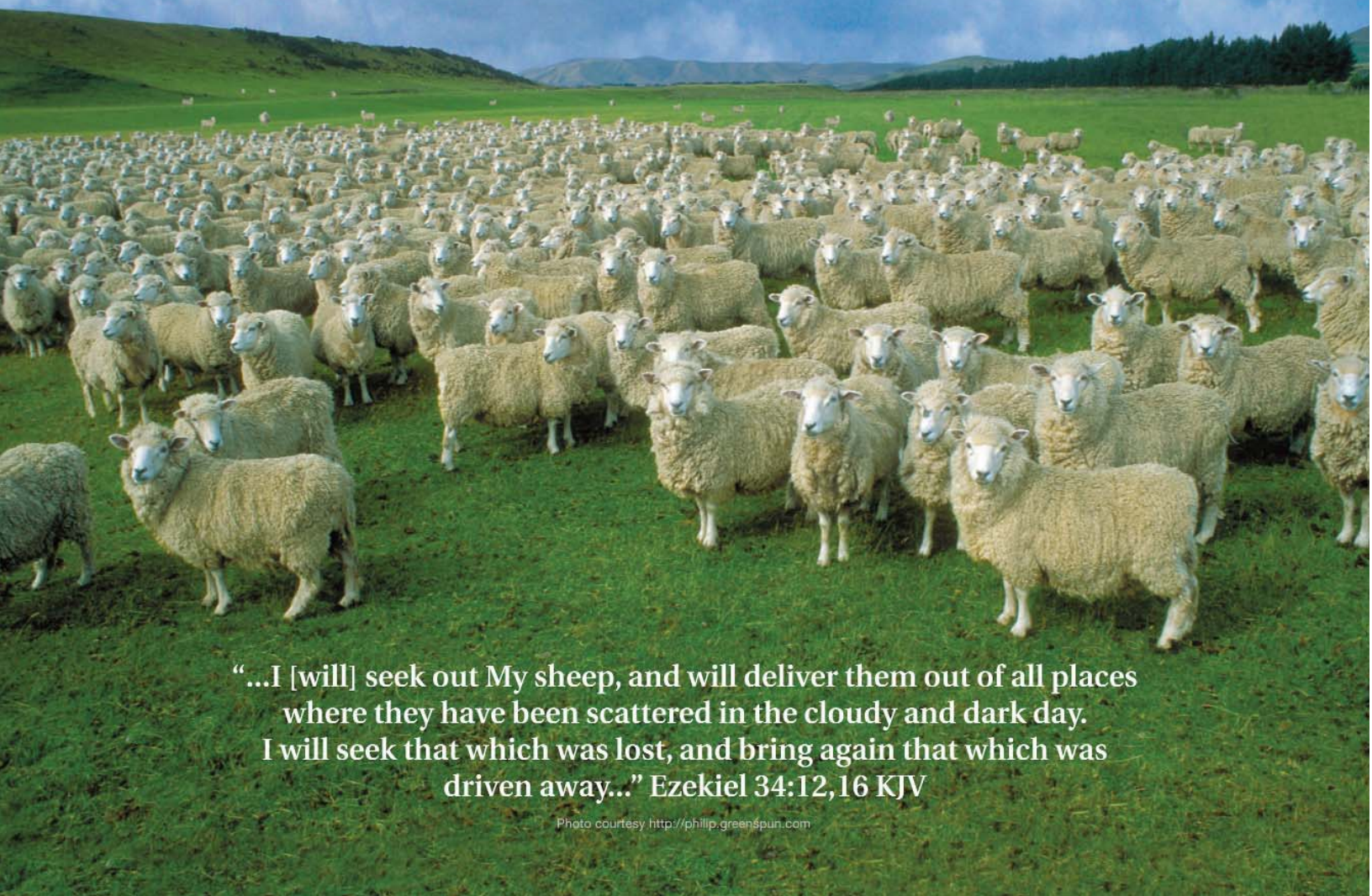


The _____ Philadelphia Remnant

Nov/Dec 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

NOV/DEC 2009

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

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

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

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The Mark of the Beast

By Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong

December 11, 1982

Well, greetings once again everybody and special greetings for all of you ministers that are here for the refresher course from around the world.

Fifty years ago, I was putting emphasis on certain things where I was actually at least 50 years ahead of my time. You know actually the first century apostles were more than 1950 years ahead of their time. They thought the Second Coming of Christ was going to occur way back there in their lifetime and, of course, it didn't. But 50 years ago, I could see that we were coming into the last generation of this world. So many things had been happening. I wonder if you people can understand.

But today it becomes a very solemn warning, and now the time is very imminent. The new United States of Europe is on the verge of going together. Now, it has gone together a number of times already, well, five times directly and a sixth time that the world hardly noticed and we are waiting now for the seventh resurrection of the Roman Empire. And the whole world is going to be astounded, and I can tell you it could even happen next year.



MR. HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

But along with it I want to come specifically today into a certain subject I have not touched on I think for some years now. I think that perhaps most of you have never heard me speak about it. In fact, the booklet that we had on it has become out of print. And that subject is "The Mark of the Beast." What is the Mark of the Beast?



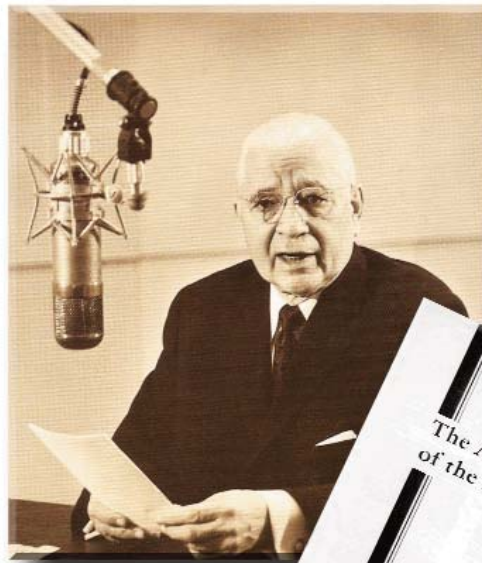
And now we are right at the time where the so-called "Holy Roman Empire" is going to be revived again. . . .

Now, way back at the time of Moses many hundreds of years before Christ, God had decided to call the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. And He made them into a nation, but they didn't have the Holy Spirit. It was not open to them. God gave them promises, but the promises that He gave them were all materialistic, nationalistic for material wealth and national dominance over other nations, even. But there was always a condition, and they never would fulfill the condition.

After a long time, they even divided among themselves into two different nations. One was

still called the Kingdom of Israel, but they rejected their king, and they went in for democracy; and they chose the man who had practically been King Solomon's prime minister, who had practically run the government anyway for Solomon – Jeroboam.

The tribe of Judah split off and formed its own nation called the Kingdom of Judah, and they are the Jews, and the Jews from that time on are not Israel. They are the nation of Judah, not the nation of Israel at all. The world doesn't know that. So many of the people in the



world don't know who they are. The people of the United States, of Britain, don't know who they are. The Germans don't know who they are. The Jews don't know who they are. They have lost their identity.

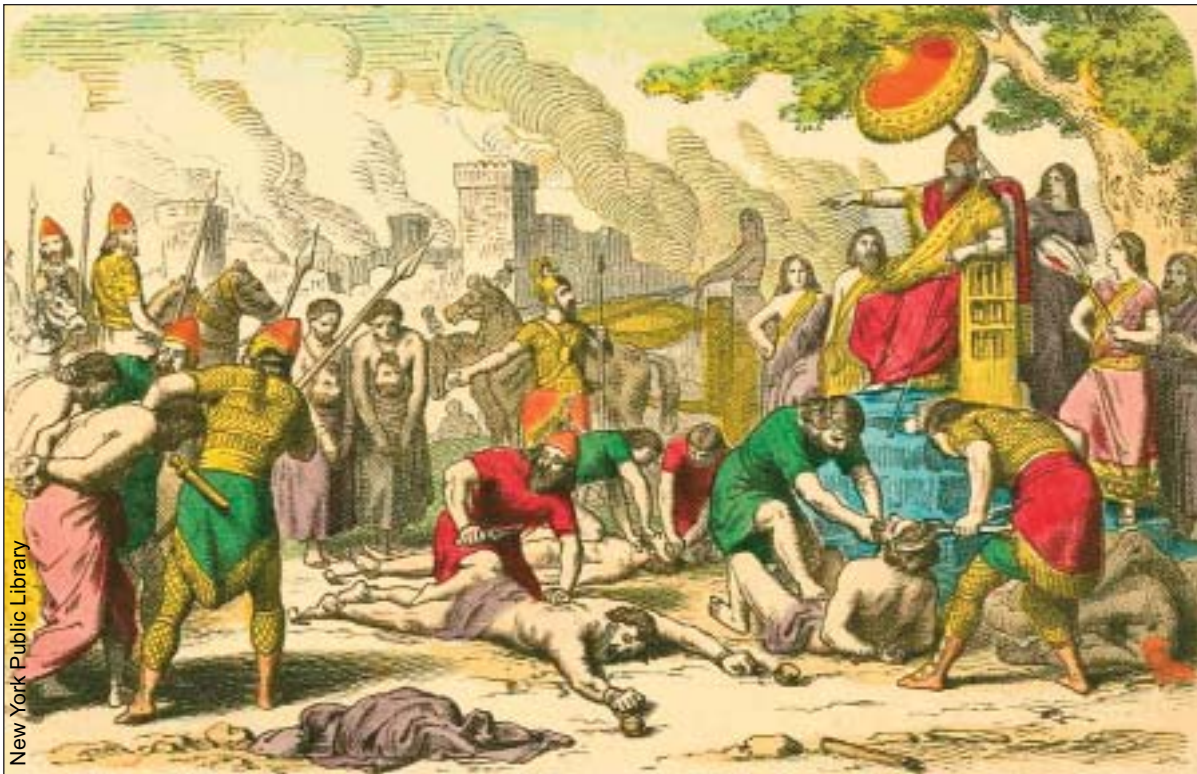
And there are things, I was just remarking in the wings out here just before the song service, that I really need five or six sermons for what I want to tell you today. There are so many different facets to it, so many that I can't get to more than just a part of it this afternoon.



But God offered finally, well, they split up into two nations, let's go back to that. And first, after seven dynasties and 19 different kings, Israel had followed their kings. And every one of those kings had rejected God and God's way of life; and they had all gone the way of sin contrary to the law of God, which is God's way of life and God's way of life is the way God and the way Christ have always lived from eternity, so far as we know. At least we know, as far as we know, they have always lived that way. And it's the way of peace. It's the way of cooperation. It's the way of love. It's the way of happiness, and it's the way of real great accomplishment and achievement and of a satisfying and fulfilling life. Humans don't know that.



ASSYRIAN SIEGE OF CITY



ASSYRIAN TORTURE OF PRISONERS OF WAR

So, God let Assyria take Israel captive. They began to move away and by about 118 or 120 years later, 130 years later, they had lost their identity and moved westward and north-west. And I'm going to tell you a little later why Israel lost her identity.

Now, Judah kept her identity, and I'm going to tell you why a little later. The Jews think they are Israel, and I'm going to tell you why. They are not Israel. They are Judah, and they don't really know who they are.

THE COMING MARK OF THE BEAST

*I want to get back to this **Mark of the Beast** because it's soon again now going to be enforced; and it has been enforced in the past and in ancient history and probably most of you don't even know that. Well, we will come to that.*

God used King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to take Judah captive because they had turned away from God. Well, they never really turned to Him. They professed to back in the days of Moses, but they never really had done it.

Through Daniel, God gave King Nebuchadnezzar a knowledge of the true God and that God had given him the right to rule. Now, you're going to see that later on, a continua-

tion of that was given its seat and power and authority by Satan the devil, but it was God who gave Nebuchadnezzar his seat and power and authority. And God was showing, if you will read between the lines in the book of Daniel, especially in the second and the seventh chapters and the others in between, God was giving King

Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon the chance to become God's kingdom and replace Israel, but the Gentiles rejected it.

King Nebuchadnezzar was sent out for seven years. He finally acknowledged God, and he came back, and God gave him the kingdom back, but his son rebelled and went the other way, and the kingdom was taken away. And so, it was succeeded by the Persian Empire and that in turn by the Greco-Macedonian Empire, or Greece, and there were four different divisions there and that in turn was succeeded by



the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire had begun about 31 B.C. and ruled until 476 A.D., when the barbarians to the north conquered it and destroyed it.

Then we had three nations – the Heruli, the Vandals and the Ostrogoths that came in there for a few years, less than a hundred years from 476, but by 554, at the behest of the pope at Rome. The Catholic Church had grown by that time rather powerful. Justinian who was ruling the empire in the east, now the Roman Empire had been divided. There was a capital at Constantinople in the east. Constantinople today is called Istanbul – which is the real metropolis of Turkey today, which used to be Asia Minor and up in the land of the Galatians and some of those people in the Biblical days.



BARBARIANS PLUNDER ROME

Anyway, he restored what they called the Roman Empire. And again it was raised up again by Charlemagne, a French head, who came to his zenith in 800 A.D.

And a little later Otto the Great of Germany, and after that Charles the Great, I believe it was of Hapsburg, of Austria. And after that came Napoleon. **And there you have five different resurrections of the Roman Empire.**

But by the time of Otto the Great of Germany, they were calling it the “Holy Roman Empire,” And it actually meant that, they believed the Kingdom of God had come.

Continued on Page 26



SO-CALLED HOLY ROMAN EMPERORS

Personal from the Editor

By Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley

Prepare for the Inevitable Persecution to Come on God's True Church

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? ..."

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

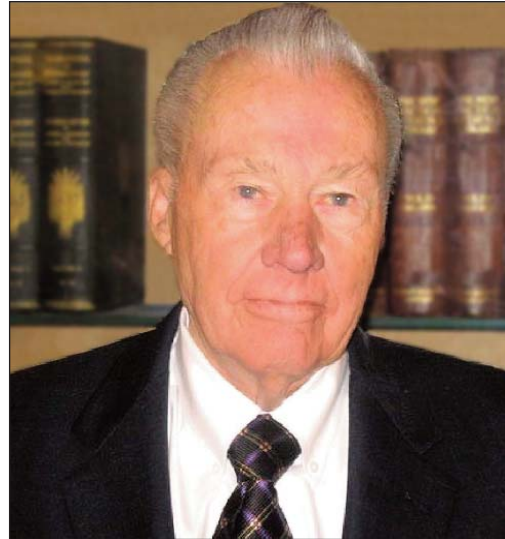
Dear Brethren,

In view of the prophesied trials and tests to soon come upon God's people, possibly beginning with *mandatory vaccinations for swine flu, the passage of the hate crimes bill, a very possible revolution, etc.*, it seems necessary to write of the need to begin preparing ourselves for – **The Soon-Coming Persecution on God's True Church!**

Speaking of our time, Jesus said, "**Then they will deliver you up to *tribulation* and kill you, and you will be hated by [in] all nations for My name's sake [Mr. Armstrong: applies to both Israel and the Church]. And then many will be OFFENDED, will BETRAY one another, and will HATE one another** (Matthew 24:9-10)."

Why This Coming Persecution – Satan will stir the pot of anger to the boiling point with great active hostility by society against the Church of the living God because it is the only one who continues to speak out against the evils permeating this culture. This is a major reason why Satan used Congress to pass the *hate crimes bill*, and the president signed it into law.

Isaiah the prophet pictures our time in his writing: "**Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; for TRUTH is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. So TRUTH fails, and he who departs from evil makes**



Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

in the gate, and they ABHOR the one who speaks up-rightly (Amos 5:10, 6; Isaiah 58:1)."

