing the Holocaust to the suffering of Palestinians living in Israel for decades especially angered many Jews.

Likud Party lawmaker Danny Danon responded, "The president has crossed all lines. His implied comparison between the Israeli government and the Nazi regime said everything. He has made a covenant with the Arab world and rewarded it for more than 60 years of aggression."

Knesset member Aryeh Eldad added: "Obama makes a shocking parallel between the destruction of European Jewry and the suffering that the Arabs of

Israel brought upon themselves when they declared war on Israel. How dare Obama compare Arab refugee suffering to the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust?"

Knesset member Zevulun Orlev said: "The speech arouses fears and concerns regarding the future of American relations towards Israel. I fear an erosion of the traditional American commitment to Israel's security needs and its very existence and independence."



"He is bringing us back to the Middle Ages, with Jews facing discrimination simply because they are Jews. This is the first time that Americans – Christians and Jews – hear a president saying that the Biblical areas – areas that they believe and know are completely Jewish – must be sterilized of Jews. They hear him saying, just like King





PRESIDENT OBAMA, ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU

Some Israelis interpreted a White House photo showing Obama with his feet on his Oval Office desk while speaking on the phone with Netanyahu as a message of disrespect aimed at the Jews in deference to Arab contempt for Israel. “As an enthusiast of Muslim culture, Obama surely knows there is no greater insult in the Middle East than pointing the soles of one’s shoes at another person. Indeed, photos of other presidential phone calls depict Obama leaning on his desk, with his feet on the floor,” a political correspondent for the *Haaretz* newspaper wrote.

The CBS World Watch news blog reported that Israeli newscasters “saw the incident as somewhat akin to an incident last year, when the Iraqi reporter threw a shoe at President Bush in Baghdad.”

Aaron Klein, author of the book “*The Late Great State of Israel*,” wrote in a June WorldNetDaily column, that contrary to what Obama purported in his Cairo speech, Muslim terrorists are waging “jihad” or “holy war” against the United States because they believe it is their duty to spread Islam throughout the world – not because they are poor, angry or desperate.

Polls in the Middle East and Europe show “a widespread plurality” of Muslims support acts of “violent extremism,” including suicide attacks against civilian targets, rocket assaults on Israeli towns and kidnappings, Klein noted.

Klein criticized Obama for stating Hamas could play a role in “fulfilling Palestinian aspirations” while the terrorist group’s official charter calls for the murder of Jews and destruction of Israel. “Obama also took the occasion to legitimize an ‘Arab Peace Initiative,’ which calls on Israel to make near suicidal territorial concessions and accept millions of foreign Arabs into its pop-

ulation ... in exchange for ‘normalized’ relations with the Arab world.”

SAUDI ULTIMATUM

The Saudi Peace Plan calls for the 22-member Arab League to recognize Israel as a country, but not necessarily as a Jewish state, on condition that it surrender all of Judea, Samaria and Gaza, including many neighborhoods in Jerusalem and the Old City, where the proposed Palestinian state would be headquartered. It also wants to allow five million foreign Arabs who claim ancestry to migrate to Israel.

During Obama’s trip to petroleum-rich Saudi Arabia, Saudi King Abdullah urged him to impose a solution to resolve the worsening Arab/Israeli crisis, according to Reuters. “Saudi Arabia and other Arab states want Obama to get tough with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who has balked at Palestinian statehood and defied U.S. calls to halt the expansion of Jewish settlements.”

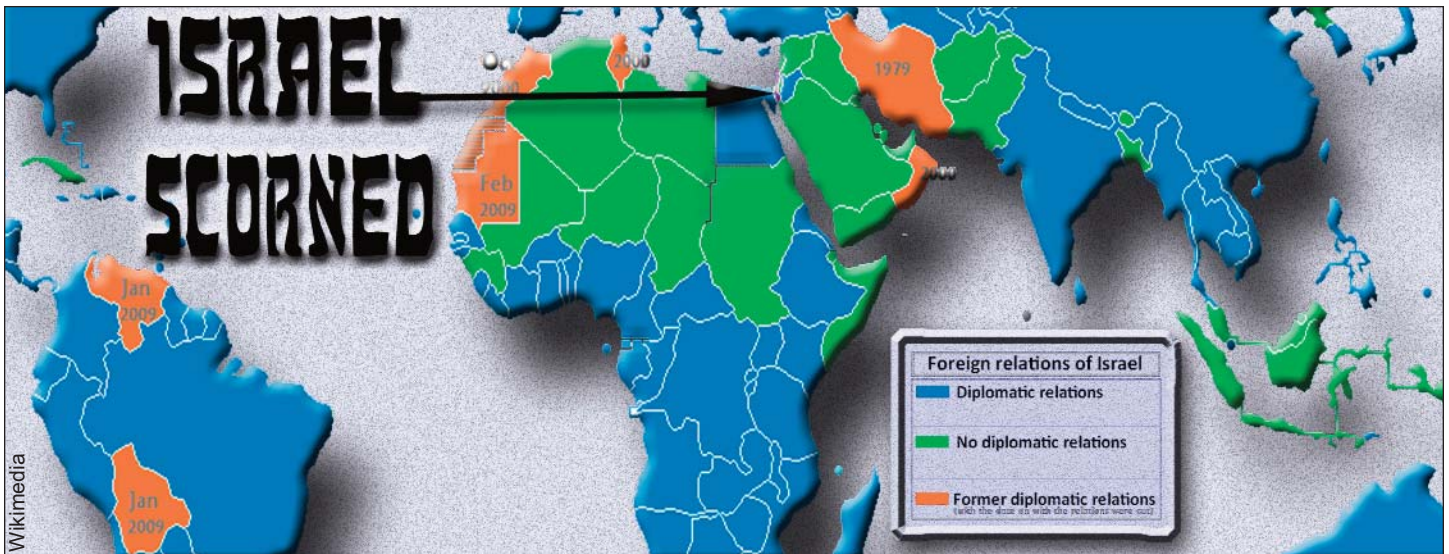
Citing *al-Hayat*, a Saudi newspaper, Reuters reported: “King Abdullah told Obama during his visit to Riyadh last week that Arab patience was wearing thin and that a solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict would be the ‘magic key’ to all issues in the region.”

Upon his arrival in the Saudi kingdom, Obama was given a large gold medallion on a heavy gold chain by the king – the country’s highest honor. “Those are only given to the very few friends of the king, and you are certainly one of those,” Abdullah told Obama, the *Chicago Tribune* reported.

In a *Newsweek* magazine interview following Obama’s speech, Prince Saud al-Faisal, Saudi Arabia’s foreign minister, admitted that Obama did “bow” before King Abdullah



PRESIDENT OBAMA, EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT MUBARAK



when the two met in April at the G-20 summit in London. Al-Faisal said *the U.S. should withhold financial aid to Israel to pressure it to accept the terms of the Saudi peace plan*, which would require Israel to return to pre-1967 borders.

He revealed that during Obama's visit to Saudi Arabia before his Cairo speech *the Saudi monarchy told him it wanted to see action*. "But we did not expect him to be so specific," the foreign minister said. "He called Israeli settlements in the West Bank 'not legitimate' – and this is more important, and *stronger*, than 'not legal'.

The Zionist Organization of America harshly condemned Obama's Cairo speech. "*Taken together, the president's remarks in this speech may well signal the beginning of a renunciation of America's strategic alliance with Israel,*" ZOA President Morton A. Klein said, noting Obama referred to the Koran and Bible as "holy," but not the Jewish Talmud. "President Obama recently declared that the U.S. won't 'dictate' to other countries, yet he strongly dictated to Israel to support the dangerous Arab so-called peace initiative."

The *New York Times* reported the Obama administration may impose sanctions against Israel if Netanyahu does not comply with its demands to halt settlements, sharply departing from the Bush administration. As punishment, the

Times said, Obama could cease from opposing anti-Israel U.N. Security Council resolutions.

CONTROVERSIAL JERUSALEM

One of the most controversial components of the Saudi Peace Plan is the goal of giving East Jerusalem to the Palestinians as the capital of a Palestinian state. Shortly after he had visited Obama at the White House, Prime Minister Netanyahu vowed at a Jerusalem Day ceremony in Israel that all of Jerusalem would remain under Israeli sovereignty "forever." The ceremony marked Jerusalem's reunification after the Six Day War of 1967. Prior to Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem, Jordan controlled it.

"Jerusalem is the eternal capital of the Jewish people, a city reunified so as never again to be divided," Netanyahu said. "Our people's unparalleled affinity to Jerusalem has spanned thousands of years and is at the basis of our national renaissance. It has united our people, secular and religious people alike. ... Jerusalem was always ours and will always be ours. *It will never again be partitioned and divided.*"

Netanyahu said he made the same declarations to Obama and other U.S. officials during his visit to Washington earlier that week. Meanwhile, tens of thousands of Israelis marched to the Western Wall to commemorate Jerusalem's reunification while hundreds of East Jerusalem Arabs protested the celebrations.





the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

“With all due respect,” Netanyahu said, “the U.S. president sees the American interest and does not know that Jerusalem is not a territorial issue, but a much deeper one – ‘the hope of two thousand years, the land of Zion and Jerusalem,’” quoting Israel's national anthem.

On Friday, June 5, the Obama administration removed the sentence, "My administration remains committed to beginning the process of moving our embassy [from Tel Aviv] to Jerusalem," from a memo that has been renewed every six months for 14 years under legislation enacted by Congress.

The conflict between Obama and Netanyahu over the future of Jerusalem is a classic example of an irresistible force colliding with an immovable object – one that Bible prophecy shows will involve a catastrophic World War III and another massive betrayal and annihilation of Jews that will eclipse the Holocaust, believe it or not!