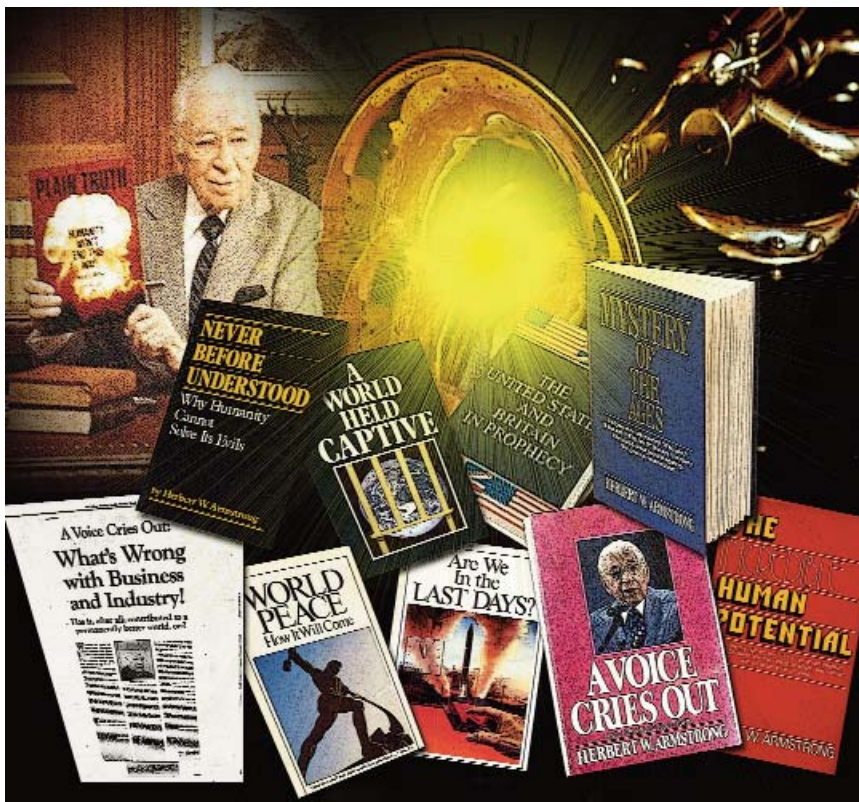
himself a prey (Isaiah 59:14-15)."

Because of this indictment against the house of Joseph by God, He says through His prophets – **"They HATE the one who REBUKES**

The churches of this world are passive about these evils. They do not speak out for varying reasons. By so doing, they hide their eyes from them as if they do not exist. This is best illustrated by what Evangelist Billy Graham said before conducting an evangelistic campaign in New York some few years ago:

Evangelist Billy Graham – In June of 2005, the most renowned and respected evangelist in America, known over the whole world by multiple millions, in perhaps his final sermon before many thousands of people in New York, was asked by a reporter if he was going to speak about the social problems. He replied, "**I do not give advice. I am not going to touch on those *hot button* issues!"** And he didn't.

The Promised Elijah of the End Time – It is against this background of evil that Jesus Christ continues to use His promised Elijah (Malachi 4:4-6), though dead, *via* his recorded works on our 14 web sites to "**Cry aloud, spare**



the revolt of the Jews, which occurred in 66 A.D., on the eighth of Nisan, at the ninth hour of the night, so great a light shone round the altar that it appeared to be “bright daytime; which light lasted for half an hour.” The scribes interpreted this as an omen of evil.

The same writer says that, “The eastern gate of the inner Temple, which was of brass and vastly heavy, and had been with difficulty shut by twenty men, and rested upon a basis armed with iron, and had bolts fastened very deep into the firm floor, which was made of one entire stone, was seen to open of its own accord about the sixth hour of the night.”

He says, “The men of learning understood it, that the security of their holy house was dissolved of its own accord.”

not; lift up your voice like a trumpet; and tell My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins! (Isaiah 58:1)”

*This final witness from God through that man will end shortly before the **Great Tribulation** and the demise of the nations of Israel by the conquering revived Holy Roman Empire.*

Between here and there will be final visible supernatural warnings (Luke 21:11), perhaps similar to the ones given to Judah shortly before they were conquered by Rome in 70 A.D.

ANCIENT HISTORY IN BIBLE LIGHT,

The Destruction of Jerusalem 70 A.D.

By Dorothy Ruth Miller, pages 260-261:

“The SIEGE (*parallel to the Great Tribulation*) of Jerusalem by Titus began at the Passover season, on the fourteenth of Nisan, 70 A. D. ...”

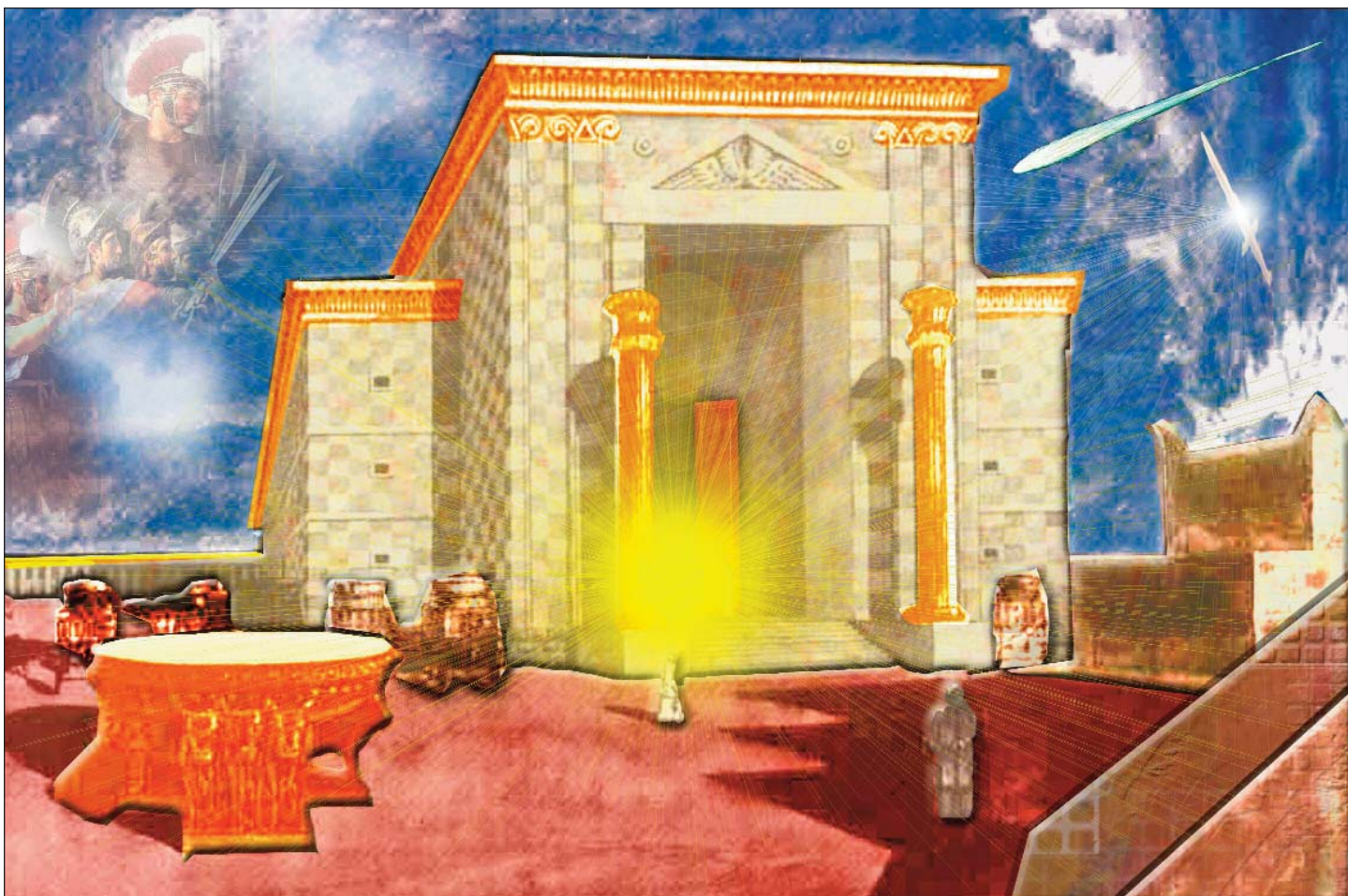
‘Fearful Sightings and Great Signs (Luke 21:11)’ Yet the Jews who suffered in the siege and destruction of Jerusalem were NOT left without WARNINGS immediately preceding the siege. Josephus relates that before

We are told besides that “there was a star resembling a sword which stood over the city, and a comet, that continued a whole year. ... Before sunset, chariots and troops of soldiers in their armour were seen running about among the clouds.”

Again on the night of the last Pentecost ever celebrated in the sanctuary “as the priests were going by night into



ROMAN CATAPULT USED IN JERUSALEM SIEGE



MIRACULOUS WARNING SIGNS APPEARED AT THE TEMPLE

the inner Temple, as their custom was, to perform their sacred ministrations, they said that in the first place, they felt a quaking, and heard a sound as of a great multitude, saying, ‘Let us remove hence.’”

Josephus adds: “But these men (Jewish leaders) interpreted some of these signals according to their own pleasure; and some of them they utterly despised, until their madness was demonstrated, both by the taking of their city and their own destruction. ...

“None of the previous calamities which had befallen Jerusalem is to be compared with this terrible siege. The siege lasted 134 days. ...”

A Repeat of Past Ages – The prophetic Scriptures that speak of this soon-coming persecution will be a repeat of the persecution such as the people of God experienced through the centuries while holding to their steadfast belief and faith in the true Christ – *only this time it will be far worse!*

“For then there will be **great tribulation**, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved (alive); but for the **ELECT’S SAKE** those days will be shortened (Matthew 24:21-22, Daniel 12:1-2).”

Whether members of *Sardis, Philadelphia or Laodicea Eras of God’s end-time Churches* – each one will be subjected to the worst in *name-calling, experience slander, shame and physical abuse for their beliefs, and even death*, before the departure of the members of the Philadelphia era to the place of refuge just prior to the **Great Tribulation**.

Scripture Reveals History Will Repeat Itself – A lesson of *duality* can be taken from what God’s Church experienced in 70 A.D. before their departure from Jerusalem to Pella, Jordan; just before its fall to Titus and his Roman armies (Matthew 24:9-10).

ANCIENT HISTORY IN BIBLE LIGHT, Dorothy Ruth Miller, Page 259, 66-70 A.D. “... The Christians suffered



ROMAN EMPEROR NERO BURNED CHRISTIANS LIKE HUMAN TORCHES

fanatical **PERSECUTION** from the Jews because they did not sympathize with the determination of the Jews to revolt. ... The persecution to which they were subjected because of their adherence to those principles was doubtless a contributing cause, two to three years later, to their **REMOVAL** from Judea, and their consequent **ESCAPE FROM THE HORRORS OF THE SIEGE** (*the parallel to the coming Great Tribulation*)."

Page 256 – "Nero persecuted the Christians. The Christians had before this suffered persecution at the hands of the Jews, but this was the first persecution by the Roman government. At the beginning of the persecution they were not accused upon the ground of being Christians, but upon that of incendiarism [*the burning of Rome*] and of being **haters of humanity**."

The latter charge arose from their not taking part in the heathen feasts (such as Christmas, New Year's Day, Easter, Valentine's Day, Halloween, etc.) ... This persecution brought the Christians into prominence, and from this time Christianity began to be looked upon as a crime, and to be banned (*my emphasis throughout*)."

The Same Church: *There are no Christmas lights on our houses; and no tree in view from the outside. This plainly marks our houses as people who are different and completely out of step with the Christian world (It is already believed by them that we do not believe in Jesus Christ!).*

Respectfully, we make known we are conscientious objectors to participating in warfare; we do not involve ourselves in politics; nor do we vote or serve on juries; we do not join in picket strikes or attend union meetings; we also refuse vaccinations. Notes are sent by parents to the teachers in the public school system asking to excuse our children from participating in Christmas parties and from exchanging cards on Valentine's Day, etc.

In view of our stand for our Christian beliefs in all those areas, and from those historical writings, we should clearly see the same charges that were leveled on those early Christians that brought about persecution, great sufferings, and death, will undoubtedly apply to all of us today – **"Haters of humanity!"**

Christ Will Be There to Aid His People – We need to realize in the face of any trial Jesus Christ promised He would

be there to aid and comfort each one (Matthew 28:20). He also said our Father would give us the words to speak just as He did with the apostles Peter and Paul (Matthew 10:16-20, Luke 21:14-15).

Preparedness and Endurance – It is with these encouraging words in mind that one need not be overly fearful though we will be called a lot of bad names as well as false charges will be directed at us with possible imprisonment; while our credibility is tarnished, muddled and discredited – labeled a *despicable cult*!

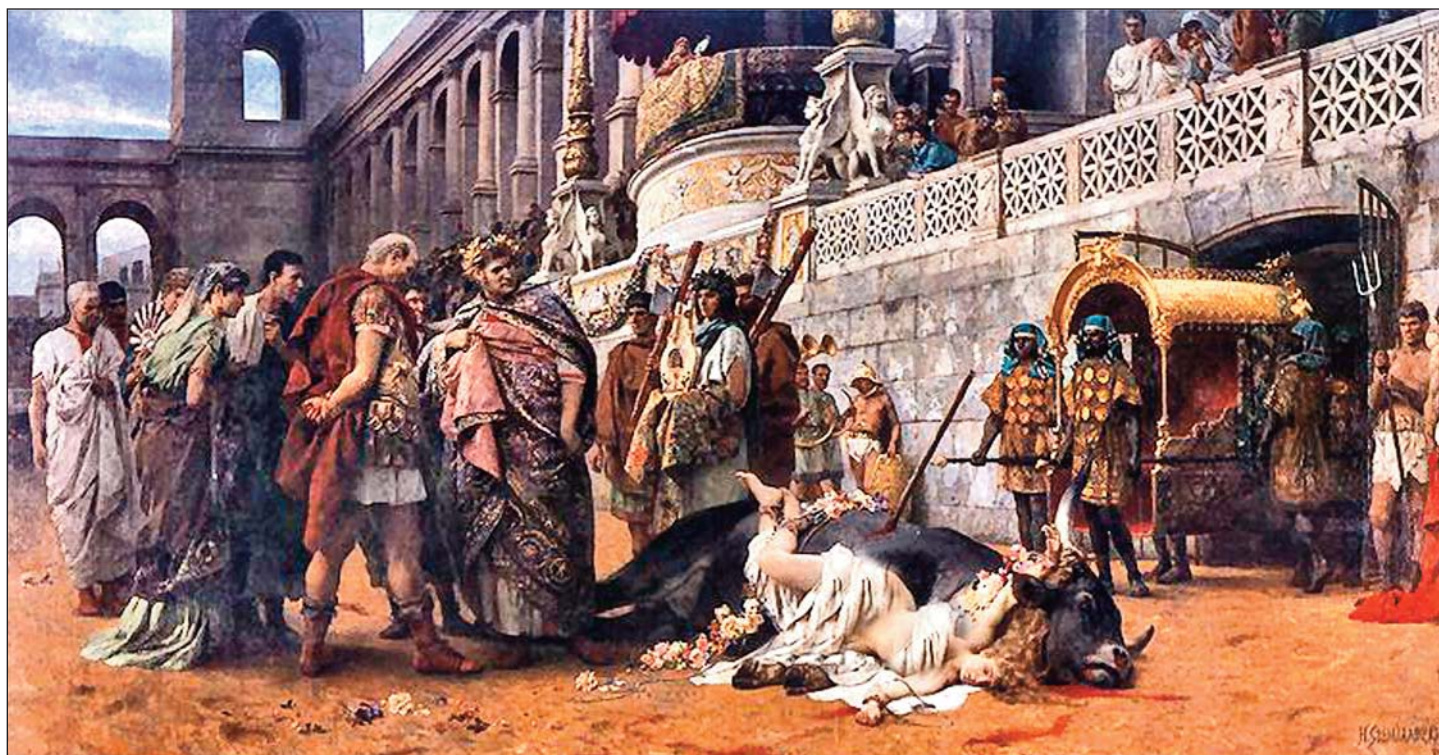
Even if some charges are true – don't cringe – face whatever they might be respectfully. Admit the mistakes of our past lives that will be dug up, but also make known we are not the same people we once were. We have repented and changed.

Jesus Christ said about Himself: **“If they have called the Master of the house Beelzebub (the devil), how much more will they call those of His household** (Matthew 10:24-26; 12:24).” Many will run from name calling. We will be TESTED, trying to break us. We must not give way!

The stress from the persecution – will make it easy to *lie or deny* being a member of the Church of God, as did Peter deny Jesus Christ – *cut and run* (Matthew 26:69-75). Know this – *those who do*, had better repent as did Peter (John 21:15-19) and then stand up to be counted, as did he (Acts 5:22-32), or you will be headed for the **Great Tribulation**, which will be far worse than whatever we may have to undergo and endure before that time (Matthew 10:28, 32-33).

Preparation in View of the Coming Persecution and Martyrdom: In addition to God's people seeking the strength needed from Jesus Christ to face the persecutors, as did He in fervent prayer just before He was arrested in the garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-44, Luke 22:41-44), there is the same need of setting our minds to be faithful as did Christ, while being vigilant and having our loins girded prepared to flee to other cities, and also the place of refuge when given the word (Matthew 10:23, Exodus 12:11, Luke 12:35-36).

Glenn Beck – Those who listen to his radio and his television programs on the FOX News Channel know that he bravely speaks of the critical problems facing this country and lays the responsibility for them on the president, his czars, along with Congress – both the Democrats and Republicans.



CHRISTIAN WOMAN MARTYRED BY ROMAN EMPEROR NERO



NERO'S BURNING OF ROME BLAMED ON CHRISTIANS

He says his daily programs are being monitored by designated people, and he hears from some who lash out at him with scorn and disdain. He also has said he is continually being investigated with the effort of trying to find dirt that would discredit him.

While knowing attempts of violence may come his way, along with his wife and children to suffer persecution and be ostracized by many, he courageously continues to make known the potential dangers hovering over this nation.

Preparedness – In

one of his recent programs, a professional psychiatrist enumerated the steps he should take to prepare himself and his family for whatever potential problems he may yet be fac-

6) Thick-headed. 7) Hard right. 8) Coward. 9) Fear monger and 10) What are you trying to do – break up families?

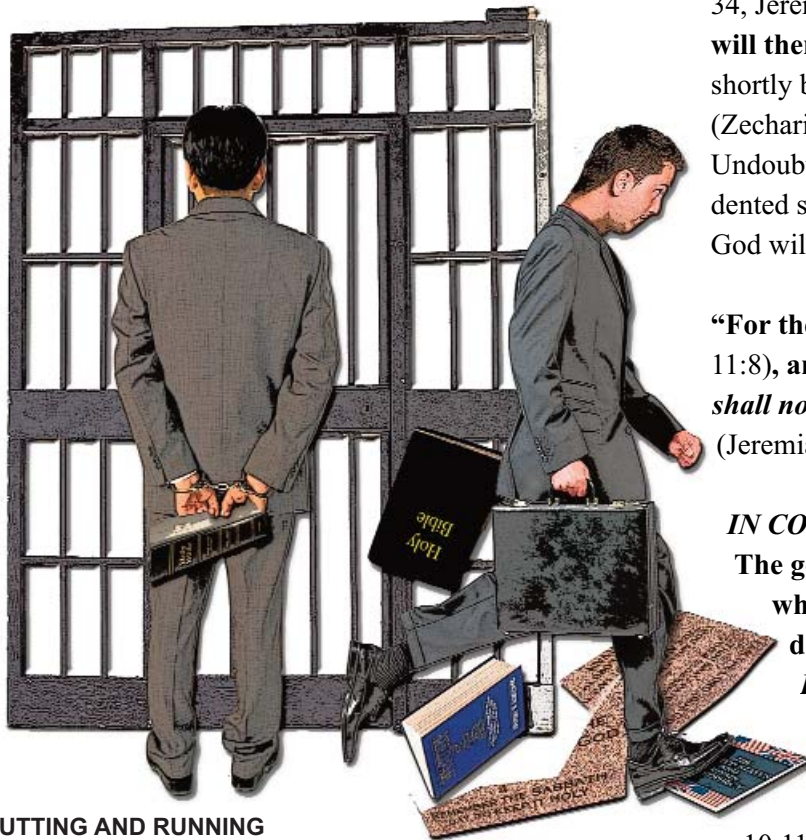
As God's people, we should KNOW who we are – who we represent and ADMIT it (Matthew 10:32-33, Luke 21:13). Truth must strengthen us for Truth is all-powerful – take the temporary pain as did Christ and the apostles (Acts 5:40-41, 16:23-25).

We must also condition ourselves *not to cut and run away* from who we are and who we represent. We



ARCH OF TITUS SHOWS ROMAN SACKING OF JERUSALEM

KNOW the TRUTH – *what do the lies matter?!* Prepare ourselves for the worst thing they can do to you (Matthew 10:28), *knowing we will be TESTED!* (Daniel 12:10)



CUTTING AND RUNNING

34, Jeremiah 23).” **Mr. Armstrong: This present work will then be finished** – This shattering appears to be shortly before the beginning of the **Great Tribulation** (Zechariah 13:7-9). What will bring this shattering about? Undoubtedly, it will be the persecution on such an unprecedented scale that the leaders of the corporate Churches of God will *flee* for their lives!

“For the shepherds have become *dull-hearted* (Romans 11:8), and have not sought the **LORD**; therefore *they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered* (Jeremiah 10:21, Daniel 12:7).”

IN CONTRAST, Jesus said – “I am the good Shepherd. The good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But he who is a hireling and not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, **SEES THE WOLF COMING AND LEAVES THE SHEEP AND FLEES**; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does **NOT** care about the sheep (John 10:11-13).”

They will TRY to break us – discredit us individually and collectively – *a cult!* They will try everything to DE-FLECT the facts. Know it is going to get worse before it gets better. Stay committed while knowing we will be in for more pain before we flee.

During this trying time, realize that Satan is the Real Enemy who will be using his human instruments to try and break the resolve of God’s True People and destroy us (Ephesians 6:11-12, Revelation 12:12-13).

Have a friend you can talk to when stressed and discouraged. Choose a friend that will strengthen and encourage you.

Know also the promises of Christ make known that powerful miracles are just ahead of deliverance from this terrible limited time (Psalm 34:17,37:1-15).

The Timing Connects with the Complete Shattering of God’s Church – “... **And WHEN the power of the holy people has been completely shattered (Hebrew: breaking in pieces, also to disperse, etc.), all these things shall be finished** (Daniel 12:7, 11:35; Ezekiel

It will only be the faithful elect who will fully come together, and that will occur shortly before the time to flee: “... **but the wise shall understand** (Daniel 12:10).” There will be mighty miracles for the faithful when needed.



A HIRELING FLEES FROM ADVERSITY

In the interim, *TRUTH must always lead us and prevail* (John 17:17). It is always worth standing up for – for *TRUTH is all-powerful!* One can run from it, but it catches up and prevails.

This present time is the lull before the storm; and we should be using it to be drawing close enough to our God in prayer, Bible study and fasting that our LOVE FOR HIM AND HIS TRUTH will be so deeply engrained within our very hearts and beings that nothing *“shall be able to separate us from the LOVE of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”* – just as the people of God clung faithfully to His LOVE from the beginning of the Church unto our time (Romans 8:31-39, Hebrews 11).

Building our Spiritual Strength – Please know: **“If you faint (or quit) in the day of adversity, your strength is small** (Proverbs 24:10).” We must be building our spiritual strength *now* through a right and close relationship with our God and our Savior Jesus Christ, who said, **“I will never leave you nor forsake you** (Matthew 28:20, Psalms 34, Hebrews 13:5-6).”

With this promise from Christ firmly in mind, each of us must continually be putting forth all of our effort with determination to faithfully finish the race *to honor and glory* as those have before us; and this will also be ours upon the return of Jesus Christ (Matthew 16:24-27, Hebrews 11, 12:1-3; Philippians 3:7-15).

Enduring Faithfully unto the End – In view of all the terrible things prophesied to take place in this time of the end of this age (Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21), Jesus Christ lovingly and caringly made known how critical it is that we remain faithful to Him and His way of life. **“And you will be hated by all for My Name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved** (Matthew 24:13; 10:22; II Timothy 4:7).”

And that means to be faithful to all of the doctrinal teachings that Jesus Christ used His late apostle to restore within His Church (Matthew 17:10-11, Revelation 3:7-13); otherwise the final test will be enduring the *horrors of the Great Tribulation*, which will be far worse than the persecution before that time (Luke 21:36).

URGENTLY, there is the need to make sure from Scripture, and the unedited *Mystery of the Ages*, to know where the Congregation is that Jesus Christ is using of the Philadelphia Era of God’s true Church.



THE COMING UNHOLY ROMAN EMPIRE

And to escape the greater horrors of the *Great Tribulation* it will become necessary for the few thousand scattered members of the remnant of the Philadelphia Era to connect with it before the time to flee to the place of refuge for it is only the members of it who will be counted worthy to escape those horrors. *They can be easily identified by the study of the sixth Church Era* (Revelation 3:7-13).

In the face of these coming times, Jesus said: **“Blessed are you when they REVILE AND PERSECUTE you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for GREAT is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets before you** (Matthew 5:11-12).”

My heartfelt plea to all members is to please consider where you now are – and where you should be.
Time is running out!



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Materialism's Deadly Trap

By Mark Mendiola

Millvina Dean, 97, died on May 31, 2009, in a British nursing home. At eight weeks of age, Millvina was the youngest passenger on the 1912 maiden voyage of *Titanic*. At her death, she was the last survivor of the renowned luxury liner, [which sunk in the Atlantic Ocean in history's most infamous sea-faring tragedy.](#)

Millvina's parents had hopes of beginning anew in Wichita, Kansas, where they had family and friends. The family boarded at Southampton, England, as third-class or "steerage" passengers – low income travelers.

Dignitaries and the middle class stayed in more elegant cabins above them. They set sail on April 10, 1912. On the night of April 14, while sailing south of Newfoundland,

Millvina's father felt *Titanic* lurch after striking an iceberg. Upon investigating, he rushed his wife and two sleeping children on deck. The iceberg had ripped a gouge in *Titanic's* side, and frigid ocean water was rapidly filling it.

Millvina and her mother were among the first steerage passengers to escape the sinking liner. Fewer than 50 percent of women and children in steerage survived, compared to 81 percent in second class and 94 percent in first class. By the time most third class women and children reached the deck, the few lifeboats aboard had already launched without them – many only half filled.



Wikimedia



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MILLVINA DEAN

Millvina was so tiny she was lifted into the lifeboat in a postal bag. Her 2-year-old brother was lost in the panic and chaos. Because there were not enough lifeboats aboard, women and children were placed first. Most of the men drowned in what was [sheer pandemonium.](#)



We cannot fathom the absolute terror and screaming that occurred as loved ones were separated and doomed to a terrible death!

After *Titanic* plunged and vanished, the lifeboats drifted listlessly on the bitterly cold, icy waters of the Atlantic Ocean under a dark, moonless sky for hours before the survivors were rescued and taken aboard *Carpathia*, a ship that had answered *Titanic*'s distress calls.

The survivors were shivering, living with memories of the horrifying sound of fellow passengers and loved ones drowning.

Millvina's brother was in another lifeboat and reunited aboard *Carpathia*, which arrived safely in New York on April 18. Her father, who was only in his mid-20s, was one of the more than 1,500 people who

perished. Nearly 90 percent of the male steerage passengers died in the disaster.

STEAMING TOWARD DISASTER

The massive U.S. economy has been compared to a super tanker, but it's even more accurate to compare it to *Titanic* – the largest, most luxurious, most expensive ocean liner ever constructed and put to sea, symbolizing an era in which materialism assumed an almost religious status.



VICTIMS OF THE TITANIC TRAGEDY

There are many lessons we can derive from this terrible, heart-rending tragedy.

The Prophet Isaiah foretold: “Their land is also full of silver and gold, and there is no end to their treasures; Their land is also full of horses, and there is no end to their chariots. Their land is also full of idols; They worship the work of their own hands, that

which their own fingers made (Isaiah 2:7-8).”

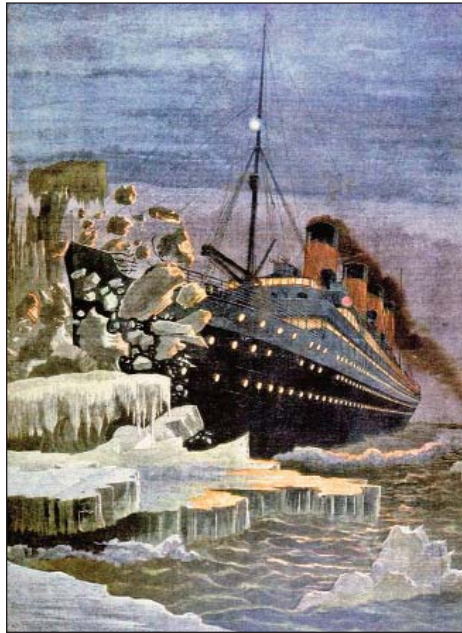
Americans and Britons virtually worshipped *Titanic*, which weighed 46,000 tons, stood 18 stories high and was as long as three football fields. Some of the wealthiest, most prominent U.S. and British aristocrats were on its maiden voyage, paying lavishly to be aboard.

Engineers, journalists and *Titanic*’s own officers all said the ship was unsinkable. One man even said, “God Himself could not sink this ship!” A vice president of White Star Line, which owned *Titanic*, said: “There is no danger that *Titanic* will sink. The boat is unsinkable and nothing but inconvenience will be suffered by the passengers.” It was far more than “inconvenience” the passengers suffered in what turned out to be an absolute nightmare!

Nothing came to symbolize that Edwardian era of opulence or “Gilded Age” more poignantly than *Titanic*. It was described as a floating palace, a technological masterpiece

and an industrial wonder of the world. It was the first ship to boast a swimming pool or gymnasium. It had three first-class elevators and the first second-class elevator. It had chandeliers, crystal, elegant wood, tile, paneling and artwork throughout.

Titanic’s captain, Edward J. Smith, commented: “*I cannot imagine any condition which would cause this ship to founder. I cannot conceive of any vital disaster happening to the vessel. Modern shipbuilding has gone beyond that.*” Americans and Britons were worshipping the work of their own hands!



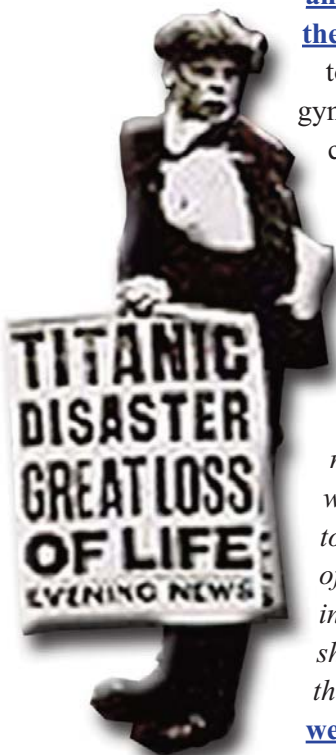
Arrogance about the ship’s invincibility ran so high that crew and passengers were not given lifeboat training or drills.

The 62 lifeboats planned by *Titanic*’s designer eventually were cut to 20 to make room for extra elevators, Turkish baths and gyms. The ship’s owner claimed more lifeboats would ruin the ship’s appearance and cause unnecessary panic among passengers.

Even today, most Americans and British credit their own abilities and ingenuity for the unprecedented wealth and prosperity they have enjoyed the past 200 years. They give

more credit to themselves for their affluence than the God who has bestowed it on them in such incredible abundance. If we think we can pull ourselves up without God’s involvement, we are sadly mistaken. Our God condemns this attitude in no uncertain terms!

“Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, lest – when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them; and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God ... then you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.’ And you shall remember the



LORD your God, for it is He who gives you the power to get wealth ... (Deuteronomy 8:11-14, 17-18)."

WARNINGS IGNORED

After *Titanic* launched in April 1912, **ominous warnings of dangerous ice ahead were ignored.** Instead, 29 boilers were feverishly stoked with the ship's 6,000 tons of coal, increasing *Titanic*'s speed in hopes it would set a record for crossing the Atlantic.

The *Californian*, a ship less than 10 miles from *Titanic* when it sunk, also tried to **warn of dangerous ice fields,** but *Titanic*'s wireless operator actually told his counterpart on that ship, "Shut up! Shut up!" He was too busy sending personal messages to and from rich passengers tracking their stock prices to be bothered with **more warnings.** He had so many messages backlogged the **final ice warning** never made it to the ship's bridge. It was spiked, waiting for a messenger to deliver it.

However, many messages about the ice field previously had made it to the crew **but went unheeded.** Because the ship was thought to be unsinkable, no additional personnel were watching for icebergs, and men in the crow's nest lacked binoculars, which were misplaced when the ship docked in Southampton!

Passengers were not prepared for the **sudden destruction** that would ensue. After *Titanic* struck the iceberg, it sank within two hours and 40 minutes! Only about 700 – or fewer than a third of the 2,220 passengers – survived. The rest of the 1,520 passengers either drowned or died of hypothermia. **Only a few hours before, they had been eating, drinking, gambling, dancing and making merry.**

Bible prophecy plainly shows there is going to be a recurrence of such disaster on a major national scale. **The American and British peoples are steaming full speed ahead to their own rendezvous with catastrophe!** Jesus Christ, Old Testament prophets and New Testament apostles all warned this **Great Tribulation** would be preceded by a time of astounding wealth and prosperity.

Christ warned: "But take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For **it will come as a snare** on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth (Luke 21:34-35)."

A snare is a trap that suddenly snaps shut when least expected. The Apostle Paul also warned of getting ensnared or trapped.