O JERUSALEM!

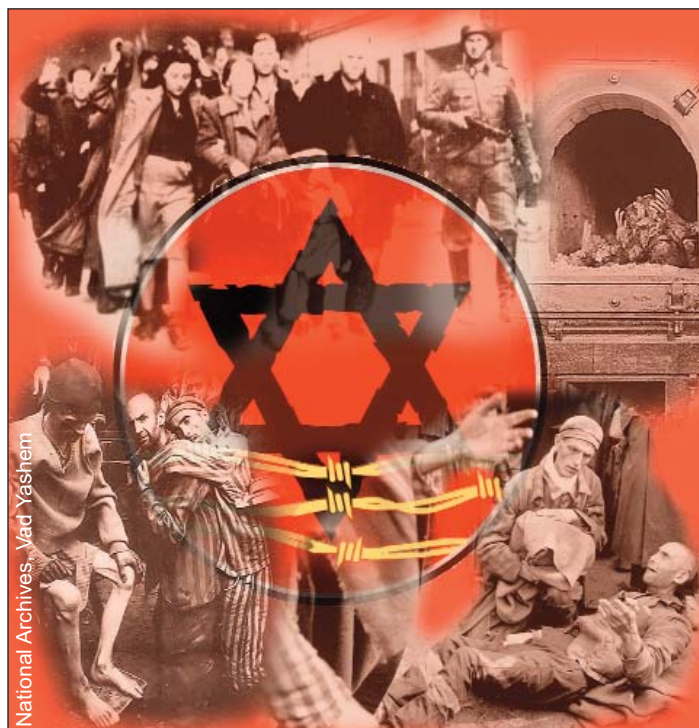
Jesus Christ, a Jew Himself, and many Old Testament prophets warned in Biblical prophecies that Jerusalem will be embroiled in a blazing firestorm of controversy that will result in its ruthless conquest by European troops before Christ returns to establish the Kingdom of God on earth.

Desperate Jews surrounded by hostile armies will be so terrified that they once again will resort to animal sacrifices!

“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near,” Christ forewarned. “Then let those in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in

For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled (Luke 21:20-24).”

Similar to when the conquering Nazis marched with their jackboots into European cities during World War II, Jerusalem also will be trampled by foreign troops and its Jewish inhabitants slaughtered before Christ's Second Coming. The Prophet Isaiah also envisioned this horrific time.





THE EMBATTLED JEWS WILL FACE ANOTHER MASADA

“Awake, awake! Stand up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk at the hand of the LORD the cup of His fury; You have drunk the dregs of the cup of trembling, and drained it out. ... Thus says your Lord, The LORD and your God, who pleads the cause of His people: ‘See, I have taken out of your hand **the cup of trembling, the dregs of the cup of My fury; You shall no longer drink it. But I will put it into the hand of those who afflict you, who have said to you, ‘**Lie down, that we may walk over you.**’ And you have laid your body like the ground, and as the street, for those who walk over’ (Isaiah 51:17, 22-23).”**

Isaiah shows the Germans, modern Assyrians, will be in the forefront of those nations who will savagely ravage the Jews and other modern Israelites in a nightmarish recurrence of the Holocaust at the time of the end. “Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger and the staff in whose hand is My indignation. I will send him against an ungodly nation, and against the people of My wrath I will give him charge, to seize the spoil, to take the prey, and **to tread them down like the mire of the streets** (Isaiah 10:5-6).”

The Apostle John shows **this trampling of Jerusalem by Gentile military forces will last for 3½ dreadful years that will seem like an**

eternity. **“And they (the Gentiles) will tread the holy city underfoot for 42 months** (Revelation 11:2).” As Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong used to explain, these same armies will make the area desolate.

The Bible also shows Jewish leaders will valiantly fight to the finish like their predecessors who futilely resisted the overwhelming might of the Roman Empire at Masada, but they will not be able to prevent the unthinkable carnage that will ensue. The Prophet Zechariah vividly describes this terrifying time.

“Behold, **I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness (reeling or trembling) to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem.** And it will happen in that day that *I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples*; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, **though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.** ... *In that day I will make the governors of Judah like a firepan in the woodpile, and like a fiery torch in the sheaves ...*” (Zechariah 12:2-3, 6).



JESUS CHRIST WILL RETURN TO THE MOUNT OF OLIVES

Only the return of Jesus Christ, the Messiah whom the Jews have sought for centuries, will rescue them from complete destruction as a people.

“The LORD will save the tents of Judah first ... In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem ... It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem (v. 7-9).”



THE SIEGE AND DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM IN 70 A.D.

Christ Himself will divinely intervene to battle the nations gathered against Jerusalem and crush them with superior force! “Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, and your spoil will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east ... Thus the LORD my God will come, and all the saints with (Him). ... And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. ... Jerusalem shall be raised up ... And no longer shall there be utter destruction, but Jerusalem shall

be safely inhabited (Zechariah 14:1-5, 9, 11).”

When Jesus Christ establishes the Kingdom of God at His return, He will subjugate all the rebellious, warring nations. Jews and Arabs who do not now acknowledge Him as the Messiah finally will worship Him and live together in peace, keeping the Sabbaths He has ordained for all mankind. “And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles (v. 16).”



THE TITUS ARCH SHOWS THE PLUNDER OF JERUSALEM

During the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ in the Kingdom of God, Jerusalem – a city whose long history has been written in blood – will become the capital of the entire world and global peace will prevail among all countries! “At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the LORD, and all nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem (Jeremiah 3:17).” Christ Himself referred to Jerusalem as “the city of the great King (Matthew 5:35).” He will be that very “King over all the earth!” (Zechariah 14:9)



'... The Greatest Feast Ever!'

By Duane Miller



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There was a phrase used in God's Church (that goes back as far as I can remember) while Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong was living. That sincere and meaningful phrase was ... **"THIS WAS THE GREATEST FEAST EVER!"** Members from all over the world would reflect upon what they had learned spiritually during an eight-day period. Sadly, many of the people who were once with us now use this same phrase as a statement of "mocking derision."

In the early 1970s, after returning from the Feast, I visited a friend whose wife had left God's Church some time prior to my visit. During our conversation, my friend's wife asked me a direct question coupled with a "smirk." Her question was, **"Was this the greatest Feast ever?"** Without even a pause, my answer was a resounding, **"YES!"** With all certainty, God's Feast had truly been the **GREATEST** Feast ever for me! I had learned through the years that it was the **"spiritual content"** (not just the physical blessings of "good-tasting food" and beautiful surroundings) that made each Feast the "GREATEST."

What I heard **spiritually** from the sermon messages, coupled with the opportunity to serve the needs of others, made God's Feast uplifting and rewarding. I valued the renewed friendships with brethren I had not seen since the year before and appreciated meeting various new people. Being single at the time, fellowship with other singles also was of special importance to me.

SCATTERED AT THE END TIME

We are in a time that the Church is in a scattered condition. Notice this prophecy in Jeremiah 10:21, **"For the shepherds have become dull-hearted, and have not sought the LORD; therefore [because of this] they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered."**

This verse tells us that the flock (God's people) would be scattered, and *why* they would. They are scattered because the shepherds, as a whole, would no longer follow Christ. They have rejected the restored truths given by Christ through Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong! We read the following in John 10:12, **"But a hireling and (he who is) not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf**



FreeFoto.com, Jupiter Images

WOLF SCATTERING SHEEP

coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them.”

Just how many ministers were really looking out for the welfare of the sheep, even at the expense of their own comfort? All we have to do is look back in retrospect at the years following the death of God’s end-time apostle, Mr. Armstrong, to find the answer! Read chapter 34 of the book of Ezekiel, along with chapter 23 of the book of Jeremiah. Both chapters clearly (and condemningly) describe the irresponsible conduct of those claiming to be teachers and “helpers” of our joy!

At this end time, we are witnessing the continual downfall of the modern House of Jacob, with its downward spiral of economic, social and moral degeneracy. There are climactic changes resulting in weird unseasonable weather patterns. Various crises will continue to develop causing prime agricultural areas to fail if current conditions are not reversed. Bible prophecy reveals that unless there is real repen-

tance on the part of the modern nations of Israel, these trends will continue (specifically with the descendants of the House of Jacob – the United States and Great Britain!). You can read more in Mr. Armstrong’s booklet *“The United States and Britain in Prophecy,”* Chapter 14, 1980 edition.

Notice a detailed prophecy about modern Israel in the prophetic book of Micah. This book teaches us about the remnant of modern Israel today – what is to happen and *why*. Micah 5:7, 10-11: **“Then the remnant of Jacob shall**



FROM WAR TO PEACE



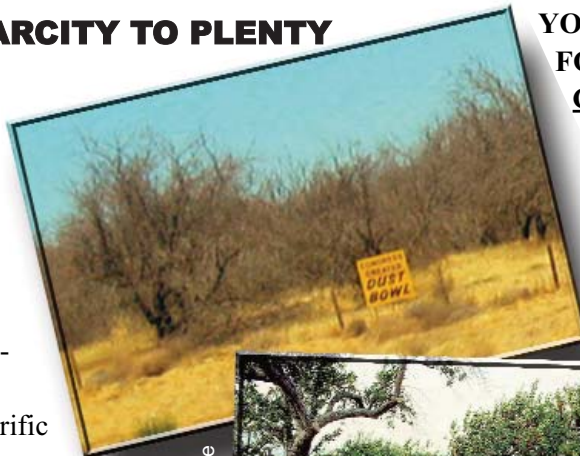
U.S. AID, DOD



be in the midst of many peoples ... ‘And it shall be in that day’, says the LORD, ‘that I will cut off your horses [“war horses,” *Moffat* translation], from your midst and destroy your chariots. I will cut off the cities of your land and throw down all your strongholds.”