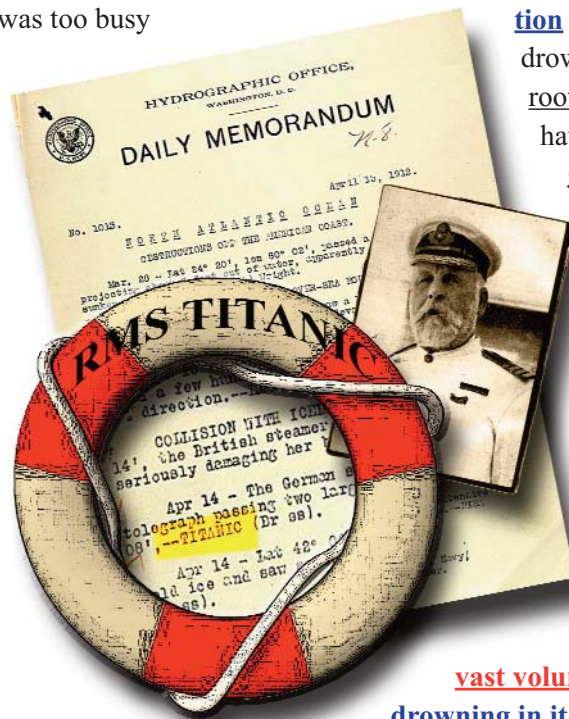
"But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which **drown men in destruction and perdition** (just as *Titanic* passengers drowned). For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows (I Timothy 6:9-10)."

The American economy struck a deadly iceberg in the fall of 2008 shortly after the seventh anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Wall Street suffered its worst melt-down since the Stock Market Crash of 1929! The nation still has not fully recovered, **taking on**

vast volumes of red ink at an alarming rate, drowning in it! Millions of people were astounded. **They thought the U.S. economy was unsinkable!**

Robert Prechter, a respected technical analyst, told Reuters last June he sees the United States losing its top AAA credit rating by the end of 2010 as the federal government issues trillions of dollars in debt to bail out the economy. In May, Standard & Poor's lowered its outlook for Britain, threatening the United Kingdom's top AAA rating, as well. Americans and Britons once again are in the same boat!

Prechter said he expects credit markets to seize up again as the banking sector remains in severe trouble. **The economy "is obviously heading toward a Depression,"** he said, disputing the notion the Federal Reserve has avoided disaster and the economy has hit bottom, contrary to news media reports.



IN MAMMON WE TRUST

U.S. currency is stamped with the motto “*In God We Trust*,” which atheists and others are aggressively trying to remove. *Yes, in God we should trust*, but most Americans and Britons are trusting in their own abilities to create wealth and pull themselves out of this frightening debacle of a crisis!

“Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share ... (I Timothy 6:17-18).”

The Apostle James also gives **stern warning to the rich** – those who trust in their own wealth and investments for their security as so many do today.

“Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. ... You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter (James 5:1-5).”

The Bible indicates the U.S. dollar and British pound will collapse in value, and **people instead will put their trust in gold, silver or precious commodities** instead of worthless currencies. The worst is yet to come for our collective economies!



TITANIC SURVIVORS IN LIFEBOAT

“The time has come, the day draws near. ‘Let not the buyer rejoice, nor the seller mourn, for wrath is on their whole multitude (It will be disastrous for everyone – buyers and sellers alike!). ... **They will throw their silver into the streets, and their gold will be like refuse; Their silver and their gold will not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD**; They will not satisfy their souls, nor fill their stomachs, because it became their stumbling block of iniquity (Ezekiel 7:12, 19).”

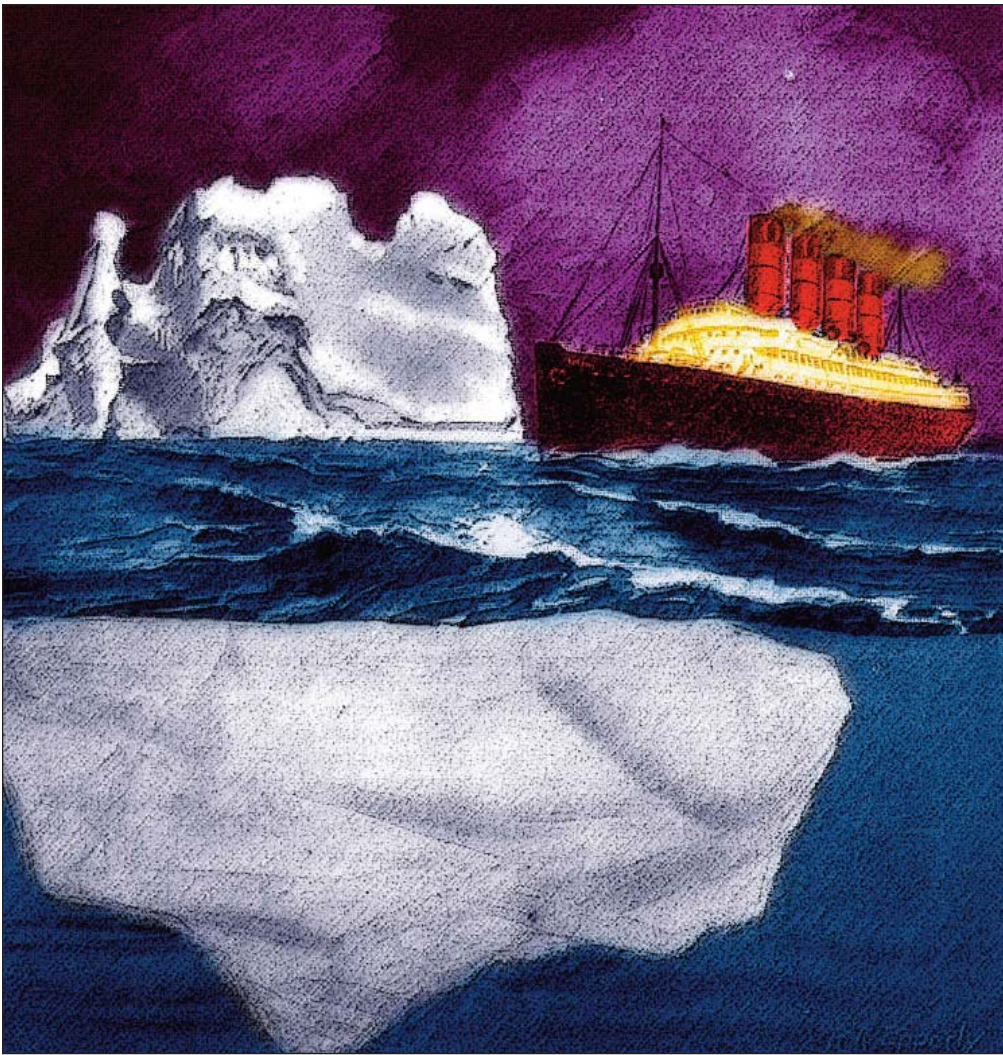
The Bible refers quite often to **those who put their trust in silver and gold**. The Prophet Zephaniah also shows all the silver and gold in the world will not help anyone at the time of God’s wrath.

“The great day of the LORD is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of devastation and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet and alarm against the fortified cities and against the high towers (or skyscrapers). I will bring distress upon men ... because they have sinned against the LORD. ... **Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD’s wrath** ... for He will make speedy riddance of all those who dwell in the land (Zephaniah 1:14-18).”



TITANIC SURVIVORS ABOARD CARPATHIA

Jeremiah echoes: “**Your wealth and your treasures I will give as plunder without price**, because of all your sins, throughout your territories



“Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy (or “increased with goods,” KJV), and have need of nothing’ (that’s what many self-sufficient *Titanic* passengers thought) – and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked – I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich ... As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent! (Revelation 3:17-19).”

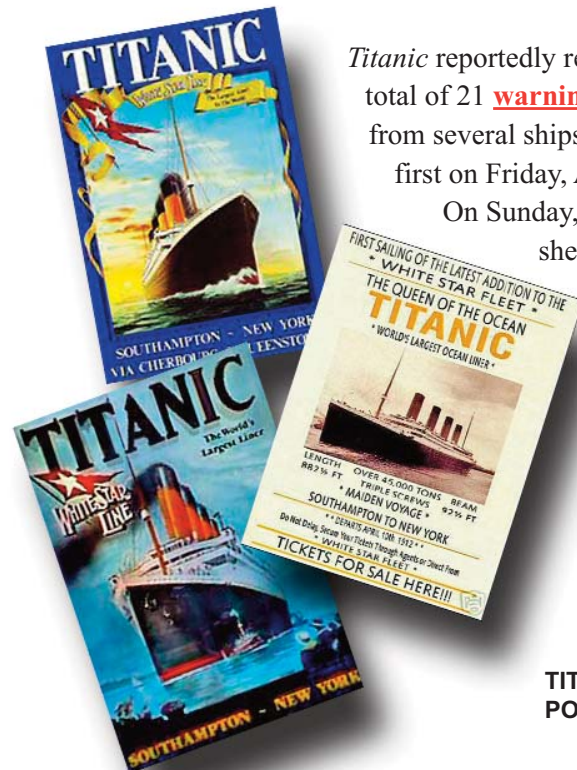
Laodiceans – like those on *Titanic* back in 1912, and Americans and Britons today – will not heed warnings of imminent disaster. They think there’s no need to be worried, prepared or agitated, living in denial. They have a false sense of security. They are like those in Isaiah 30 who want to hear smooth, soft sounds. They tell those who do warn to “Get out of the way. Turn aside. We don’t want to hear it!”

(Jeremiah 15:13).” Foreign creditors are plundering our wealth and cannibalizing our treasures, taking over many major U.S. corporations. *They are foreclosing on the United States of America!*

There are disastrous consequences for getting snared in materialism’s deadly trap! People who thought their financial future was secure were shocked to discover otherwise a year ago last fall when literally billions of dollars in savings and investments in which they trusted were wiped out in one fell swoop!

A COMPLACENT, ARROGANT AGE

The Prophet Zephaniah says God will “punish the men who are settled in complacency (Zephaniah 1:12).” That definitely describes our apathetic age. We are living in an age where wealth is worshipped, where people are smug and complacent. Many aboard *Titanic* nearly 100 years ago – and many Americans and Britons today – have what can be characterized as a “*Laodicean*” attitude – indifferent and arrogant.



Titanic reportedly received a total of 21 warnings of ice from several ships – the first on Friday, April 12. On Sunday, April 14, she received no

TITANIC POSTERS

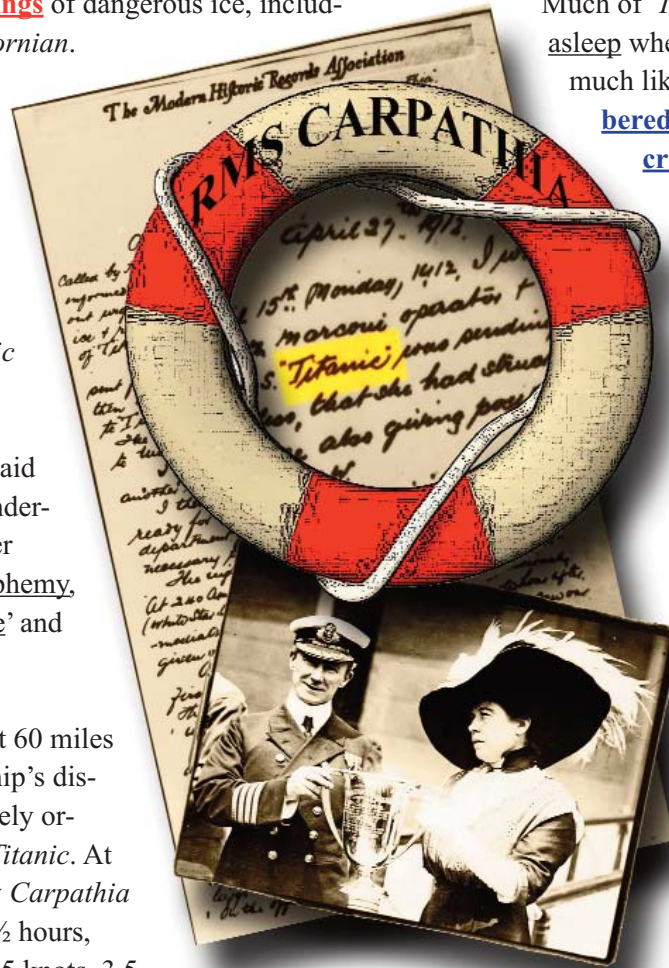
less than seven separate **warnings** of dangerous ice, including two from the nearby *Californian*.

The last **warning** received from *Californian* resulted in *Titanic*'s wireless operator to angrily wire back, "Keep out! Shut up!"

Forty-five minutes later, *Titanic* struck the iceberg!

Capt. Arthur H. Rostron, had said of *Titanic*, "She must be a wonderful ship, but all their newspaper bragging seems a kind of blasphemy, claiming that she's 'unsinkable' and all that kind of thing."

His ship, *Carpathia*, was about 60 miles from *Titanic* when it got the ship's distress signal. Rostron immediately ordered the ship to race toward *Titanic*. At dawn, survivors of *Titanic* saw *Carpathia* finally arrive. It got there in 3½ hours, faster than expected, going 17.5 knots, 3.5 knots faster than it was rated. "When day broke, I saw the ice I had steamed through during the night. I shuddered and could only think that some other Hand than mine was on that helm during the night," Rostron said.



CAPT. ROSTRON, MOLLY BROWN

Much of *Titanic*'s crew and passengers were asleep when disaster struck at midnight, much like the foolish virgins who all slumbered and slept at midnight when the cry of alarm went out (Matthew

25). We need to heed what the

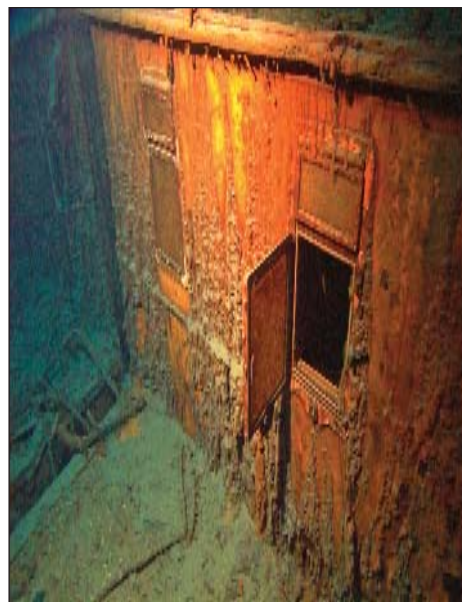
Apostle Paul's warning:

"Knowing the time, that **now it is high time to awake out of sleep**; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. **The night is far spent, the day is at hand** (Romans 13:11-12)."

Materialism's deadly trap is ready to spring shut. Are we prepared and vigilant or **foolishly ignoring the warnings**?

We all can thank God that He will send Jesus Christ to rescue the survivors of the *USS America* that is on the verge of sinking in the worst catastrophe to ever strike a nation.

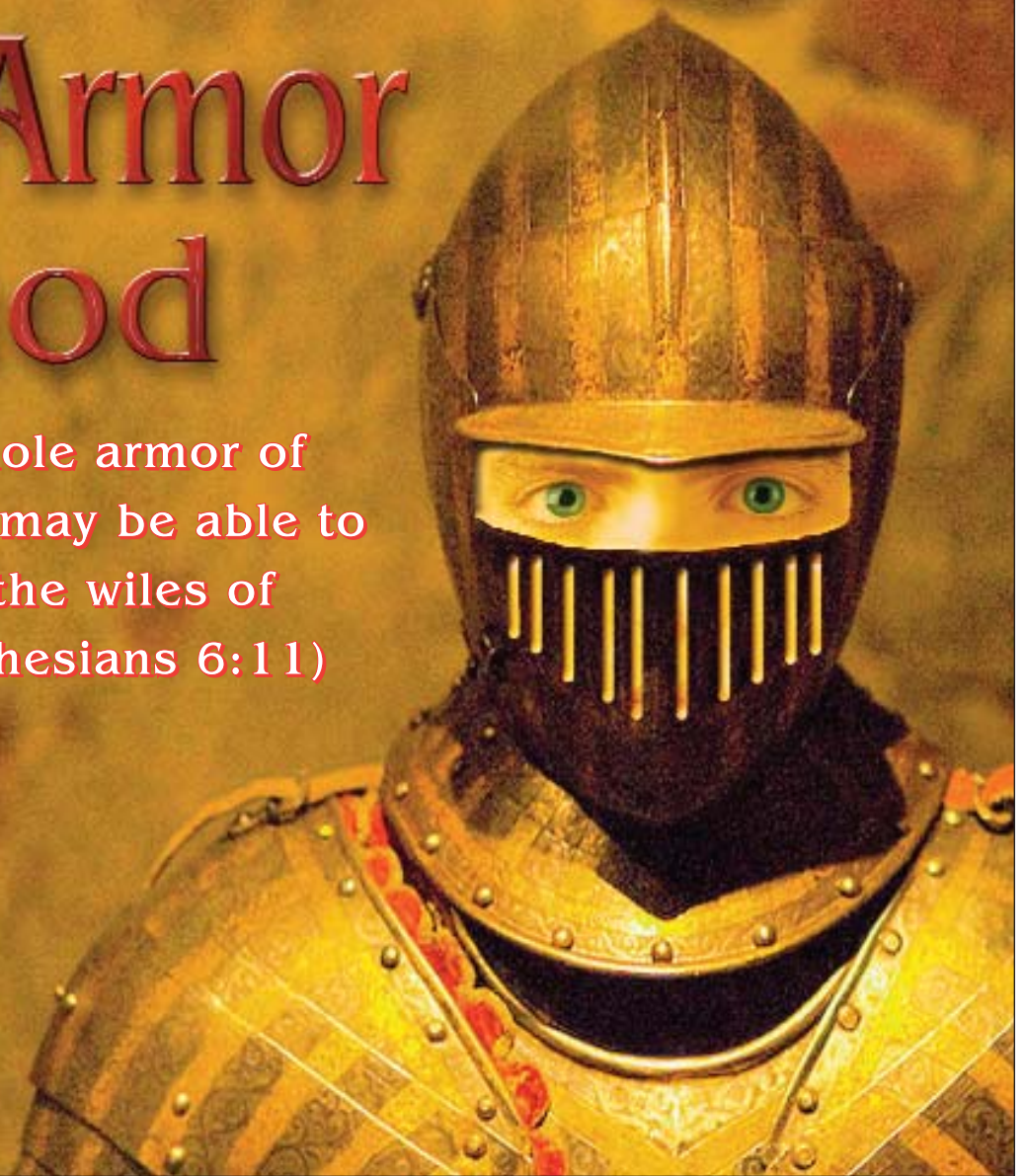
Let us not think we are rich, increased with goods and in need of nothing. Rather, let us **be zealous**, repent and **turn to the God in whom we must trust** as we navigate extremely treacherous waters ahead!



SUNKEN REMAINS OF THE TITANIC AT THE BOTTOM OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

The Armor of God

'Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.' (Ephesians 6:11)



By Gary Liebold

On April 19, 1951, General Douglas MacArthur, the famous American general who commanded the Allied troops during the Pacific campaign against Japanese forces in World War II, spoke these words to the U.S. Congress during his farewell speech. **“War’s very object is victory, not prolonged indecision. In war, there is no substitute for victory!”** General MacArthur’s lifelong experience in the military gave him a complete understanding of war, including the aspects of defeat and, most importantly, victory.

In a later speech on July 7, 1952, General MacArthur also stated: **“It is fatal to enter any war without the will to win it!”**

We, too, are soldiers. However, we are not physical soldiers like General MacArthur. We are spiritual soldiers fighting against the most DEADLY enemy one could ever face, Satan the Devil. We, too, want to be victorious! General MacArthur’s words can be applied spiritually as well! **“In war, there is no substitute for victory!”**

WE ARE SPIRITUAL SOLDIERS

The apostle Paul, in his first epistle to Timothy, wrote, **“This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare (I Timothy 1:18).”** We, like Paul and Timothy, are in a spiritual warfare.

In II Timothy 2:3-4, we read, **“You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one en-**



reveals to us: **“For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the CAPTAIN of their salvation perfect through sufferings.”**

Jesus Christ is the same CAPTAIN today, just as He was for Joshua’s army of Israelites, illustrated by the story of the fall of the city of Jericho.

“And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes

gaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.” Paul said, **“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses (I Timothy 6:12).”** We MUST fight the valuable fight as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 6:12 makes it clear that we **“... wrestle not against flesh and blood.”** This could be regarded as a daunting and physically frightening task, but the good news is that we are not fighting this war alone! God the Father and Jesus Christ are right there with us all the way!

COMMANDER AND CAPTAIN

As we read in Romans 8:31, **“... If God is for us, who can be against us?”** King David expressed the following thought in Psalm 27:1: **“The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?”**

As God is our Supreme Commander, Jesus Christ is our Chief Leader, the Author, Prince and Captain of our Salvation! Hebrews 2:10

and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as CAPTAIN of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? And the CAPTAIN of the LORD’S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so (Joshua 5:13-15 KJV).” God the Father and Jesus Christ are right there, leading the way for us.





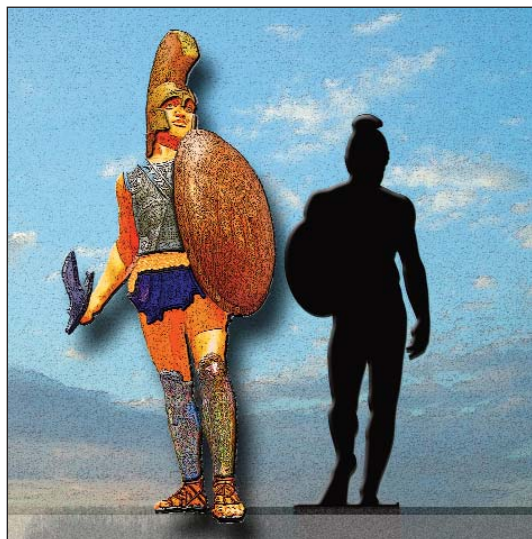
OUR SPIRITUAL ARMOR

Satan is a formidable enemy, full of cunning and with more experience in deception and modes of attack than we, by ourselves, could ever fathom.

Although God the Father and Jesus Christ are, by far, stronger and more powerful than Satan could ever be, like all soldiers in any warfare or combat, we are responsible for carrying our weight in this war.

We must be prepared on an individual level for every attack thrust upon us by our insidious enemy. That means we must, on an individual basis, have the *spiritual armor* necessary to ward off deadly attacks.

What exactly is our spiritual armor? Do we realize that we absolutely need this armor to survive the spiritual warfare we're in? In Ephesians 6, we clearly see the need for us to have our spiritual armor in place. **"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the**



devil (verse 11). **Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand (verse 13).**" We need to realize that each and every piece of that armor is necessary to succeed in battle!

Webster's Third New International Dictionary explains that armor is a **"defensive covering for the body."**

The armor of God should be our defensive covering against

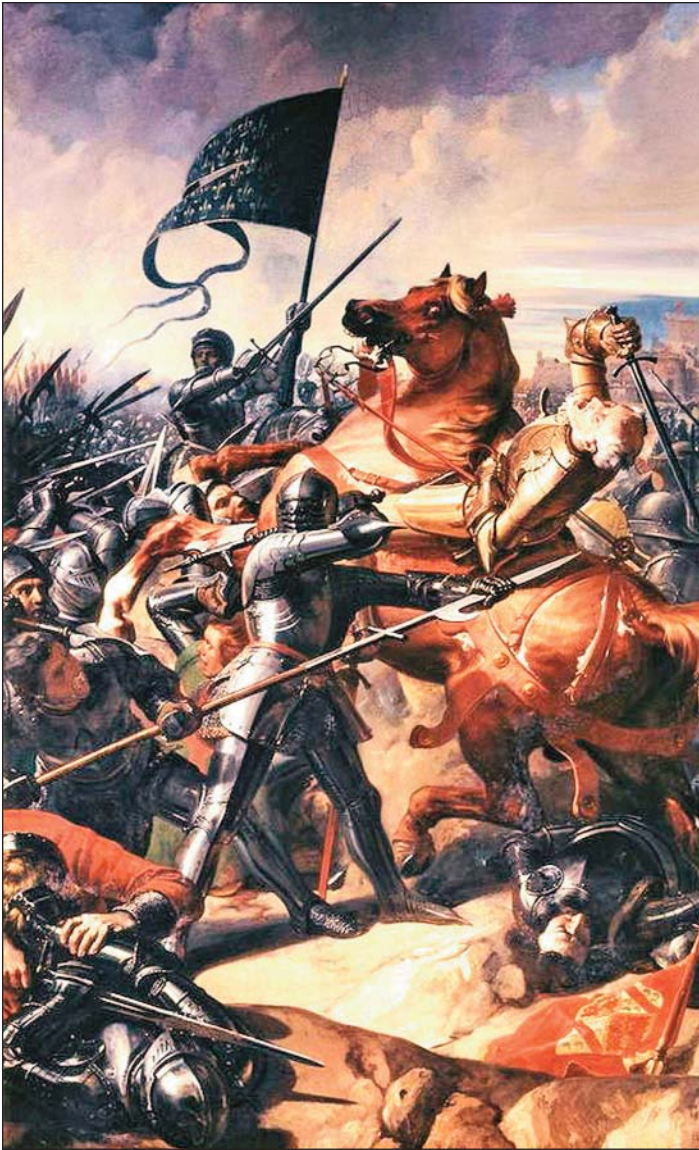
the wiles of Satan and his **"fiery darts"** (Ephesians 6:16). As soldiers, we MUST put on the WHOLE armor of God for our defense!

The apostle Paul used the analogy of a suit of armor to depict our own spiritual protection. A full suit of armor consisted of a girdle, breastplate, footwear, shield, helmet and sword. The enemy (Satan) wants us to believe that this suit of armor is too heavy and constricting. Satan uses his subtle influence to try to persuade us to take off this armor, piece by piece, until, unbeknownst to us, we are totally vulnerable and UNPROTECTED! We might be convinced to believe that it is easier to fight without the weight of that armor. We must not let ourselves be deceived!

FORMS OF ATTACK

With the spiritual warfare we are in, the enemy hits us with surprise attacks in many different forms, including doubt, personal trials and frontal attacks on our faith.

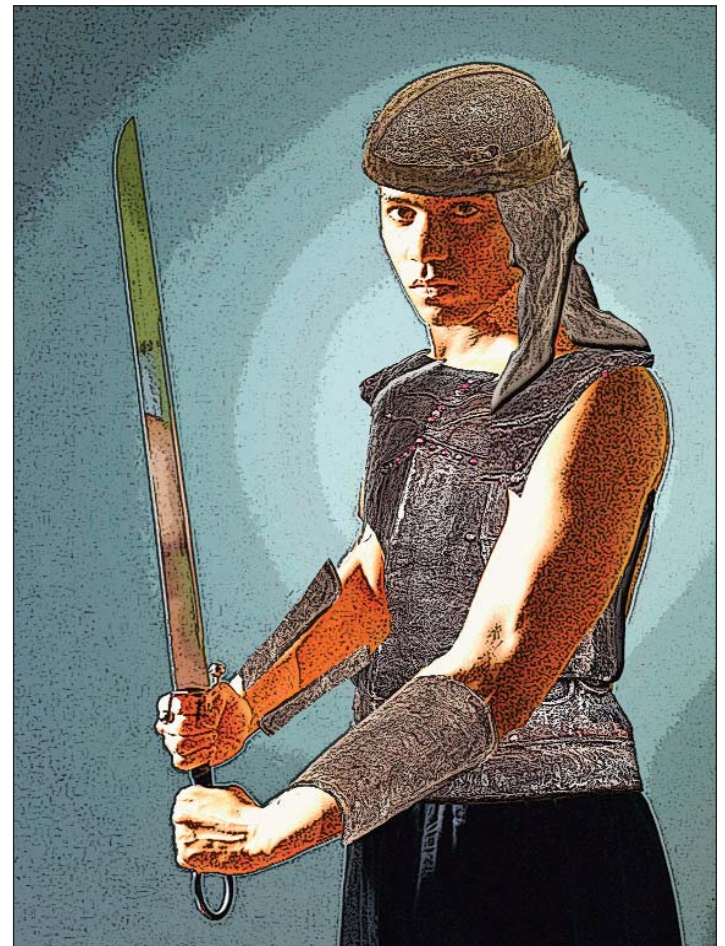
Have we ever had even one doubt? Have we ever wondered about our calling or heard others denounce Mr. Armstrong as being the end-time Elijah? Has anyone ever tried to introduce doubt about doctri-



tary tells us that, “**The ancient soldier’s loins (“waist”) were girt about with a leather belt which held most of the other pieces of his armor in place.**” Clearly, without this girdle or belt, the soldier could not safely and conveniently place his weapons in the necessary close proximity to his body for combat purposes. We can see an example of this in II Samuel 20:8.

Spiritually, the girdle of truth is the inspired Word of God. Just as a physical girdle is used to tightly brace the body, so should our spiritual girdle be fitted tightly to each of our bodies. We must be well grounded in the Truth of God and treasure it, in order to have it as a girdle of protection about our body. **“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning (Luke 12:34-35).”**

We should be firmly grounded in the doctrines and truth that God has revealed to us. As we see in III John 3-4: **“For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”** Only when we know and embrace God’s Truth can we firmly have that girdle of protection bound securely to us!



nal TRUTHS into our minds? Make no mistake about it – these are not innocent questions or doubts – their key root are the “fiery darts” of Satan himself!

All of us face personal trials of a variety of types. Some of God’s soldiers may face job loss, while other might face serious illness. The list of problems we face might seem endless, but in reality they are often used as “spears” in Satan’s attack on our defenses.

All the while, Satan is shooting “darts” or arrows at us to try to find cracks in our defense of faith. The spiritual armor of God is crucially necessary to keep these poisonous arrows from defeating us!

GIRDLE OF TRUTH

The first part of the armor mentioned in Ephesians 6 is the **girdle of Truth**. **“Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth ... (Ephesians 6:14).”** *Nelson’s Comm-*

BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

In the latter part of Ephesians 6:14, we see the second portion of the armor of God described as “... **having put on the breastplate of righteousness.**” According to *Clark’s Commentary*, in ancient times, the breastplate, “... consisted of two parts ... one covered the whole region of the thorax or breast, in which the principle viscera of life are contained; and the other covered the back, as far down as the front part extended.”

Spiritually, the breastplate of righteousness represents our obedience to God’s Commandments. In I John 5:2-3, we read: “**By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.**” It is very important to God that we live by His commandments! “*Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city* (Revelation 22:14).”



We desperately must put on the breastplate of righteousness daily to spiritually protect what is vital to us!

FEET SHOD WITH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

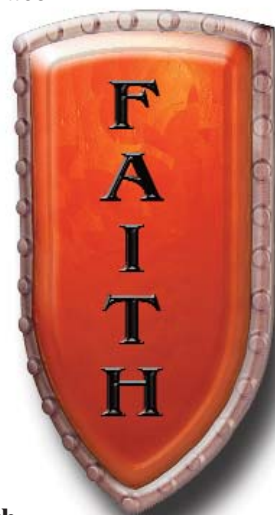
During the time Jesus Christ lived His life on this earth, a Roman soldier wore “**special shoes called *calligae* on his feet, enabling him to advance against his enemy** (*Nelson’s Commentary*).” From *Clark’s Commentary*, we know that these same shoes were also known as “Greaves.” Greaves, or “**brazen boots,**” were found to have “**covered the shin or front part of the leg; a kind of solea was often used, which covered the sole, and laced about the instep, and prevented the foot from being wounded by rugged ways, thorns and stones ...**”

If we examine the spiritual meaning of the same footwear, we find that the feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace represent the gospel of Jesus Christ – the good news of the coming of God’s Kingdom and the Family of God! “**Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God** (Mark 1:14).”

In our present climate, Satan has ambushed God’s people, causing many to lose sight of the true Gospel. But God’s loyal people will never lose sight of the true gospel: “... **having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace** (Ephesians 6:15).” Our feet must be shod with the gospel of Jesus Christ!

SHIELD OF FAITH

Continuing our study into Ephesians 6, verse 16 tells us, “**above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.**” Physically, according to *Clark’s Commentary*, the shield was sometimes made of wood or metal, often oblong in shape and designed to “... **embrace the whole forepart of the body.**” Spiritually, the shield of faith is the faith of Jesus Christ given by God through the Holy Spirit. Faith is one of the important fruits of God’s Spirit, as mentioned in Galatians 5:22 and is defined in Hebrews 11:1: “**Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**”



Faith is absolutely essential in the life of every true Christian! “**Now the just shall live by faith ...** (Hebrews 10:38).” The shield of faith is necessary to protect one from doubts and worries thrust upon us. Without the shield of faith, Satan’s “fiery darts” (Ephesians 6:16) WILL bring us down!