FROM SCARCITY TO PLENTY

Now, verses 12-13 begin to tell us *why* Israel is cut off. “I will cut off sorceries from your hand, and you shall have no soothsayers (*astrology and witchcraft are big in our nations today!*). Your carved images I will also cut off (*religious icons, statues*) ... you shall no more worship the work of your hands [our cars, computers, TVs, cell phones, etc.].” And finally, chapter 7:6 (last part): “A man’s enemies are the men of his own house.” We live in horrific times where kidnappings and murders are often committed by members of the same household, harming EVEN the tiniest of children! So what do we see up to this point with the times we are in? We see a Church of God in a scattered condition, led by men compromising the Truth of God; and we see our nations today (*the modern peoples of the Houses of ancient Jacob and Joseph*), heading into disaster due to their national sins.



Jupiter Images, Kris Fricke



A REMNANT HOLDING FAST

As we see many spiritual and physical atrocities happening all around us, we must reflect on the fact that there is a tiny remnant of people tightly holding fast to ALL of the restored Truths given by Christ through God’s late apostle Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. There remains a **faithful** group of people who will keep God’s Feast of Tabernacles (picturing the “WONDERFUL WORLD TOMORROW”), and rejoice as they are commanded to do.

God promises to place HIS NAME at that Feast site and the membership WILL BE spiritually fed (Leviticus 23, Deuteronomy 14:25).

“And you shall rejoice in your feast ... (Deuteronomy 16:14).” The word “rejoice” in this verse comes from the Hebrew word “**Samach**” (Strong’s Concordance No. 8055), meaning “*to brighten up, be glad, to make merry.*” Do we have a reason to brighten up, be glad and make merry at this Feast? We most certainly do! Note the context of chapters 11-16 in particular. These scriptures are set in the context of obeying all of God’s Laws for the good of the nation and for the good of the individual. God loves His people and wants the best for us today, just as He did for ancient Israel!

Notice God’s loving attitude in Deuteronomy 14:2, “**For you are a HOLY PEOPLE to the LORD your God, and the LORD HAS CHOSEN YOU TO BE A PEOPLE FOR HIMSELF, A SPECIAL TREASURE** above all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.” How often do we think of ourselves as a special people to

God? Notice Romans 5:8 in the New Testament as well, **“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”** Talk about an **ULTIMATE** love! God’s LOVE for us cost the very life of Jesus Christ!

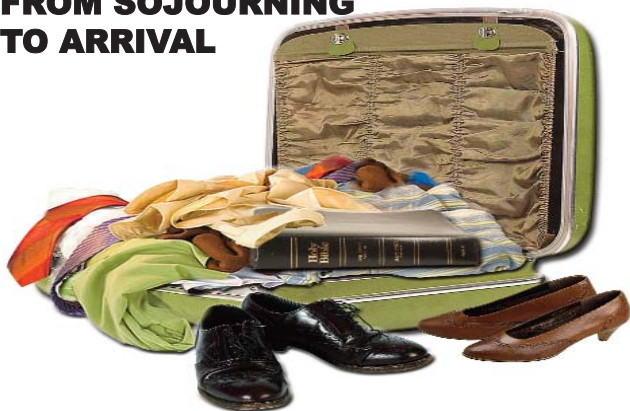
KEEP THE RIGHT FOCUS

As we observe the Feast of Tabernacles, we are celebrating a time (in the near future) when peace will become the order of the day. Wars will be eradicated, diseases will be eliminated over time and the knowledge of God’s Law will become universal.

Scientific and cultural progress will advance in directions we can hardly even imagine now (I Corinthians 13:12). We are celebrating a time that will be 1,000 years of preparing this earth prior to the second resurrection of billions of people (in their own order) who have never known the true God (Revelation 20:5-6, 11-12). Read the entirety of Ezekiel 37, which describes the period of the second resurrection. Let’s touch on a couple of verses. **“And He said to me, ‘Son of man, can these bones live?’ So I answered, ‘O Lord GOD, You know.’ ... Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: ‘Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. ... Then you shall know that I am the LORD (Ezekiel 37:3, 5-6).”**

We are to understand our purpose in life now (*in this time of testing and training*) as we look forward to the Millennium and Great White Throne Judgment following the Millennium – all being a part of God’s plan for mankind. All who have ever lived (*never having been called to the knowledge of the awesome truths with which you and I have been so wonderfully graced*) will be given the oppor-

FROM SOJOURNING TO ARRIVAL



FROM FAMINE TO FEAST



U.S. AID



tunity to understand God’s way of life.

What, then, is the most **fundamental** and **important** detail we can learn during **THIS** year’s Feast of Tabernacles that can **“make or break”** it for us **spiritually**?

What exactly does God want us to learn?

Given the fact that these are *God’s Feasts* (Leviticus 23), we will want to focus on God’s point of view as to why we observe these days. When we keep God’s

Feasts properly, we

learn to fear (reverence) Him in the way we should.

“And you shall eat before the LORD your God ... that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always (Deuteronomy 14:23).” The word “*fear*” in this verse comes from the Hebrew word “*yare*” (Strong’s Concordance No. 3372), which means **“... to revere, or, be had in reverence.”** This kind of fear does not mean to be *terrified* of God (as Satan would want people to believe), but to **revere** Him and fear breaking His Law or disobeying Him. It means to **revere God as Supreme over all**, as the merciful loving Father of all mankind that He is! (Hebrews 4:1)

If we **reverently fear God**, and we are eager to learn from Him through the sermons and sermonettes we will hear at God’s Feast of Tabernacles, we will then be **RIGHTLY** rejoicing before our God.

Rather than focus on minor physical issues that would only result in a disgruntled attitude as displayed by the wife of my friend from many years ago, we need to plan to attend this year’s Feast of Tabernacles with a proper, **reverent** attitude, showing the kind of love and fear that God requires of His true people! With this proper attitude, this year’s Feast of Tabernacles will be the **GREATEST FEAST EVER!**



Pray Always

‘And He spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint ...’

(Luke 18:1 KJV)

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By Garfield Gregoire

Why did Jesus Christ teach a parable, such as the one in Luke 18:1? Why did He encourage us to **“NOT FAINT”** in our prayers?

Have you been praying, perhaps even possibly for several years, earnestly beseeching God to grant an answer to or meet a particular need in your life – and found yourself wondering just WHY the answer has not yet come or WHY it seems that God is slow in answering?

Maybe you are experiencing severe financial problems or the illness of a mate or loved one or maybe you need guidance in what seems to be a desperate manner – and even though you pray fervently, it *seems* like the answer from God eludes your grasp.

Surely under such circumstances, one can see why it is possible for someone to FAINT or lose hope that such prayer is ever going to be answered, and Christ knew this and spoke

in just such a parable as listed above because He wanted us to understand that there were going to be those times in life when God may choose to not *readily* grant the answer to our request. Those who FAINT or become discouraged have not understood or come to terms with that fact.

WHY GOD MAY NOT ANSWER RIGHT AWAY

Humanly speaking, we would all welcome the notion of receiving immediate answers to ALL of our prayers, but what we really need to understand is that in His just and perfect wisdom, God may choose to delay the answer to our prayers or even answer us in a way we have not even considered. It may ultimately work out for our good to be far more rewarding and meaningful to the development of our character than if He had instantaneously or immediately granted the answer we want.

First and foremost, we must understand that God's SUPREME purpose is to instill His PERFECT, HOLY,



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RIGHTEOUS character within us – and patience is one of the means or methods God uses to develop our character. On page 28 of his booklet titled, *"The Plain Truth About Healing,"* Mr. Armstrong wrote: "God's purpose in your life is to transform you from what you've been into the very image of His Son – into the very character of God Himself. Part of this character is the learning of PATIENCE! And God instructs you in James 1:3 that the trying of your faith works PATIENCE into your character. God has revealed to you in this and other scriptures that He will sometimes delay healing you in order to TRY your faith and to teach you to be patient!"

Notice how James 1:3-4 drives home the point: **"Knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."**

Notice that patience is a means to the perfecting of our character. When patience is exercised, it shows that we have not only matured spiritually, but that we can trust God to work out our problem – no matter how long it may take. The Scripture makes known that **"without faith it is IM-POSSIBLE to please Him"** (Hebrews 11:6)." Think about that for a moment and let it sink into your mind that there is absolutely no possible way we can please God whenever

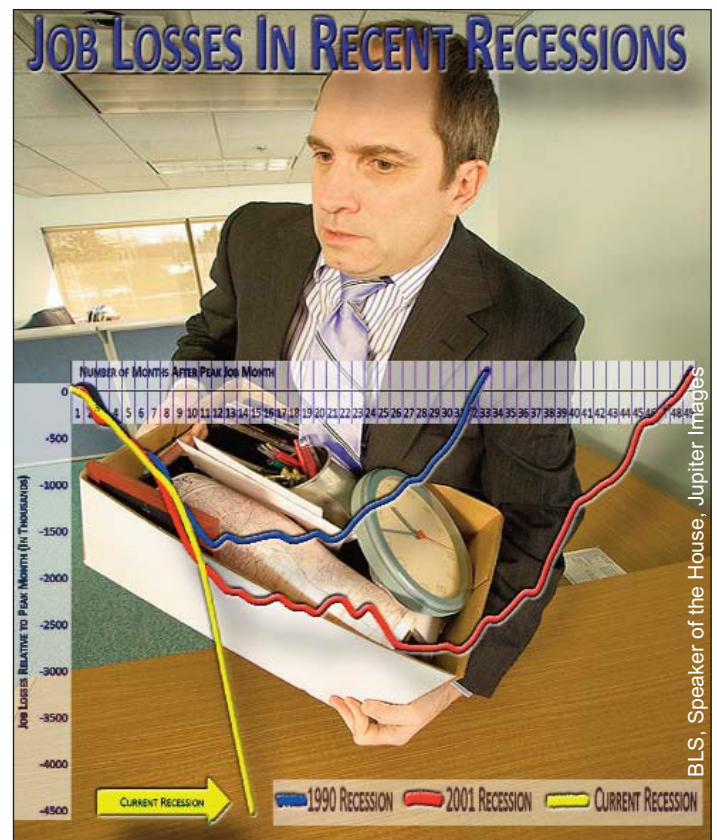
we are unwilling to exercise faith and trust in Him. We also need to further consider that if we are not pleasing to God by striving to live his way of life, our prayers are not going to be answered.