HELMET OF SALVATION

“**And take the helmet of salvation ...** (Ephesians 6:17).” For a soldier, the head is considered to be the most vulnerable area of the body and has been traditionally protected by helmets of one kind or another. Spiritually, the helmet of salvation typifies God’s Holy Spirit, protecting the mind of God’s people! In Psalms 18:2, we read, “The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.” We must hold fast to the helmet of salvation for the sake of our future in God’s Kingdom!





THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

Remember, God's people are engaged in a **fierce spiritual war** (Ephesians 6:12). We cannot afford to leave off even ONE piece of armor God provides for our defenses. Satan's "fiery darts" will pierce even the tiniest of GAPS that may be exposed! We must be well-grounded in the TRUTH, live in obedience to God's commandments, keep our eyes on the TRUE gospel and pray daily that we will have more of the faith of Christ to help us through the trials and obstacles we face. Finally, we must pour ourselves into the scriptures daily, to sharpen our only "offensive" weapon, the sword of the Spirit.


SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

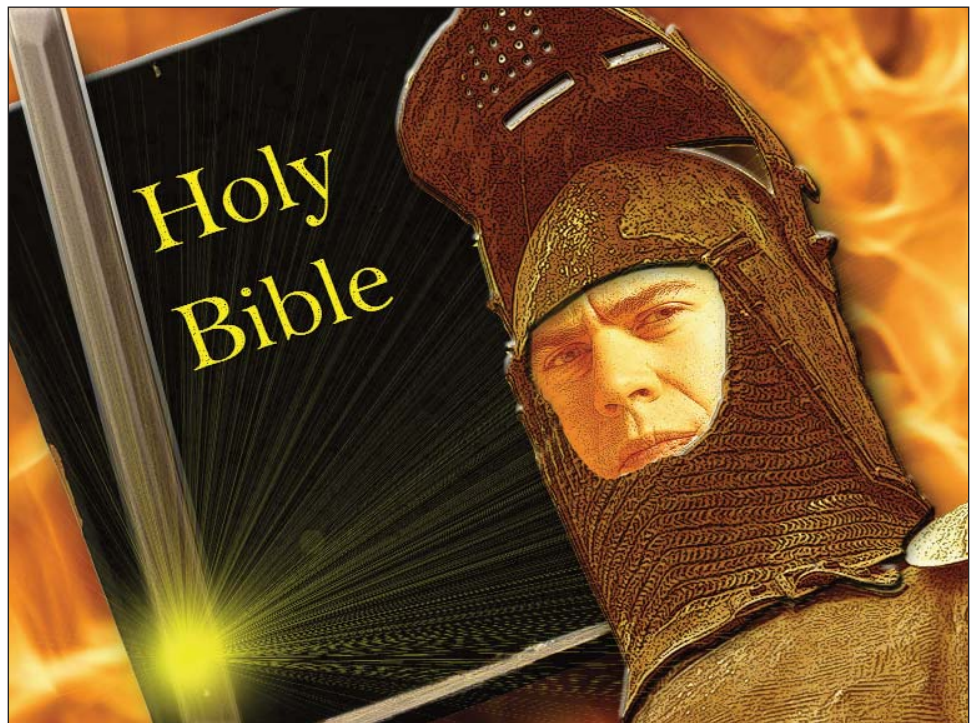
The final portion of the armor consists of the sword. The *Columbia Encyclopedia* describes the physical sword as a "weapon of offense and defense in personal combat, consisting of a blade with a sharp point and one or two cutting edges." To surrender one's sword is viewed as a token of defeat.

Spiritually, the sword of the Spirit is the Word of God – the Bible! "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart (Hebrews 4:12)."

We should be sure to include daily Bible study in our arsenal when facing Satan's society each day! Remember, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work (II Timothy 3:16)."

As General MacArthur said, "It is FATAL to enter any war without the will to win it!"

We must remain alert and be in complete touch with God daily to reach our victory (Matthew 24:13). Again, as General MacArthur said, "In war, there is no substitute for victory!" 



Mark of the Beast

Continued from Page 4

The pope was called “*Vicar of Christ.*” Did you ever look up that word “vicar” in the dictionary? The word “vicar” means “in place of.” It does not mean the representative of. It doesn’t mean he represents Christ. It means he’s kicked Christ out and taken over.

Now, that's rather brutal and that's plain language, but I want to make it blunt enough so that you'll understand what I'm saying. Because that's what it actually means. Christ has been kicked out. There has been a revolution. There has been a military coup. The pope has taken over. Christ is out of it, and they are supposed to rule now, not just a thousand years but forever.

Well, you know when Hitler came he was – **Mussolini had made a little bit of – a resurrection of the so-called “F**



MUSSOLINI, HITLER


ducers of certain mechanical things, have very great talents in certain directions. They are a people who had been down and out after World War I. Hitler came around and raised them up with the idea that they were better than any other



people on earth. He practically had them hypnotized, and I think a great many people in Germany today realize that. And I don't think you find very much of Hitlerism in Germany today.



NAPOLEON



NAPOLEON

from 554 on up to 1814 when Napoleon, as we say, “met his Waterloo.” Anyway, this whole system of Gentile governments began with Nebuchadnezzar. And now we find the LAST resurrection of it is coming up, and it means something to you and me! And **the Mark of the Beast is something that is going to be enforced, and you are going to risk your life on it in the very near future!**



NIMROD THE HUNTER

In speaking of these very same things, Jesus said, “**He that hath an ear, let him hear!**” And I say to you if you have ears to hear you’d BETTER HEAR, and you’d BETTER UNDERSTAND! And don’t take this lightly, because your life is going to be at stake!

I’m going to tell you, one of two things is going to have to happen to you, every one of you. And we’re going to face it collectively as a Church, but each is going to face it individually also. You’re going to be tested. If you try to save your life, you will lose it for all eternity. You may have to GIVE your present life in order to make the Kingdom of God. Are you going to try to live on and save it? Or are you willing?

There is one place in the 12th chapter of Revelation, after Satan has had the battle in heaven once again and has been sent back down to earth, where “**the saints loved not their lives unto death.**” And that is speaking of our time and our people and those of the Laodicean Church to follow us almost immediately.

THE FOUR WORLD-RULING EMPIRES

I want to pick up this story in Revelation 13. It really starts in the second chapter of Daniel. Now, you know the story of the second chapter of Daniel. King Nebuchadnezzar had finally put together the first great world empire.

Civilization started with city states. Nimrod is the first one we have a record of in (the 10th) chapter of Genesis ... Nimrod built Babylon, Nineveh and a number of other cities and for a long time, the only governments were in cities. Each city had its own government, and we had what they called “city states.”

And each city had its own king. They didn’t call them mayors. They called them kings. And then they got into nations, and we had ancient Egypt, and we had ancient Greece and certain others and, of course, there was ancient Assyria. And later came the Medes and the Persians and others. But Nebuchadnezzar got even many of those together into a world empire of a number of nations – the first world empire.

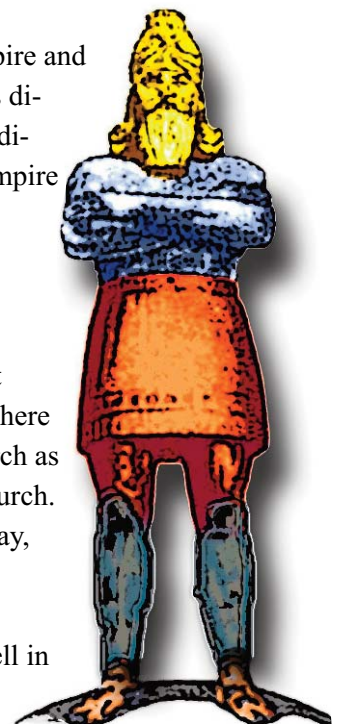
Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. He saw a great image and that image showed what was going to happen, beginning with him. It was a great image ... I think it was 10 feet tall or else it was a great deal taller than that.

The head was of gold. That represented Nebuchadnezzar. Now it started there, and it showed what was going to happen as we come down through the image. Its breast and arms were of silver. That was the next empire to succeed him or the Persian Empire. And then later on would come Greece or the Greco-Macedonian Empire. And that was the belly and thigh of brass.

And then came the Roman Empire and its two legs, because Rome was divided. And Satan’s kingdom is divided and part of the Roman Empire was in the East and part in the West.

Now, incidentally, the Roman Catholic Church grew up, but it wasn’t all ROMAN Catholic. There was the Eastern Orthodox Church as well as the Roman Catholic Church. And that has come down to today, also.

However, the Roman Empire fell in 476, and in 554, as I said a while ago, Justinian was



brought from Constantinople over to Rome to restore the empire in the WEST. And it wasn't restored as the Roman Empire in the East at that time. But it has had a number of successions, and now it's going to be restored once again.



Now, Daniel 2 shows it finally coming down to the toes of the feet. But you see one of those feet is planted on Eastern Europe and one on Western Europe. And it comes down to the final end of the Second Coming of Christ and smashing this WHOLE SUCCESSION of GENTILE GOVERNMENTS on the toes of the feet. That's the 10 kingdoms that are going to go together in Europe.

And our Work will stop very soon after this Holy Roman Empire has this next and last resurrection. And OUR WORK WILL STOP AND THEN WILL COME THE GREAT TRIBULATION!



But this Church, well, you are either going to risk death or you're going to take the **Mark of the Beast** – one or the other. Unless we are taken to a place of protection and safety, and there are two places in the book of Revelation that certainly indicate we shall be. But it's going to take a miracle. Now, it took a miracle from God to get the Israelites out of Egypt way back there in the days of Moses. He had to strike a rock and water came out of it, and we may have to perform just as great miracles again this time. ***You'd better begin to believe in miracles because your very existence may depend on it.***

Well, anyway, you come to Daniel the seventh chapter, and he saw the same thing but in the form in his dream or his vision ... of four wild animals or beasts. The first was a lion, and that was the Chaldean Empire. The second was a bear, and that was the Persian Empire. The third was the Greco-Macedonian Empire and had four heads. Well, it was divided into four divisions, and each one had its own head. And then, that made up six heads, and then the Roman Empire the seventh head and that was a fourth beast he saw.

Of course, it had one head, but it was strong, stronger than any of the others and stamped over the territory of all of them and embraced them all, the Roman Empire. Now then, we come into the 13th chapter of Revelation, and it continues that same, identical thing. And I want to begin now in the 13th chapter of Revelation, and I'm going to take a little bit of time to go through it, word by word.

THE RESTORATION OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

Now, John is telling here in the book of Revelation what he saw in a vision, like a dream. He was on the Isle of Patmos, and he was being shown the time of the Day of the Lord, and that's the time when God will step in and intervene in world affairs, and it will climax in the Second Coming of Christ and then the thousand year rule under Christ.

Now, the 13th chapter of Revelation he's showing what he saw in this vision. He says, **"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns. And upon his horns, ten crowns."** Now notice the crowns are not on the head, they were on the horns. **"And upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the names of blasphemy."** So there's something evil about it. **"And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard."** It wasn't a leopard, but it was quick



MANKIND WILL WORSHIP THE BEAST

and catlike like the body of a leopard. It had the characteristics, the best characteristics of a leopard. **“And his feet were as the feet of a bear.”** The most powerful part of a bear are its feet. And it had the strongest part of a bear because it was a very powerful thing. But it wasn’t a bear. It just had the feet LIKE a bear. **“And his mouth as the mouth,”** it wasn’t a lion’s mouth but AS a mouth of a lion. Now, that is the strongest part of a lion, especially a male lion, and I don’t know whether that’s stronger than a female, but it just looks bigger.

“And the dragon,” now in Revelation 12 and Revelation 20 you see very plainly the dragon is Satan the devil, **“gave him his power, and his seat and great authority.”** Now, let me give you one little key right here, **“gave HIM”** that’s the male gender. Now in these prophecies the “him” or the male gender represents civil political government – political and military. The she or “her” or the feminine gender always deals with a church. When you get to the 17th chapter, you find a woman riding the

beast, but the woman is a church. The beast is a “he” or a “him,” which is a military or a civil political government.

Now, this thing is of Satan the devil, who gave it its seat and power and great authority. Now, this whole system as it started, God gave Nebuchadnezzar his seat and power and great authority, but by the time it gets down to this point, I’m going to show you that this includes the four beasts of Daniel 7 and this is speaking of the Roman Empire.

Now I worked out that chart, believe it or not some 55 or 56 years ago while I was BEING converted.

God showed me the truth. Now, the only way you can understand this, and there are other chapters in Daniel that bear on the same thing. It’s a very complicated thing, and the only way you can understand it is like a large problem in arithmetic or mathematics, and it is greater than you can figure out in your head alone. You have to put it down on paper and add and subtract and divide and multiply and one thing and another, and it gets a little confusing.



You have to put a thing like that down on paper in order to get it. So that’s what I did, and I guess no one else ever thought to do that.

And verse 3, **“I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.”** Now, I want to you to notice the time sequence. It has been healed, and now since it’s healed the whole world is wondering after the beast. Let me give you a little bit here in the Revised Standard translation, and **“the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words,”**



A WOMAN RIDES THE BEAST

and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.” Now this mouth with haughty, blasphemous words, brethren, I don’t want to accuse human beings and this is all ancient history anyway and not anyone now living, but that was the popes of Rome. And here you have the Roman Empire and its deadly wound. It was wounded to death, but the **“mortal wound,”** this is the Revised Standard now, **“was healed, and the whole earth followed the beast,”** or wondered after the beast. Now that’s the beast after it is healed, **“with wonder,”** men worshipped the dragon, which is Satan the devil, and he is the god of this world and, brethren, I don’t think we realize it, but *the world is worshipping Satan!*

“For he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshipped the beast,” the beast now healed which is now, after Justinian and that time on, saying, **“Who is like to the beast and who can fight against it?”** **“And the beast,”** now this is the healed beast,

after 554, **“was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words.”**

That mouth didn’t come until after 554, and it was allowed to exercise authority for 42 months. Now a day for a year in those times meant 1260 years, and it was, and it started in 554, and it ruled for 1260 years. Now, if you can figure that, that takes you to 1814 and that is when Napoleon was finally defeated at Waterloo.

“It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming His name and His dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven.” And, of course, those who dwell in heaven are angels that are described in the fourth and fifth chapters of the book of Revelation. Now, a lot of that blas-

phemy, I have been in Rome and down at the pope’s summer palace at Castel Gandolfo and seen 5,000 people just screaming and frantic as if they were in a trance or a frenzy, **“VIVA PAPA! VIVA PAPA!”** And calling the **“Most Holy Father.”** The Most Holy Father, that’s a title that belongs **ONLY** to God, and they do give that to the pope, even to this day.

“Also, it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them.” And thousands or even up to a few million Christians or professing Christians were put to death and I’m going to show you, because of the Mark of the Beast, because they wouldn’t accept it. But I’ll come to that later.



“And authority was given it over every tribe and people, and tongue and nation.” That’s speaking, of course, about Europe and the different languages, and they have different languages in Europe.



THE COMING MODERN ROMAN EMPIRE

“And all who dwell on the earth will worship it, everyone whose name is not written before the foundation of the world, in the Book of Life of the Lamb that was slain” from the foundation of the world. Well, in the King James it says **“the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world.”** It was decided at the foundation of the world, the time of Adam, when Adam rejected the tree of life that Christ would come as the second Adam and be slain to pay the penalty of our sins. Now, coming to the next verse, verse nine, I believe it is, **“If anyone has an ear, let him hear. If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes.”** Now this is coming down to a time now when it does apply to us. **“If anyone slays with a sword, with a sword must he be slain. Here is the call for the endurance and faith of the saints.”**

“Then I saw,” John says, what he’s seen in a vision now, **“another beast.”** Now, who and what is this beast? **“Another beast which rose out of the earth.”** The first beast was out of the sea, and this one was out of the earth. And **“had two horns like a lamb, and it spoke like a dragon.”** Now I believe that’s a little different in the King



James. I need to find that in the King James. **“Another beast coming up out of the earth and he,”** and it’s a “he” now, not a “she” so this cannot be just the church as such, **“had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.”**

Well, a lamb pictures Christ. He appeared like Christ, but he spoke like Satan. The dragon is Satan. **“Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh,”** says God. So says your Bible. So actually, while he was pretending to be Christ, Christ on earth, ruling the Kingdom of God here, he was actually speaking like a devil.

Now the Bible says some very horrible things about the Roman Catholic Church. That’s why the Catholic Church has never encouraged people to read the Bible. And for a long time in Spain, before the present government, anyone sending a Bible, even as a gift to a friend, if someone was trying to have someone send him a Bible into Spain it would be confiscated on the way in. Bibles were not allowed to be bought, and Spain is more Catholic than Italy.