Patience and faith are tied together, and God wants us to exercise that deep, abiding trust that no matter how long HE may take to grant an answer to our request, we will continue to persevere in prayer; and if we do that, the answer is ultimately going to come.

Notice what Christ said in Luke 18:7-8: **"And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"**

HOW WE PRAY IS IMPORTANT

We must also bear in mind that the approach or attitude in our prayer also can serve to move or impact God in a way we sometimes don't



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realize that when we are going through a difficult trial, God knows and understands our need to be delivered from that trial?

Notice I Peter 3:12: **“For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.”** 1 John 5:14 also says: **“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”** Every time a true child of God cries out to Him

even consider. Notice James 5:16: **“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”**

Notice how the same Scripture is read from the New American Standard Bible: **“The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.”**

Have we considered that even though the answer to our prayers might not immediately come, an effective and heartfelt prayer can accomplish great things? We of ourselves can do nothing, but when we come to God in heartfelt prayer, it can open the door for God to do great things. That is also part of the reason why we are encouraged to pray for the work of God and to receive His guidance and direction.

When we pray, we must be deeply cognizant of the fact that we are in the presence of God – talking to Him and beseeching Him to give the answer to our request. In Psalm 17:1, David made his prayer to God in this manner: **“Hear a just cause, O Lord, give heed to my cry; give ear to my prayer ...** (New American Standard Bible).” Notice the earnestness in which David cried out to God for help. He asked that God give ear to the words that he would say.

Are we conscious of the fact that EVERY TIME we come into the presence of God, God is going to listen to what we have to say to Him? Do we

in prayer, that prayer will always be heard by God. The answer may not come right away, but we can rest assured that God will listen to our prayers and will answer in His own due time.

We also should strive to ensure that we are detailed in our prayers to God. We must be willing to take time to talk with Him and express our appreciation for Him and Jesus Christ. Mr. Armstrong said he would normally begin his





IMPATIENCE

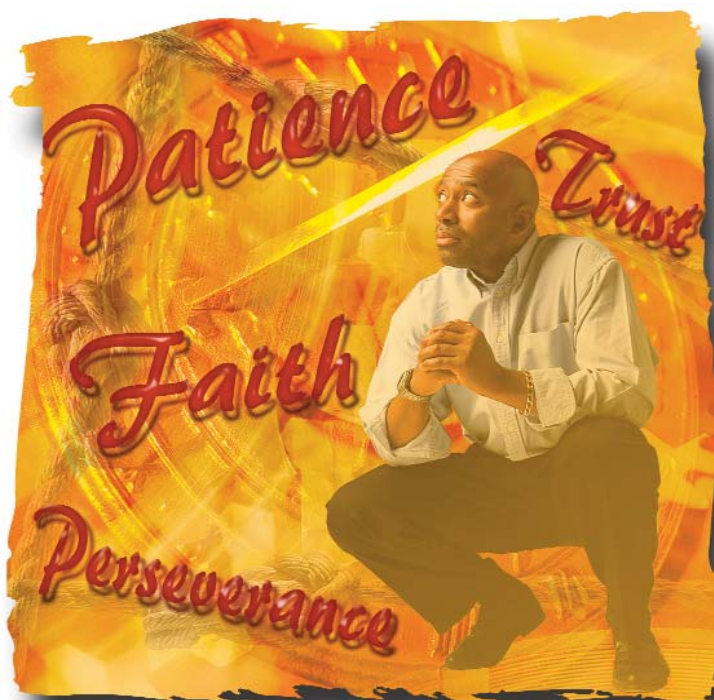
prayer by first thanking God for being God and thanking Him for His master plan and working out His purpose here below. All that Mr. Armstrong said was in tune with what Christ taught His disciples (Matthew 6:9). In expressing God's attention to the sweetness and delight of a detailed prayer, the Psalmist wrote: **"Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as incense..."** (Psalm 141:2, KJV)."

Anciently, the Israelites burned *incense* upon the altar of God. In Exodus 30, God gave instruction to make sweet smelling perfume that would be acceptable to Him. Notice verses 35-36: **"You shall make of these an *incense*, a compound according to the art of the perfumer, salted, pure, and holy. And you shall *beat some of it very fine*, and put some of it before the Testimony in the tabernacle of meeting where I will meet with you. It shall be most holy to you."**

"Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. And he was given *much incense*, that he should offer it *with the prayers of all the saints* upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And *the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God* from the angel's hand (Revelation 8:3-4)."

A heartfelt, earnest prayer is always welcomed by God. It is unlikely that you or I could ever get an audience with the president of the United States, but the GREAT GOD of this universe wants us to approach him in prayer any time of the day or night. He welcomes it and expects you and me to take advantage of all the opportunities that come through prayer.

Next time we get down on our knees – especially when we feel overtaken by the various trials of life, we should rest assured that God understands our needs and will NEVER EVER forsake us in times of trouble. Yes, the trials can be very severe and profoundly trying, but God always will be there to answer and work it out in His own due time. Can we trust Him to do that? If we do, then JOY will certainly come in the morning – and the **darkness** of that trial will be gone.



The Temple

Continued from Page 4

THE BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE

Now, maybe we can get back to what I thought I would bring you tonight as a Bible study and maybe I should have gone right into the prophecy, but I had something else that I thought I would go through.

Did you ever wonder about the Temple that Christ is coming to? Now, you read in Malachi the third chapter, and the first verse, **“Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me.”**



TORAH AT WESTERN WALL

Now, that messenger was a human messenger and for Christ's First Coming you will read in the first chapter of Mark and beginning in verses one, two and three and along in there, that it was John the Baptist preparing the way for His First Coming.

“And the Lord whom you seek,” which is Jesus Christ, **“shall SUDDENLY come to His TEMPLE.”** Well, what about that? Where is that Temple?



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Now I remember we were discussing that over at Bricket Wood some 10 years ago, and we said, “Well, is there any indication that the Jews are going to build a Temple?” And there was a rumor that maybe the Jews when they took Jerusalem in the Six Day War, and that was back, in fact that was JUST after my wife died in the year 1967, and the Israelis took over the old city of Jerusalem. And Jerusalem, you know, like the city of Berlin, had been a divided city up until that time. And many of us wondered at that time if the Jews were going to demolish the Dome of the Rock, which is the large Muslim temple there and build a Temple to which Christ would come. But I don't know why we didn't understand. It's very, very plain in the Bible about that Temple. And I thought maybe it would be good if I would explain that

to you tonight.

Now, these books in the Old Testament are not so-called “Old Testament stuff.” They were written for us.



MENORAH

THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

I'm going now to the book of Haggai. What I just read was in the last book in the Old Testament, in Malachi.

But these books were written at a time when both Israel and Judah were in captivity, and the ONLY people in Jerusalem were that small contingent, comparatively small of the Jews who had been sent back 70 years after the destruction of the Temple, which means about, let me see, that would be right around 475 B.C., to build the Second Temple.

And so, as a matter of fact this book of Haggai talks about the building of that Second Temple. And it starts out, you may think this is just some old history. Oh, no it isn't! This is a prophecy for now! So, let's listen:



BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY

“In the second year of Darius the king,” and this was the Persian, Medo-Persian, Empire now. “In the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the Eternal, to Haggai the prophet, unto Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel.” Now, Zerubbabel is “the governor of Judah, and to Joshua,” who was the high priest and “the son of

Josedech, saying, Thus speaketh the Eternal of hosts saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD’s house should be built.”



DARIUS I
COIN

Do you know that that’s a prophecy for today, and that that’s what we’re saying today, and when you see what the Lord’s

house is, you will see that what I’ve been saying to you up until now is absolutely true. “Then came the word of the Eternal by Haggai the prophet, saying, Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your ceiled houses and this house lie waste?”

They were sent there to build the Second Temple of God, and that’s the one that was still there extant at the time Jesus Christ came, only the Roman King Herod, who was king over that part of the Roman Empire, occupied by the Jews at that time, had added some to it and enlarged it somewhat, but it was the same Temple.

“Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your ceiled houses, and this house lie waste?” Many of us are more concerned about the houses in which we live than the house of God that I’m going to show you about. “Now therefore, thus saith the Eternal of hosts; Consider your ways.”

Now, this is true today. Notice this: “Ye have sown much, but ye bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye



CYRUS SCROLL WITH PROCLAMATION ALLOWING RETURN TO JERUSALEM

drink, but you are not filled with drink; you clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag of holes.” Do you recognize that as being true today? And inflation is going up and the value of the dollar is going down.

Now continue verse seven, “**Thus saith the LORD,**” or the Eternal, “**of hosts; Consider your ways! Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the Eternal.**”

Now, He’s talking here literally about the Second Temple that was built at that time. As I say, about 450, 475 years before Christ.

“Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. **Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run everyone to his own house.**”

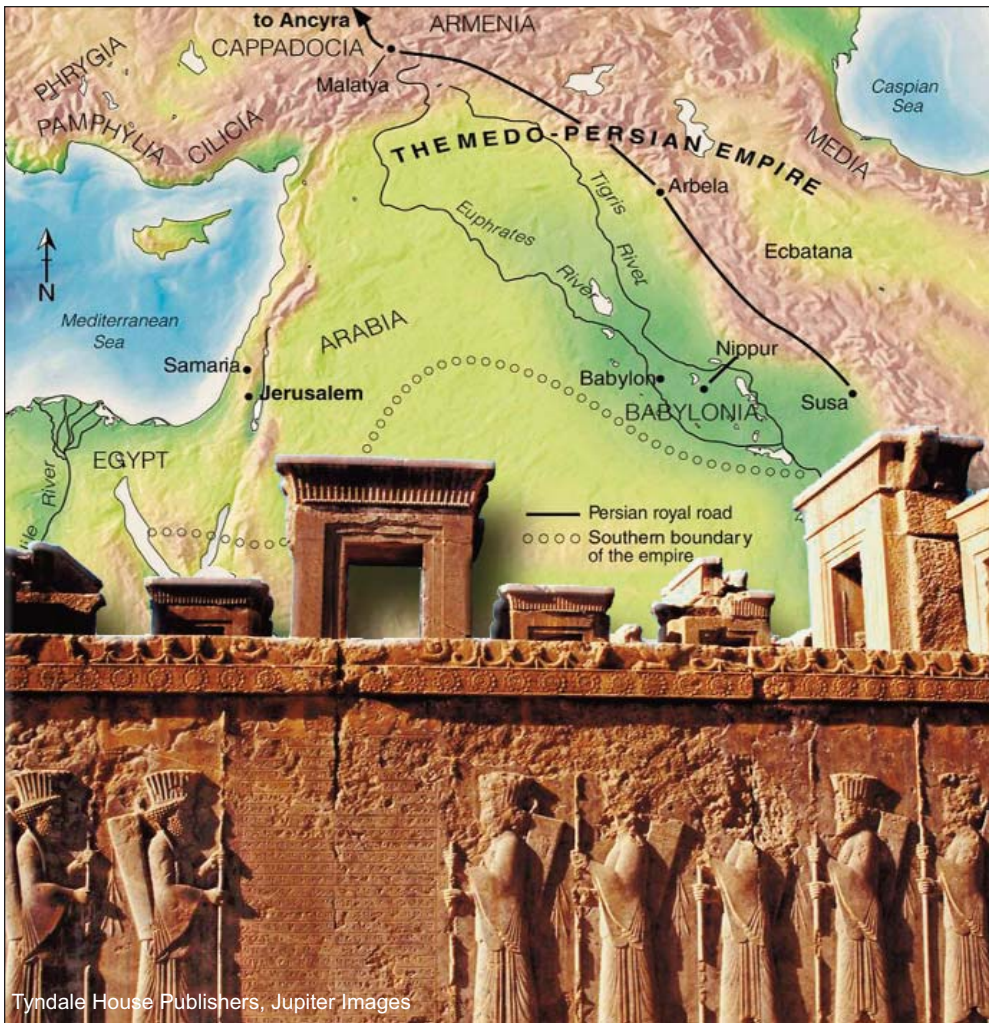
Now, you’re going to see pretty soon that the house it’s speaking of is the Church of God. And the work of the Church of getting this gospel out, and we’re growing weary, and we don’t want to work on building this Temple, this Church, which is the Temple.

“Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit.”

God sends the rain on the just and the unjust alike, and God can control the weather. Now, I don’t mean that He always



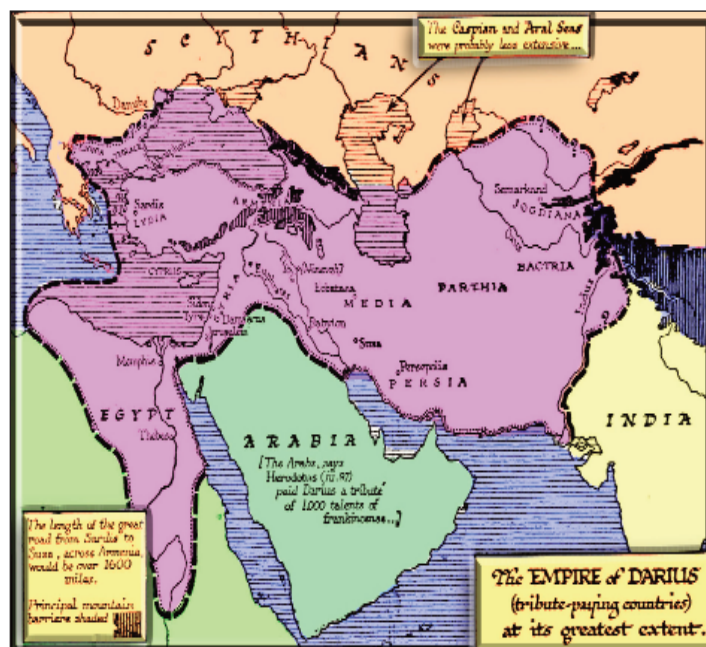
CYLINDRICAL SEAL OF DARIUS I



PERSEPOLIS IN MEDO-PERSIA

does every little bit of the change in the weather. God has set laws in motion that pretty much work automatically and all of that, but God has sent lightning to strike certain ones dead that I guess are better off than those that go on living, that He did for a great and a good purpose.

“And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon that which the ground brings forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon the all the labour of the hands.



EMPIRE OF DARIUS

the Eternal’s message unto the people, saying I am with you saith the Eternal,” And you need to realize that He is with us, and He’s going to take care of His part of it.

I am not here because a lot of people decided to vote for me or put me here. You had nothing to do with me becoming God’s apostle. Someone says to me, “Well, Mr. Armstrong, how do you know that you’re God’s apostle? Did Christ appear to you? Did He speak to you and say, ‘Now Herbert Armstrong, I make you My apostle?’” And I answer, “no.”

“Then Zerubbabel ... and Joshua ... the high priest, with all of the remnant of the people,” this was just a remnant of Judah that remained now, that had gone back over there to build this Second Temple **“obeyed the voice of the Eternal their God and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the Eternal their God had sent him, and the people did fear before,”** and I hope that’s true of us today, that we really will, they **“did fear before the Eternal.”** **“Then spake Haggai the Eternal’s messenger in the LORD’s message unto the people saying, I am with you, says the Eternal.”** Look, brethren, if we are only with Him, let me tell you the Living Christ is with us.

We’ve got to believe that HE IS LIVING, THAT HE IS HERE!

Now, let’s see, **“Then spake Haggai the Eternal’s messenger in**



ROAD TO APOSTLESHIP

“Did you know back in 1933 when this era of the Church started that you were God’s apostle, that you would be?”

“No, I didn’t.”

“Did you know how big or how great this Work was going to be?”

No, I didn’t. I just knew that God had called me, was using me and I would go as far as He wanted me to go, no further and no less. Whatever that is, if it meant the whole world, I knew I would be able to do it because I would do it in the power and the strength of the Living Christ.

Well, then how do I know today? Well, I will answer just as Jesus Christ answered when the messengers of John the Baptist came to Him and said, “Well, John wants to

know, are you really the Messiah who was to come?” Jesus didn’t say yes or no. He said, “You go tell John what you hear and what you see being done. Go and show him the FRUITS of what you see coming from Me. By their fruits you shall know.”

No, back in 1933 I didn’t know. So how do I know now? Because I look back in all these years, and I see the FRUITS AND YOU’RE HERE AS PART OF IT! You’re part of the evidence because you’re here. And I had some to do with it and so did Jesus Christ, and He was using me. I didn’t do it myself. And woe be to me if I ever take credit for doing it.

“The Eternal stirred up the spirit of Zerubabel ... and the spirit of Joshua ... the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people and they came and worked on the house of the Eternal of hosts, their God, in the four and the twentieth day of the sixth month, in the second year of Darius the King.”

Now, come to chapter two, “In the seventh month, in the twenty first day of the month, came the word of the Eternal by the prophet Haggai saying, speak now to Zerubbabel, the son of Shialtiel, the governor of Judah and to Joshua ... the high priest, and to the residue of the people saying, Who is left among you who saw this house in her first glory?” Meaning Solomon’s Temple, that had such great glory, more than any other that had been built up to that time on the face of the earth. “And how do you see it now? Is it not in your eyes, in comparison of it

as nothing?" Well, it had been completely thrown down and demolished. It was gone. **"Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, says the Eternal; and be strong, O Joshua ... and be strong, all you people of the land, says the Eternal, and work: for I am with you."** And He says to us today to be strong and WORK, AND GET BACK TO THIS THING!

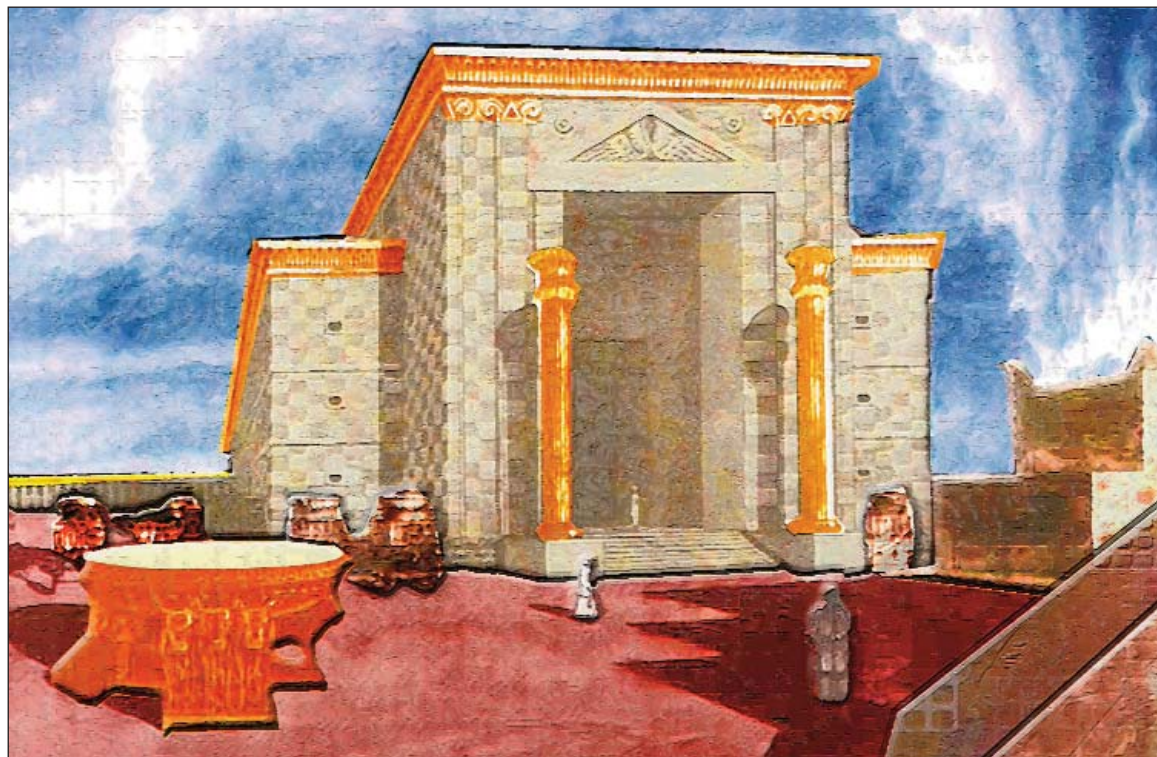
Now, I tell you, if you look into the New Testament, you will see that Christ did not train all of the people, and there were, oh, within a few days after the Day of Pentecost, but then it might have been the very next day the Church had grown up to a total of 5,000 people, but Jesus Christ had not taught them how to go out and carry the gospel message. It was only those that became His apostles. Later, He taught and apparently appeared after He had gone to heaven. And yet came down and appeared to Paul the apostle in Arabia and taught him just as He had taught the other apostles.

God sent them. APOSTLE IS A WORD THAT MEANS **"ONE SENT FORTH!"** **ONE SENT FORTH!** **I AM SENT FORTH** AND IF I GO FORTH AND LEAVE HERE, SOMEBODY WILL SAY, WHY ISN'T MR. ARMSTRONG STAYING HERE IN PASADENA AND TAKING CARE OF THE CHURCH? I'll tell you why, the Church is supposed to take care of me, not me of you. **I AM ONE SENT FORTH WITH THE GOSPEL MESSAGE!** That's what God has laid on me. Christ didn't work from nine till five in an office. He went from one city to another.

Christ, there is a great deal of evidence there that He had even gone over to Britain and Western Europe. That was before He started preaching, however, at the age of 30, and

there is nothing in the Bible about it, but there is other evidence that He probably was there.

I've often thought that He probably was at the very place that is the very site of Ambassador College in Bricket Wood in England.



SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

Now, let's see, **"for I am with you, says the Eternal of hosts: According to the word that I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not."**

Brethren, is God's spirit still with us in this Church? We're getting a little bit spiritless, and we need to revive with the energy and the vitality of the Spirit of the Living God.

THE TEMPLE BEING BUILT IS THE CHURCH

"For thus says the Eternal of hosts; Yet once," and it will be "a little while, and I will shake the HEAVENS and the EARTH, and the SEA, and the DRY LAND!"

NOW WHEN IS THAT? He hasn't done that yet. Now, He begins to talk about us today. That's the point I want you to see, that all of this about Zerubbabel and Joshua the High Priest building THAT Temple was about the building of the real Temple today to which Christ is going to come.

Now, let's listen, **"I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come,"** meaning Christ in that case, although they don't really desire Him, **"and I will fill this house with glory, says the Eternal of hosts."** Now, I don't think that He ever did in the sense that it is intended here, fulfill that Second Temple with glory. So now He's talking about a different Temple! That was only a type of it, typical of it, a forerunner of it!

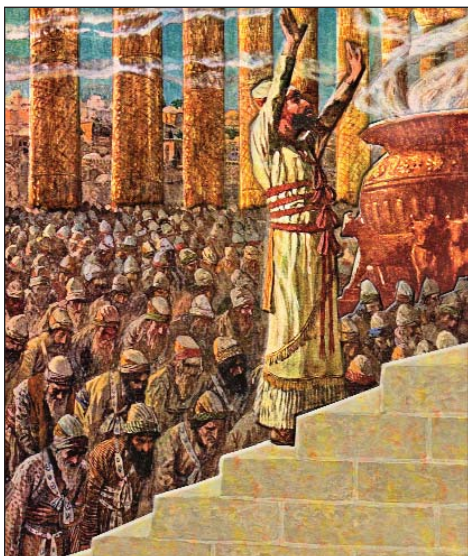


Now He carries on and says, **"The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Eternal of hosts."**

The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former!"
THE GLORY OF THAT SECOND TEMPLE NEVER REMOTELY COMPARED TO THE GLORY OF SOLOMON'S TEMPLE and yet He's talking about a Temple that will be FAR greater in GLORY than SOLOMON'S TEMPLE! He's talking about the Temple to which Christ is coming NOW in OUR time! In our living generation.

Now, keep your ears and your mind open brethren. You're going to hear something here.

"And in this place shall I give peace, says the Eternal of hosts." There is no peace on earth yet. You see it is coming when this happens.



TEMPLE DEDICATION

"In the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the Eternal by Haggai the prophet, saying, Thus says the Eternal of hosts; Ask now the priests concerning the law, saying, If one bear

holy flesh in the skirt of a garment, and with his skirt do touch bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any food, shall it be holy? And the priests answered and said, No.

"Then said Haggai, If one that is unclean by a dead body touch any of these, shall it be unclean? And the priests answered and said, It shall be unclean. Then answered Haggai, and said, So is this people and so is this nation before me, says the Eternal." He's talking now about our nation today and our Church today, and I'm going to prove it to you.

"And so is every work of their hands; and that which they offer there is unclean." And we'd better take heed.

"And now, I pray you, consider from this day and upward, from before a stone was laid upon a stone in the temple of the Eternal," or the beginning of today's Church of God, in the Philadelphia era of the Church today.

"Since those days were, when one came to an heap of twenty measures, there were but ten: when one came to the pressfat for to draw out fifty vessels out of the press, there were but twenty.



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“I smote you with blasting and with mildew and with hail in the labours of your hands; and yet you turned not to me, says the Eternal.” He’s speaking of us, today, my brethren.

“Consider now from this day and upward, from the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, even from the day that the foundation of the LORD’s temple was laid, consider it.”

Now, I have marked here in my Bible, “Was the glory of the Second Temple greater than Solomon’s? No. This is speaking of the Day of God and the Temple yet to be built, which is the Worldwide Church of God.” And it’s pretty well built already.

“The fig tree, and the pomegranate, and the olive tree, hath not brought forth: from this day I will bless you.” And God has blessed this Church, but we are getting very lazy in returning His blessing in being appreciative. **“And again the word of the Eternal came unto Haggai in the four and twentieth day of the month, saying, Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I will ...”**

Now, He doesn’t mention Joshua the high priest now, but speak unto **“Zerubbabel, the governor of Judah,”** who

was the one who was sent to build this Temple. **“I will shake the heavens and the earth; And I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen.”**

Do you know that that has been occurring in the last four or five years at the rate of one a month? The kingdoms haven’t been completely overthrown. It was the throne of the kingdom being overthrown, a military coup turning it into a military government or the military. Now, that happened in Greece and then about a year or more ago the military government decided to turn it back to civilians, and it’s just a change in the government like we have a change when we elect a new president.

It’s talking about a time when He would overthrow the kingdoms, of the throne and kingdoms or governments all around the earth and that never happened until now. It’s speaking of today.

“And I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother. In that day, says the Eternal of hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel, my servant ...” and it’s talking about today and not that day. Zerubbabel was as I say, only a type, **“says the Eternal, and will make thee as a signet: for I have chosen thee, says the**

Eternal of hosts.”

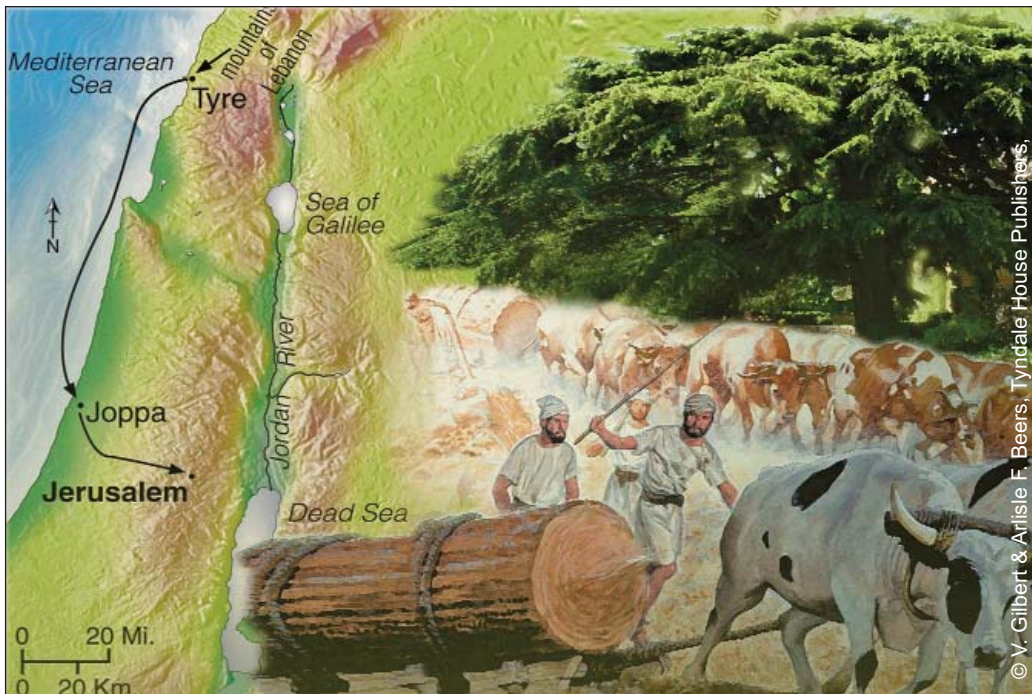
Now, that is the entire book of Haggai, which consists of only the two chapters. Now I’d like you to turn to the third chapter of, or the fourth chapter rather of Zechariah.