“I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth ... two horns like a lamb that spoke as a dragon.” So actually, it was masquerading as Christ, but out of its heart it was speaking what was in its heart, and it was Satan the devil or the tool of Satan.

“And he,” notice it’s “he” again, **“exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.”** Now, not the first beast BEFORE its deadly wound was healed, but the first beast WHOSE deadly wound had now been healed. So it is the one that became the Holy Roman Empire.

Now, the Holy Roman Empire was political. What is this other beast? The only thing that it can possibly be is that ***the Roman Catholic Church is both church and state.*** I wonder if you realize that Vatican City is a separate nation? The Vatican is the “state” part of the church. That is the “he” part. The church is the “she” part. But there is a

marriage. Well, I don't think they're married, either. It's fornication, not marriage. Anyhow, many nations send ambassadors to the Vatican. It is a separate state within the nation of Italy.

Now I've been there. I have been inside of the Vatican library, and I have examined pages of one of the three oldest copies of the Bible in existence – the Codex Vaticanus. And I had to have a letter from, it was Mrs. Clare Luce who was the American ambassador in Rome at the time, to sponsor me and guarantee that I wouldn't destroy it or steal it or take it out or anything of the kind.

And so they were very polite, and they let me have it and hold it in my hands and read it. I could have spent two or three hours there reading it if I'd wanted to. But I just wanted to see it for the novelty of it and because it is one of the OLDEST copies, and it may be THE oldest on the face of the earth, of the Bible.

“He exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him.” Now this is really the government part of the Roman Catholic Church. But this is the political government part, and it did exercise the power. The popes were on top of it, and the political rulers had to do what the church said.

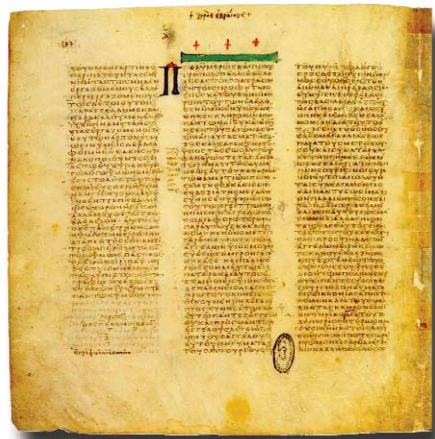
I want to tell you they are coming to the place of doing that again, and just recently in Germany there has been a new law passed that the holy days to be observed as rest days or national holidays are to be decided by the church, and they must be either Roman Catholic or Protestant, and each state like Bavaria or other states within Germany can decide what they want and whatever they decide the people HAVE to follow. Now, just bear that in mind, because we're coming to something.

“He,” that is the government part of the Roman Catholic Church, **“exercises all the power of the first beast before him.”** And that is the Roman Empire after it was healed or the Holy Roman Empire and why it was called “holy” is that the pope was supposed to be ruling it. **“And causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast,”** which is the Holy Roman Empire **“whose**

deadly wound was healed.” See, not the first beast before its deadly wound was healed or whose deadly wound was YET to BE healed, but they worshipped the beast whose deadly wound HAD been healed. **“And he,”** now it's the Roman government, church government, **“doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.”** Now if that has ever happened, I don't know, but a lot of this is yet to come to pass, and it may be that that has some significance.

Now, the Book of Revelation speaks in symbol a great deal.

I haven't done any research on that particular little detail right there to find what that fire could, if it symbolizes something beside literal fire. I'll have to check that later. **“And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by (the) means of those miracles which he had the power to do in the sight of the beast.”** Now wait, let me read that getting down to verse 14, I think there's another word I want you to get in the Revised Standard translation.

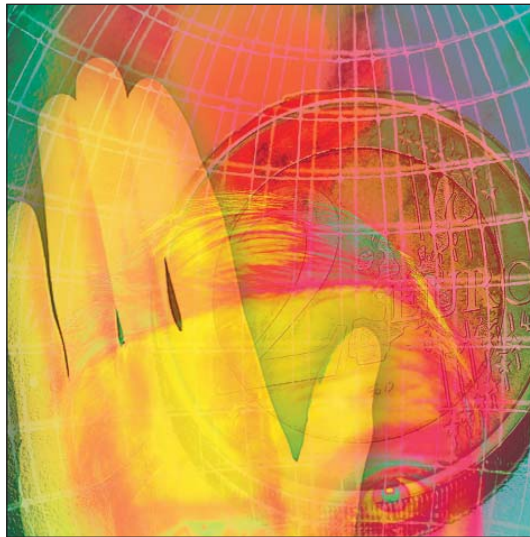


CODEx VATICANUS

“But all those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.” In other words they had to worship this government or be slain, the government of the Catholic Church. **“He had power to give life to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should”** go; now remember the image of the beast is the Vatican or the civil government of the church. **“And cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond to receive a mark.”**

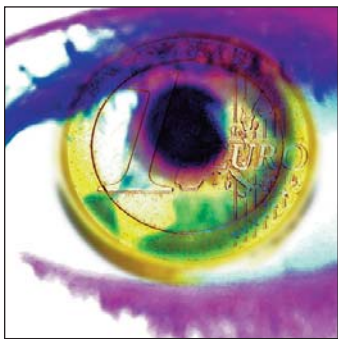
Now we come to the **Mark of the Beast!** **“To receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell.”** Now, to buy means to purchase whatever you need – food, clothing, buy a new home, buy an automobile, whatever. Or sell. That means you can't engage in the business of buying and selling, and you won't have the money. You won't have the wages to buy anything with. **“That no man might buy or sell, save he that hath the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let them that hath understanding count the number of the beast, for**

it is the number of a man and his number is six hundred, three-score and six,” or six sixty six, six hundred and sixty six. Now, of course, people have tried to count that in every way. People have said that that **Mark of the Beast** is this and that and the other thing. It was the fasces on the dimes years ago because the fasces was a Roman symbol of ancient Rome, the Roman Empire. And it was Franklin Roosevelt’s NRA, some people said.



MARK IN FOREHEAD, HAND

People normally read a thing like this and just make up from their own imagination what they think it is, but remember the Bible itself must interpret the Bible and the Bible must explain its own symbols, and we can’t use our own ideas. If I give you my idea, I’m not leading you properly.



Now, I want to show you something in the chain of events in the book of Revelation. Go back to the sixth chapter of the book of Revelation. And there were, you remember, the four horsemen and the first was a false

Christ – those that were coming saying that they were the representatives of Christ, not that they were Christ, but the representatives of Christ and deceiving many. They were preaching that Jesus was the Christ and deceiving the many. After that came war and then came famine and then pestilence and death. Let’s see there was first the false Christ, then war, then famine and then pestilence. That was the four horsemen.

THE MARTYRDOM OF SAINTS

Now, let me see, go back to the sixth chapter, and I want to begin now with verse nine, **“And when He had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held.”** Now, way back in the Middle Ages, some reports say there were millions that were killed because they would not bow down to worship the papacy

and because they would not observe Sunday, and they kept the Sabbath instead of Sunday. **“They cried with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, Oh Lord, Faithful and True, dost Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?’”** Now, they are dead, but **it’s like their blood is crying out for vengeance.** Of course, they’re dead. They don’t know anything until the resurrection, but this is just as if they were, it is all like an allegory, as if they were crying out, “Why don’t you avenge our blood?” And God

hasn’t done it yet, and that’s been a thousand years or more ago since a lot of them were martyred.

“And white robes were given to each one of them.” Now, white robes always represent righteousness. **“That they should rest yet (for) a little season,”** in other words, remain dead in their graves yet a little season, **“until their fellow servants also and their brethren that SHOULD BE KILLED AS THEY WERE,”** as they were killed, **“should be fulfilled.”**

In other words, **there is going to be another martyrdom of saints.** Now in ancient history, long before any of us were born, there were thousands and millions. It used to be sport in Rome. In fact, several of you may have visited Rome, and you have gone into the great Coliseum there, where they used to throw Christians on a Sunday afternoon. It was a Sunday afternoon sport. They had lions that were real hungry. They let the lions get hungry, then they turned the lions loose on the Christians in the arena – no place for them to go. And the lions would get them and tear them apart and eat them up and the people used to watch it with glee. As the lions tore them open, they’d bleed and the lions would eat them up. Now that kind of thing has happened. We think that there never has been a time when people could be as fiendish and as evil as some things are now. I think perhaps they have been more so in the past. It just wasn’t as widespread in general as it’s got to be now. And so that is the **Great Tribulation** and others are to be killed in the **Great Tribulation** and that is representing the time sequence of the **Great Tribulation** in the sixth chapter of Revelation.

THE HEAVENLY SIGNS AND DAY OF THE LORD

“And I beheld when He had opened the sixth seal,” now what happens right after the **Tribulation**? “And, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became as black as sackcloth,” and sackcloth “of hair, and the moon became as **blood**; and the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree gathereth her untimely figs.”

And then, “and the kings of the earth, and the great men and the rich,” now this is the Day of the Lord, I want you to notice, “rich men, and the great captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and to the rocks, ‘Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of HIS wrath is come!’”

That is the Day of the Lord. Now then, let me read you that

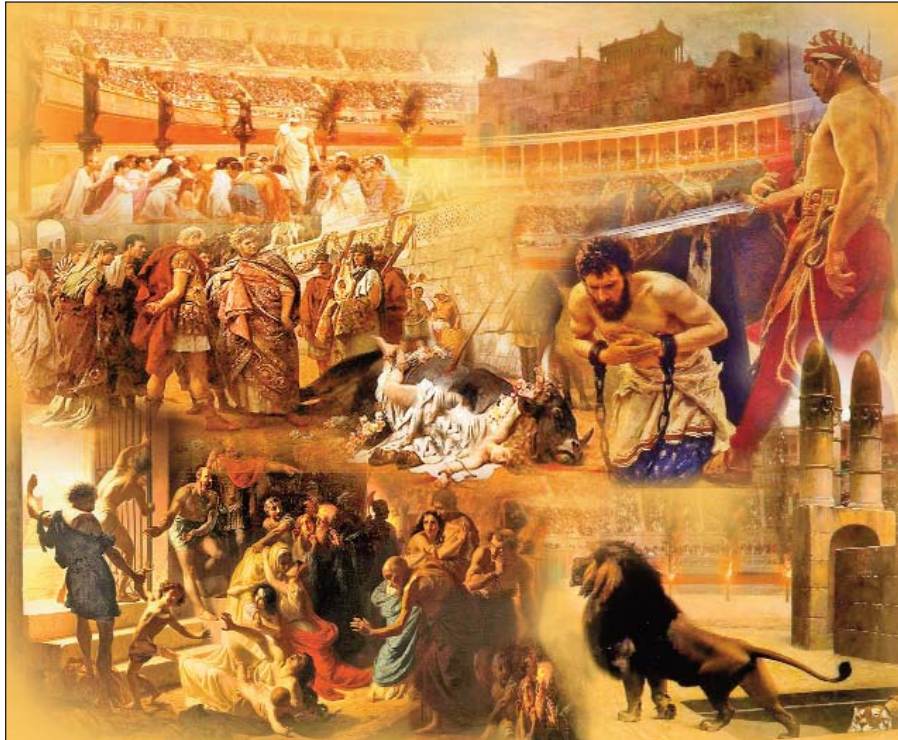
same thing back here in Matthew 24. Let me show you a time sequence. There were going to come, and there would be people representing Christ in verses four and five. Many will come in Christ’s name saying that Jesus is the Christ and deceiving the many, and all of these other things would be happening. Then in verse 14, “**And this gospel,**” finally this Gospel of the Kingdom “**will be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations and then will come the end of this world!**” Brethren, this is the Church that is doing that, and I’ve been doing it. You’ve been backing me in doing it.

Now, what is next? Verse 21, “**For then,**” right after that, “shall be **Great Tribulation**, such as was not from the beginning of the world to this same time, no, nor ever

shall be. And except those days should be shortened there should no flesh be saved alive! But for the elect’s sake those days will be **SHORTENED!**” In other words, it’s going to be the **Great Tribulation**. Now, we are proclaiming that warning! While we’ve been proclaiming that warning, 30 years ago the hydrogen bomb was first produced! The first time a weapon of mass destruction could wipe out all humanity on the face of the earth!

And this says, then right after that, immediately after that will come the **Great Tribulation**. That’s going to come as

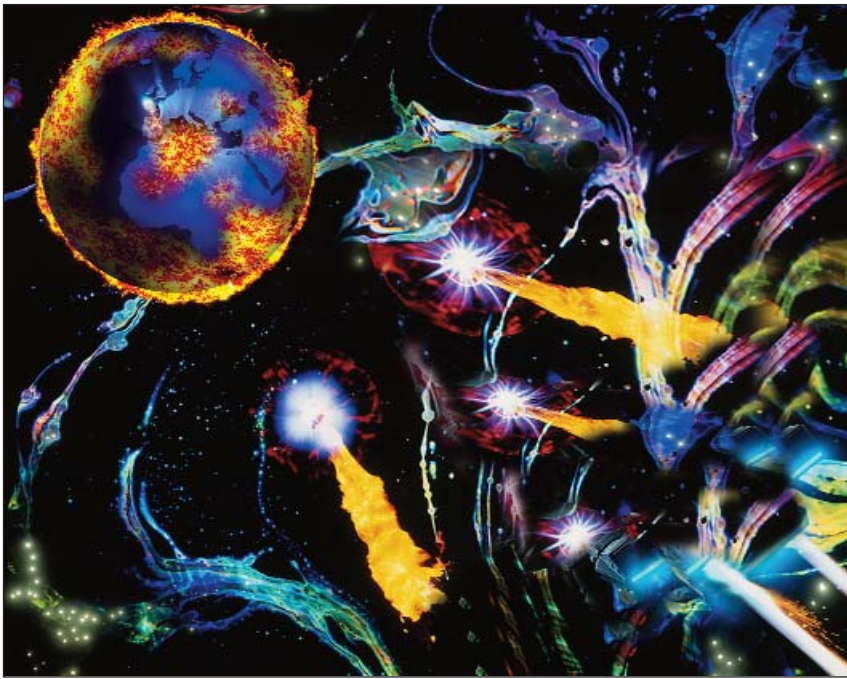
the result of the reformation of this empire over in Europe! And it will be so bad, it will be nuclear World War III, that if God did not intervene, no one would be saved alive! Now, what’s going to happen right after the **Tribulation**? How is He going to end that **Tribulation**? “**For the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened,**” and we brethren are the elect. Notice, “**im-**



CHRISTIAN MARTYRS

mediately after the **tribulation** of those days,” verse 29, “**shall the sun be darkened,**” here’s the same thing I read in Revelation 6, “**the sun be darkened ... the moon, shall not give her light,**” the stars of heaven shall fall, “**the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.**” Those powers are spiritual powers of Satan and his demons. “**And then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven.**” They will see God sitting on His throne in heaven. And “**all the tribes,**” or nations, “**of the earth shall mourn and they shall SEE the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.**” The Second Coming of Christ!

Brethren, we are the last thing triggering just before the **Great Tribulation**. The **Great Tribulation** is going to be



SIGNS IN THE HEAVENS

brought on by this United States of Europe. It's not going to come by Russia, but by them. They will be a greater power than Russia or the United States. Now then, let's get back to some other things. I was reading out of the sixth chapter of Revelation just a moment ago, and now let's get back to the beginning of the seventh chapter. I want you to notice a few things.

THE SEVEN TRUMPET PLAGUES

“And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding up the four winds of the earth, that the winds should not blow on the earth.” Now they are the winds that blow on the trumpets, the trumpet plagues that come just before, as a matter of fact the trumpet plagues are the seventh seal, and the seventh trumpet is the seven last plagues, and Christ comes at the time of the seven last plagues. Now comes the sealing of the 144,000. And then, separate from that and a little later is this beginning with verse nine, **“After this I beheld and, lo, a GREAT MULTITUDE WHICH NO MAN COULD NUMBER.”** The 144,000 appear to be this Church, brethren, and we're not that big yet, but we're getting that big fast. I beheld and a great number that no man could number **“of ALL NATIONS, and kindreds, and people,”** and different languages **“stood before the throne, and before the lamb clothed with white robes.”** He sees a vision that represent things on earth **“and palms in their hands; and they cried with a loud voice saying, ‘Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne,**

and unto the Lamb.’” Now, one of the elders in verse 13 **“answered saying unto me, ‘What are these that are arrayed in the white robes?’”** And he said, **“‘Sir, thou knowest.’ And he said unto me, ‘These are they which came OUT OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION!’”** Now, modern translations say **“THE” Great Tribulation. “And have washed their robes, and have made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”** That will be the Church. It will have to be the Laodicean Church that will follow this Church and come out of the Great Tribulation.