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CEDARS OF LEBANON USED TO BUILD TEMPLE

THE BOOK OF ZECHARIAH

“And the angel that talked with me,” now this is Zechariah the prophet’s book, “and the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep, And he said to me,” and we need to wake up brethren, “he said to me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof.”

Now a candlestick you will find in Revelation the first chapter is symbolically referring to the Church.

“And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left thereof. So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord?”

And “the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Eternal unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by MIGHT, nor by POWER, but by MY SPIRIT SAYETH THE ETERNAL OF HOSTS!” This building is being built by the Spirit of God, not by might and power, not by brick and mortar and wood and plaster and other physical materials, but by the Spirit of God.

“Who are THOU, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with **SHOUTINGS**, saying Grace ... unto it,” which is Christ, of course. Speaking about Christ and bringing forth Christ in our generation.

“Moreover the word of the Eternal came unto me, saying, The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house.” What house is He talking about? The one when Christ is coming. “His hands shall also finish it; and thou

shalt know that the Eternal of hosts hath sent me unto you.”

I have taken great courage in reading that more than once. Maybe you can understand why.

“For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and they shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven;” and “they are the eyes of the Eternal, which run to and fro *over the whole earth,*” and so on.



ZERUBABEL USED A PLUMMET

THE BOOK OF MALACHI

Now, I'd like to go back to Malachi again. Now let me just say that in the New Testament, you will find that the Church is built into a Holy Temple unto the Eternal, and it talks about every joint and every part of it is built by Christ and it is built perfectly. Now, some are going to be cast out, but those that are really in the Temple of God, in the Church are going to be here for the coming of Christ.

On over now to Malachi once again, and I'd like to go right on from where I was. Now, He talked about a messenger coming to prepare the way before Christ and, as I say, you will find in a number of places in Mark and Matthew and so on that the one who prepared the way before Christ's First Coming was John the Baptist.

But I'm going to prove to you now that this is talking about not just a First Coming but a Second. Let's go on reading the second verse which I didn't read before. It says that the Lord shall suddenly come to His Temple, which is the Church, and that Church by the power of God and with the Holy Spirit in it will be made immortal and its glory will be greater than the glory of Solomon's Temple. But no human, physical Temple ever was or will be.

“Even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, says the Eternal of hosts.”

Now, that's speaking of Christ, and He's the messenger of the New Covenant. Now the Old Covenant set up the children of Israel as one of the nations of this world. But Moses was the mediator of that covenant. It was a material, physical covenant of a material, physical people with only physical and national and material promises, no promise of the Holy Spirit whatsoever was given to ancient Israel, only some of the prophets. Moses will be in the Kingdom of God and some of the prophets, of course, but not the people as a whole.



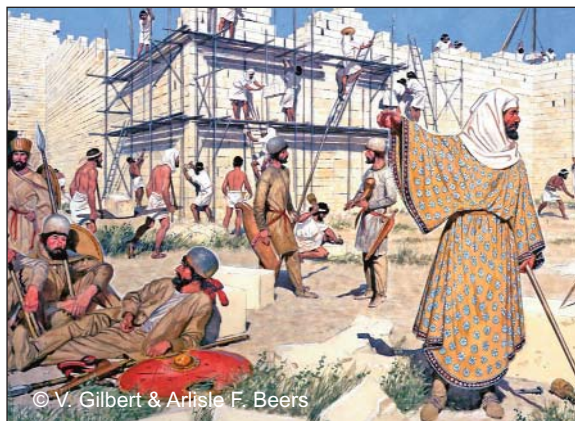
Now then, let's go right on, verse two **“But who may abide the day of His coming?”** The coming of Christ. **“And who shall stand when He appeareth?”** Who shall **“abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He is like a refiner's fire, and like fuller's soap: and He shall sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver.”**

Now, Jesus didn't do any of these things when He came the first time, not a one of these things.

“And He shall purify the sons of Levi,” He didn't do that when He came before. **“And purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Eternal an offering in righteousness. Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Eternal, as in the days of old, and as in the former years.”**

That didn't happen when He came before. The Jews rejected Him, Judah and Jerusalem. It was not a pleasant offering that was so happy and peaceful and joyous and all of that.

“And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers,” Jesus didn't come doing that when



REBUILDING THE WALL



TITHING PRINCIPLE

He came the first time, but when He comes to RULE WITH A ROD OF IRON OVER ALL NATIONS, that's when He's going to do this! This is talking about the Second Coming.

Now, it talks about a messenger coming before Christ, but Christ's coming, the only coming described here is the Second Coming! Do you think if He had John the Baptist preparing before the First Coming of Christ, He wouldn't have someone preparing the way before His Second Coming? When He's coming in glory and the power and Spirit of God Almighty? In all the supernatural power to rule the world and to take over the thrones of every nation on this earth?

"And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers," I guess I read that, **"and against those that oppress the**

hireling in his wages, and the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from the right, and fear not me, says the Eternal of hosts. For I am the Eternal, I change not."



TITHING HERBS

But some people think He's changed! Some people say this is Old Testament stuff! This doesn't apply to us today! The only people that could have read this were a little contingent of a little part of the tribe of Judah, and there might have been a little of Benjamin and Levi among them, but NONE of Ephraim and Manasseh. None of the 10 tribes were there and not even but a small part of Judah!

"And that turn aside the stranger from the right, and fear not me, says the Eternal of hosts. For I am the Eternal, I CHANGE NOT." Some people think He does change.



WALLET WITH HOLES

"Therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." For "from the days of your fathers you are gone away from Mine ordinances," this is talking about us today. It is talking about just before the Second Coming of Christ. **THIS IS A PROPHECY!** It's not a case of some old ancient history! We need to see what the prophecy is all about here.

"Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from Mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto Me, and I will return unto you, says Eternal of hosts." But you have said, Whereunto shall we return?"

Yeah, we don't know where we have gotten away from God. Well, let me tell you we have in more ways than one in this Church.



But He comes to this one thing, **“WILL A MAN ROB GOD?”** THAT IS NOT OLD TESTAMENT STUFF THAT’S FOR US TODAY! AND IF YOU THINK

THAT STEALING IS ALRIGHT AND YOU ARE WITHHOLDING YOUR TITHE, God have mercy on your MISERABLE soul, is all I can say! THIS IS A PROPHECY! IT’S FOR NOW! AND GOD SAYS, **“I CHANGE NOT!”**

You think He’s changed today? Jesus said, **“You tithe with mint and cumin and so on and this ought to have been done.”** Why did He say you ought? Because it is commanded and to withhold it is STEALING FROM GOD! GOD DOESN’T WANT THIEVES IN HIS CHURCH!

THEY SAY THERE IS NO LAW! AND THE MINISTERS HAVE TRIED TO COME OUT AND I’M GOING TO CHANGE ALL THAT AND ANY MINISTER THAT DOESN’T WANT TO GO ALONG WITH IT CAN JUST GET OUT OF THE CHURCH AND OFF OUR PAY-ROLL!

Now those are pretty strong words, and I mean every word I say. ***I would rather have one or two faithful ministers with me than four or five hundred that have gone the way of BAAL!*** And they’ve wanted to make this a secular work and get Christ out of it! They say there is NO LAW AT ALL ABOUT TITHING! THEY ARE MISLEADING YOU! THEY ARE LIARS! I’m speaking with the authority of Jesus Christ and these others are not!

Is stealing part of the Law of God? **Thou shalt not steal!** Is that part of the Law of God? It says, **“Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed me.”** You are stealing! We ask Him how. How have we robbed Thee? And He answers, **“In tithes AND OFFERINGS!”**

“Ye are cursed with a curse,” and this Church has been cursed with a curse, and this is one of the reasons, and I’m going to try to knock that out! I think we are probably going to lose a few members.



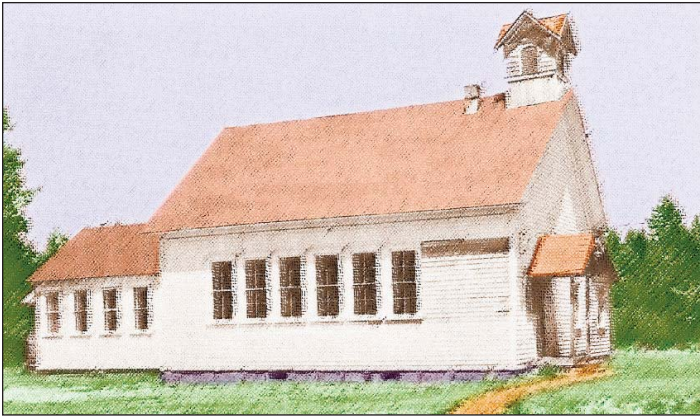
CRATE OF ROTTING APPLES

And you know if you’ve got a crate of apples and one or two of them becomes rotten, they are going to rot the ones next to them and that will keep on if you don’t get them out of there they’ll rot the whole crate. Now, if we’ve got any rotten apples among us, I tell you, the quicker we get rid of them, the better, brethren.

“Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse,” that’s to God’s Church and not just to any individual you want to, **“that there may be meat,”** or food, **“in mine house, and PROVE ME** herewith, says the **Eternal of hosts.”** He says PROVE Me, **“if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”**

Brethren, back in the early days, we were, what few of us there were then were tithing. Most of you weren’t in the Church yet. I’m talking now about 1948 and very few of you were in the Church in 1948, maybe three or four here. I doubt if there is anymore than that. And if you are you are pretty faithful to have still been here all that time.

But in 1948 we were going to lose all of the campus that we had at that time. And we had to come up, I didn’t know how much money at that time, but I found out later it was going to take \$50,000. At that time how much do you think was the income of the Church? The whole work of God was averaging \$500 a day. Now, we thought that was pretty neat. That was pretty big compared to where it had been when I had to hitchhike in order to preach in a country schoolhouse and the only reason I had to go out to a coun-



JEANS SCHOOLHOUSE IN OREGON

try schoolhouse was because I didn't have money to hire a hall in town! And I could get the country schoolhouse without any charge whatsoever.

That's the way this work was built. Others were to come along later and say "I devoted my life for the last so many years to this work, but **YOU DIDN'T GO THROUGH THE HELL THAT I DID TO START IT!** I lived and I slept and bled and died that this Church could be built! And this work could go on and that Ambassador College could be built!

And we were going to have to turn a lease and option on what is now the library building into a sale, and there had to be back taxes and back property tax and insurance to be paid and what I didn't know was that the man we were purchasing it from had also borrowed about 17 or 18 thousand dollars that he was delinquent on and he had not paid. And he couldn't turn it over to us until that was paid, and we had to have enough money to pay him that much before we could even get the property.

I had done everything I knew how. I had sent letters telling people of the situation, but the money didn't come. I had gone and this was before Mr. Rader's time when we had Boliver O'Rear who had been for some 10 years an attorney in the Internal Revenue Department in Wash-

ington, D.C. and Mr. O'Rear died a good many years ago now, but he was our attorney at the time. And he and I went to Washington and to a lawyer friend of his, that he thought was the specialist in this kind of thing and who he thought could help us raise that kind of money. We tried every way we could, but the money didn't come.

Then I got on my knees and asked some others to fast and pray and let's take it to the Lord Jesus Christ, and we did. And you know about Thanksgiving time, I had to have this by about the 15th of December and about Thanksgiving time, lo and behold one day, instead of the \$500, \$2,000, let's see was it two or three thousand dollars? And the next day to our amazement, \$3,000 came in and we couldn't account for it, but we had fasted and prayed, and we had put it up to Christ. And that kept up for over 10 days until we had over \$50,000 on hand. I finally came to realize that we had to have more money than I dreamed of, but Christ had answered and had sent every bit of it.

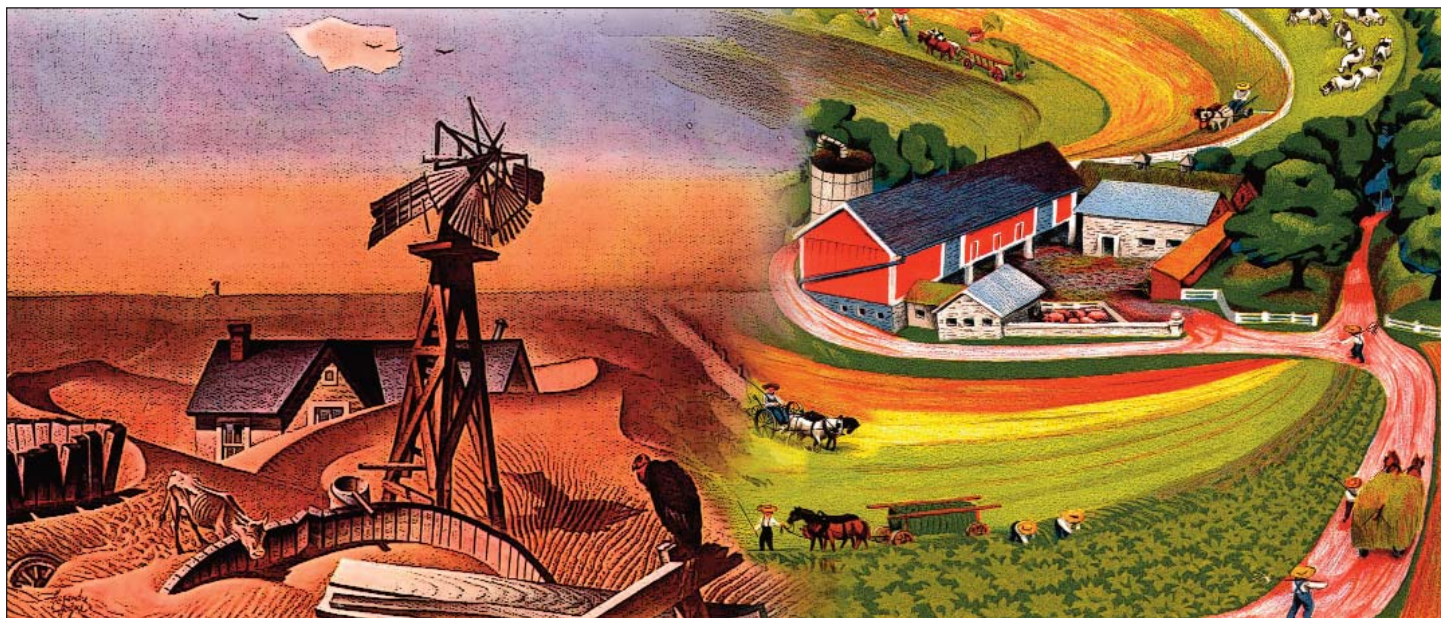
I know. I've been through this. I've seen the answers to prayer. I know that Christ is living. I know that He hears us when we pray. And some of you have never had that experience. It's time that some of you get it! Get down on your knees and wear them out.

But this Church is cursed with a curse if we don't tithe. So I'm going to correct that no matter, come hell or high water or whatever else. And if some of our ministers say, oh, they're not for tithing. All right, goodbye! The Baptists will



CARS EVACUATE LA CRESCENTA, CALIF., WILDFIRE ON AUG. 28, 2009

Anthony Citrano



probably open up for you. They don't believe in it, either! That's the way it is! If we've got that kind of ministers, I'll be very happy to say good riddance. And God will supply us with men filled with His Spirit.

Well, He goes on to show the blessings He'll pour out if we do obey Him and we trust Him. Can you believe that Christ is alive? Are you worried about if anything happens to me? I'm not.

I know that God will do one of two things. He'll either keep me alive or He will raise up the right man that will be His man, and it won't be someone that you people are going to vote on. You'll have nothing to say about it. You had nothing to say about the fact that I am where I am. Christ did it, and there is no way that you could have stopped it, is there? Christ put me in and all of you put together couldn't put me out, not if you wanted to.

Well, there are many promises here. Let's prove God. He says, "**Prove Me,**" that He won't do this. I've been proving Him, and He's been taking care of me all these years.

So, I think that I'll ... I'd like to go on and read all the rest of that fourth chapter, but I think we've taken up enough time tonight. But anyway, I don't want to overextend myself now tonight, and I'm going to rest you and let you go home and get some rest.

I always have something to do. Well, I'm working harder now than I worked 10 years, 15 years ago, even 20 years

ago, and I'm having to come back and do it, God will give me the strength and the energy and the vitality, but will you let Him give you the strength and energy and vitality you need for your part, brethren?

The apostle is the one sent, not you. You're to back and you will find in the New Testament the Church didn't go out, the apostles went out. Then there was one who had the Holy Spirit and had been a deacon who went out preaching and that was Phillip and God blessed him because he had been with the apostles, but he then became a minister and became an evangelist. But the people as a whole were just back of those sent. An apostle is a word that means "one sent forth" with Christ's message, and I just look back at the fruits of the last 51 years and I know by the same way that John the Baptist knew whether Christ was the real Messiah or not. I know, because by their fruits you know and that's how I know.

Now have a good night's sleep, and I think I'm not as badly worn out as I was two weeks ago tonight, and I hope I'll have a good night's sleep and I'll see you tomorrow afternoon.



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

Alton "Don" Billingsley

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

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

Watchman for the House of Israel
www.ezekielwatchman.org

World News Bulletin
www.worldnewsbulletin.com

Lost 10 Tribes of Israel
www.losttribes.org

The Ten Commandments
www.10commandments.ws

Prophetic Events
www.propheticevents.us

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

Restored Truths of God
www.restoredtruths.net

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

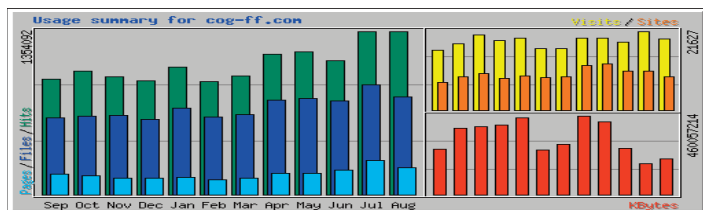
Which Day is the Christian Sabbath?
www.sabbathcentral.com

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

COGFF – Home School Association
www.coghomeschool.org

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

An Open Letter to the Scattered Flock
www.bodyofchristonline.us



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