Now, I want you to notice something in Revelation 20 and verse four. Revelation 20 starts out with the angel taking Satan the devil and binding him a thousand years, but in verse four, **“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon**

them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that WERE beheaded for the witness of Jesus,” martyrs, both way back there several hundred years or more than a thousand years and those yet to be martyred during the coming Great Tribulation, **“and judgment was given unto them. “I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness ... and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast,”** neither his name, **“neither had received his mark.”** Now, there's the Mark of the Beast again, **“upon their foreheads, or in their hands and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”**





GREAT TRIBULATION

Those who REFUSE to have the Mark of the Beast will reign with Christ a thousand years. Now plainly, the martyrs over a thousand years ago refused that mark. And there are others that are to be martyred in the future, in the next few years. So now, let's go back to Revelation 14, the martyrs over a thousand years (refused) the mark, now let's see Revelation 14 and verse one, **"And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the Mount Sion, and with Him the one hundred and forty and four thousand, having the Father's name written in their foreheads."**

Now where is the Mark of the Beast to be written? The Mark of the Beast will be stamped in their forehead and in their hand, so that they can't buy or sell, or they can't hold a job and have money to buy or sell. Now, take verse four, let's skip and get the important ones. **"These are they which were not defiled with women; and they are virgins,"** that is spiritually speaking, not defiled with, in other words, with the churches of this world, but are virgins from that point of view.

Then referring to this Church, **"These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and unto the Lamb."** Again, we are the **"firstfruits,"**

brethren. How many times do we see that, and we get that on the Day of Pentecost. Now, beginning with verse nine, and there were now two **angels with messages** **"and the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, 'If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand.'**" Here it is again about the Mark of the Beast, **"The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb;"** at the Second Coming of Christ!

If you do not receive the Mark of the Beast you're tortured! You may be martyred! If you do receive the Mark of the Beast then this is going to happen to you, I can't set a date, but it's very, very imminent now! AND THE TIME HAS COME TO WARN! YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION! You'd better know what is the Mark of the Beast. **"And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up even forever and ever: and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name,"** the Mark of the Beast.

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they," now these do not have the Mark of the Beast, **"that keep the Commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."** On the one hand are those who have the name of God in their forehead, and when it comes to work and things they have the Commandments of God and one of those Commandments tells you what day you can't use your hands in work. And that day is the Sabbath Day! IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD!

Now why would Satan the devil use a church to try to make you break one of the Commandments of God? Satan is a great deceiver. I want you to notice there are two classes. One will [not] have the Mark and they will be martyred ... and many things are going to happen to you by the police and the police state and they're going to take over this country! If you're not killed in the war and the famine and the pestilence that's coming and prophesied to come almost anytime now, then you are going to face this.



ENFORCEMENT OF THE MARK

But if you reject **the Mark**, let's see, Revelation 12:17
"The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the Commandments of God, and have the faith of the testimony of Jesus Christ." That's the word of God, the Bible. And what churches do have it?

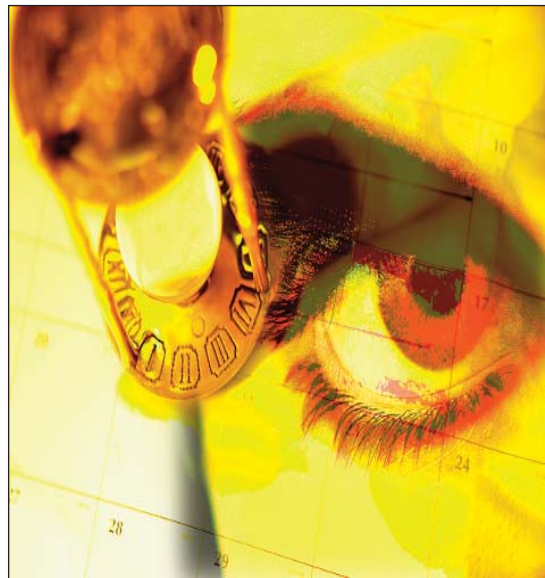
Brethren, I had to find out way back there 56 years ago now, that the churches do not believe the Bible. They do not follow the Bible, but they preach precisely the opposite of the Bible. And when it comes right down to following the Bible, this is the only Church I know. The Sardis Church did as far as they went, but they didn't go far enough. They didn't even know what is the True Gospel.

They didn't know what will happen during the Millennium. They knew there would be a Millennium all right, but they didn't have the True Gospel of the Kingdom of God. They didn't know we can be born of God. They have the Bible as far as they've got it, but they only have a little of it.

But now, the martyrs did not have the **Mark of the Beast**. Those who obey the human government may save their

human life, *but they're going to suffer all these plagues* that I read to you here from God and will not make it into the Kingdom of God. Those who obey God may be tortured! Let me tell you what kind of torture. They used to run needles right up under your fingernails and thumbnails into the quick and boy that does hurt. All right, I wanted to prepare you. Now, I'll give you one. They would tie a rope around your wrists together. They would tie another rope around your ankles holding them together. The one rope would be hitched up to one horse. The other rope from your feet would be hitched to another horse, and they'd start the horses in opposite directions and they'd pull you 'till they'd pull you apart. Actually pull your legs or your arms right out of their sockets until you're pulled apart. That's the way they tor-

tured people until they died. It's so fiendish that I hate to tell you some of the things that have happened. And those things have happened and former people have gone through that in order to keep the Commandments of God.



Now, the two horned beast is merely a sort of enforcer. They enforce **the Mark**. They compel obedience. And they don't kill anyone. You notice that they're drunk with the blood of the saints, but they didn't kill them. *They caused them to be killed!* They just announced them "anathema from Christ," and the government killed them. But they ruled the government.

Now, they are going to compel disobedience to God, but they are not going to compel you to lie.

They're not going to compel you to commit adultery. They're not going to compel stealing. They're not going to compel you to covet your neighbor's goods or your neighbor's wife. They will not compel you to dishonor your father and mother. They will not compel you to have other gods. They might to worship idols, and they might not. They won't compel you to use profanity. But I tell you what they will compel you to do, to observe Sunday instead of the Sabbath.



SUNDAY – CALLED THE LORD’S DAY

Now they call the Sabbath “the Lord’s Day.” They say the church CHANGED it. And the church did change it, the Roman Catholic Church, but God did not! Cardinal Gibbons of the Roman Catholic Church wrote in my earlier life, but he’s dead now, but I remember when he did, he wrote this, that you may search the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and you cannot find one word in the Bible authorizing the sanctification of Sunday.

The Bible everywhere enforces the sanctification of Saturday, the seventh day of the week, but he said, you Protestants have to admit the AUTHORITY OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH that is branded on you when you observe Sunday! Because you have NO OTHER AUTHORITY FOR SUNDAY BUT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH! And it came out of the sun worship that they brought in the so-called Christianity and put the name of Christ on it. It has to affect one of the Commandments of God. Now, what commandment affects your business? How many of our people have had to change their jobs? That has affected their job and their earning of a living and the buying and the selling because of the Sabbath?

Now, the Roman Catholic Council of Laodicea that was 363 A.D. They passed this: “Christians must not Judaize by resting on the Sabbath.” They called it the Sabbath! They didn’t try to say, it’s the Protestants that have started to call Sunday the Sabbath. The Roman Catholic Church never did. Rather they said at this Council of Laodicea, “Christians must not Judaize by resting on the Sabbath,” that they

said is Jewish, “but must work on that day resting rather on Sunday. But if any be found to be Judaizing let them be declared anathema from Christ.” And when the church called them “anathema from Christ” the government of the Holy Roman Empire tortured them and put them to death if they didn’t obey and start to worship on Sunday! There is no question about it, brethren. And that has happened. It is the only commandment that they have altered. They haven’t altered the others, but they did try to alter this one.

Now, I’d like to have you notice back in Daniel the seventh chapter and verse 25, and this is speaking of the Roman Catholic Church and Daniel’s, I’m on Daniel’s four beasts here, and see that there was to be a small horn that was to come among them, that’s the papacy, “**and he shall speak great words against the Most High,**” isn’t that just like I read in Revelation? “**And shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change times and laws!**” They changed the law in respect of time and they changed the Sabbath into Sunday. And they changed the day from beginning at sunset to beginning at midnight. And they changed the months from the new moons to the way it is. They’ve changed times all along and it all came through the Roman Catholic Church.

Think to change times and laws and “**they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and a dividing of times,**” in other words 1,260 years and they did that, carried on for 1,260 years.



GOD’S SABBATH A SIGN

Now, I want you to notice that the Sabbath is not a mark. It is a sign. And I want to show you there is a difference between a sign and a mark. A sign is something that a man



hangs out in front of his business. “Jones and Company, Furniture.” Now that identifies it, tells who owns it, tells what it is. It’s not a drug store. It’s not a men’s clothing store. It’s a furniture store. A sign identifies, but the merchant hangs it out of his own accord. It’s not branded on him. He takes that himself and puts it out. A sign is always something that you hang up yourself to identify. Or, even a doctor would have a little, neat sign outside of his door. But it identifies who is in there. Now, let’s turn back for a moment to Exodus 31 beginning with verse 12, **“And the Eternal spake unto Moses saying,”** now I want you to notice that this is something, it’s a covenant and it’s eternal, and it has nothing to do with the Old Covenant. This is made after the Old Covenant was made! That means set apart for holy use and purpose. It identifies who are God’s people! It identifies God.

Now, let’s read on and I’ll show you how. **“You shall keep the Sabbath therefore; for it is HOLY unto you!”** The world doesn’t want to put any difference between the holy and the profane. This one Church is one that does, brethren! And you will have to begin to put difference between the holy and the profane. The Sabbath Day is holy. Your first tithe, which is God’s tithe, is holy to Him. You are stealing if you use it. You are stealing if you use the

Sabbath Day; it belongs to God. It’s not your time, it’s God’s. **“You shall keep the Sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: everyone that defileth it shall (surely) be put to death.”** Now that was, of course, in the nation Israel. It was the death penalty for **“whoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Six days may work be done; but the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, HOLY TO THE ETERNAL! Whosoever doeth any work in that Sabbath Day, he shall surely be put to death.”**

Now, there was a death penalty in Israel if you don’t keep the Sabbath. The Beast now says there is a death penalty in their law if you

don’t break the Sabbath. You see how Satan wants to contradict? And yet he’ll counterfeit and let a lot of people think it is the Sabbath. **“Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant.”** A PERPETUAL COVENANT! This is a COVENANT!

“It is a SIGN between ME and the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL,” that is, it identifies them as God’s people. It identifies God. Why? **“...forever: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.”** It doesn’t say He created. He made. ... He did create a few things. He created the land animals and people on that day, but He didn’t MAKE the earth at that time. He was remaking its surface. As you find in the 103rd [104th] Psalm and verse 30. Oh, there’s so many of these little things that so many people in the churches of this world don’t understand in the Bible. But a sign identifies. Now, let me tell you a few things.

Why did the Jews think that they were Israel? Why is it that our people ARE Israel but don’t know who we are? Because the first thing that Jeroboam did when Israel rejected King Rehoboam was to not only get rid of the priesthood, and the Levites went back and joined in with Judah, but he



There is only one Commandment that the world absolutely will not obey and that is the Sabbath. The Sabbath is God's TEST Commandment. That is the one that is the TEST above all! Now God's law is love to God and love to neighbor. You know, the carnal mind will often have a certain amount of love to other people. A lot, for example, a lot of

also changed the day of worship from Saturday to Sunday. And he went right along with the pagans over in Assyria that were observing the Chaldean Mystery Religion. And because they lost the sign that identified them, no one knew who they were and they finally lost their own language, and they lost their identity.

Why do people think that the Jews are Israel? Because they have kept the Sabbath through these centuries and years and the Sabbath is branded then as Israel. But it is a sign they have voluntarily kept. No one forced them to do it.

But the **Mark of the Beast**, a mark is a brand! It's branded on you like they brand cattle! The cow doesn't ask you to do it. The cow doesn't do it voluntarily. You do it to him. And the mark is one that's MARKED on you! The mark also identifies, doesn't it? The sign identifies. Both a mark and a sign identify. One is the SIGN of GOD, the other is the **MARK of the BEAST**. They both have something to do with the right hand and the forehead, with WORK! The Christians who have the SIGN of God have the NAME of God. They're a Church of God – name written in our foreheads. We have it in our hand, and you find that the Commandments were to be bound in their hand and in their foreheads in other places in the Law of Moses when speaking of the Commandments of God.

husbands and wives who are entirely carnal get along because each is getting what he or she wants from the other. They can get along. Of course, too often they DON'T get along! It all depends on what they get, not what they give. But they don't seem to want anything to do with God.

You can't come to love God unless you love less your own children, your father and mother, those closest to you. Not that you have to hate them, as it is in the King James translation of the Bible. But the world doesn't realize it makes any difference whether we love God or not. God's law is love. It's love divided into two divisions, the two great Commandments. Love toward God, that's the first four Commandments. Love toward neighbor, that's the last six.

The Sabbath is the one that shows love toward God and there is NO REASON IN THE WORLD TO KEEP THE SABBATH, except that it's holy to God and you are obeying God and keeping your foot off of the Sabbath which He says, [in] the 58th chapter of Isaiah. Keep your foot off it from polluting it. Not eating it all up.

Oh, I could preach you sermon after sermon after sermon about the Sabbath, and we've been taking it for granted because we've been keeping it, and we just take it for granted. But now we're coming to the place you're going

to see how important it is. There is no question whatsoever. I tell you, brethren, it just seemed that we didn't need to talk about this subject very much in our own Church, because we understood it. Another thing, the Sabbath question was a great question before the public 55 years ago, but today it hasn't been so important. It's going to get important once again.

THE TIME OF OUR FINAL EXAMS

We take it for granted. Well, don't take it for granted! It is VERY important, and I think we need a few more sermons about the Sabbath, and I think that I'm going to preach a little more about it and also about the every immanency of these things. We are now in the time of our final exams. In fact, we have been for the last two or three, four or five years. I've been telling you that. But we are in that time, and there isn't much more time to go.

But I want you to realize the seriousness of this and the imminency of it, and the time of trial and testing is coming. And the time when we are going to have to be concerned about if we are going to have to get out of here and leave here, leave this auditorium. I don't know what will happen to it. It's dedicated to Him. He'll take care of it. Whatever He wants done. We may all have to go someplace. I don't know how we're all going to go.

God is going to have to show us a lot of things He hasn't revealed yet. We're coming to the time when we're going to come yet very shortly now to a time when the ministers of this Church are going to have to tell all you people in the congregation its better not to have more children from now on because there's a curse pronounced on those that have, are even nursing babies that are that young at the time of this **Great Tribulation**, and it's going to come very soon now. I think it's bound to be one or two years or three at

*least. Don't misunderstand me. I'm not setting a date. I'm just telling you it is **VERY, VERY** imminent. Now, things are going together faster than we realize and most of it is not hitting the public press. You aren't going to read about it for a while in the public press. And I want to tell you that it is moving. They say it's not moving fast enough for them. They are very disappointed that it isn't moving faster, but they are putting everything back of it that they can. And we've got to put everything back of getting ourselves ready that we can.*



FROM NOW ON BRETHREN UNTIL THE KINGDOM OF GOD, IT'S NOT GOING TO BE ALL PEACHES AND CREAM! If you think it's going to be just all beautiful and everything is hotsy totsy and dandy, FORGET IT! WE'RE IN FOR NOTHING BUT TROUBLE AND THE WHOLE WORLD IS!

But we are on God's side, and that means He's on our side doesn't it? And we need to get a little better on His side, and we are going to have to do some fasting and praying. So, that's it for now, brethren. But whatever you do, keep close to God from now on because I'm going to tell you that times are different, and the devil knows he has but a short time. Now maybe you don't now, but we'd better wake up to the fact that he does only

have a short time and that means we only have a short time to be ready.



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.losttentribes.org

The Ten Commandments
www.10commandments.ws

Prophetic Events
www.propheticevents.us

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

Restored Truths of God
www.restoredtruths.net

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

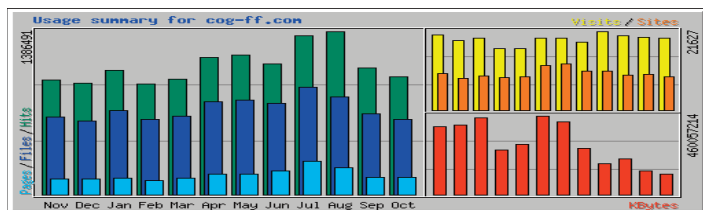
Which Day is the Christian Sabbath?
www.sabbathcentral.com

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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