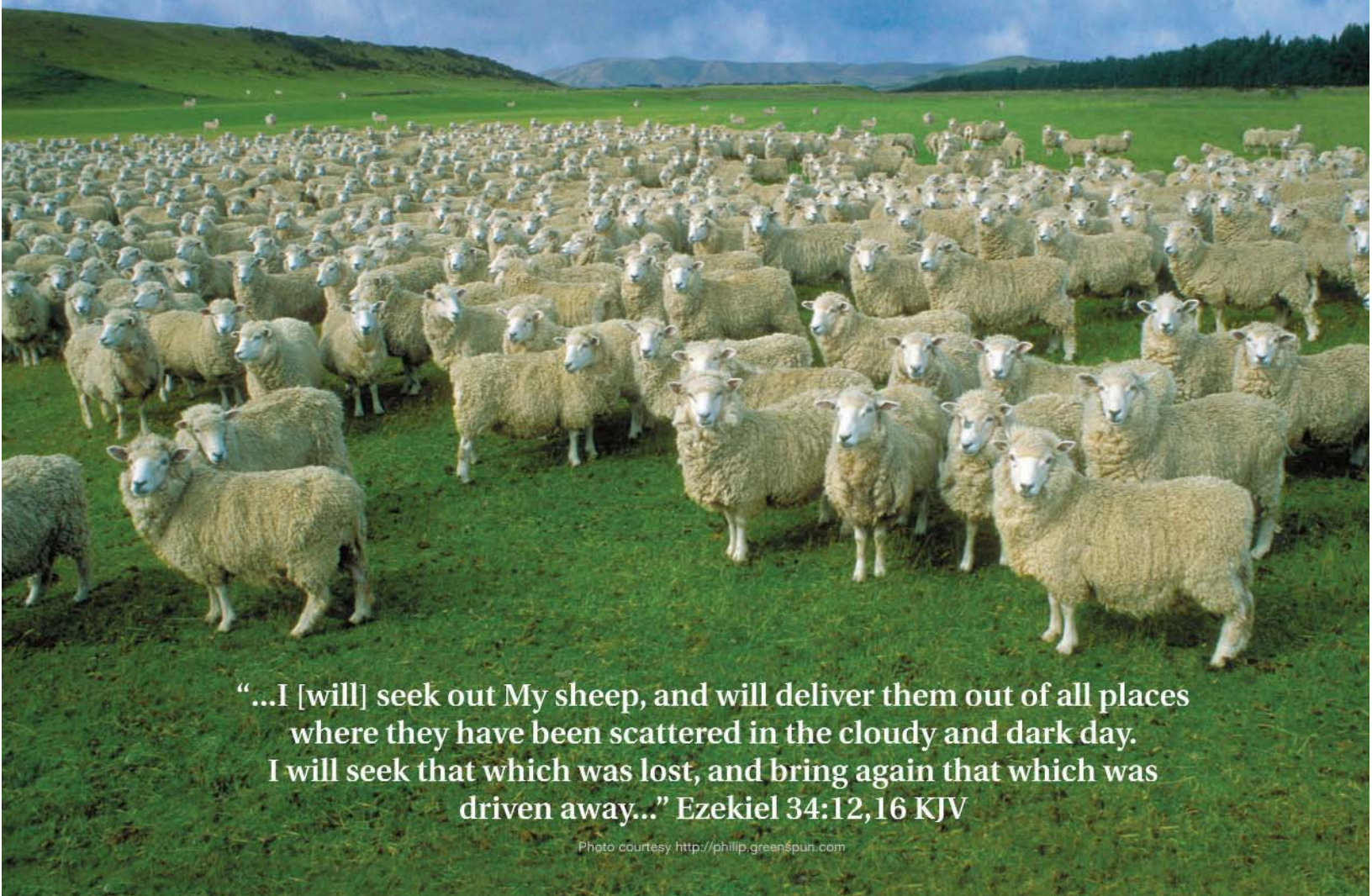


The _____ Philadelphia Remnant

May/June 2010



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>

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CONTENTS

Why So Few Called Now?	Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong	1
God's Holy Spirit	Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong	5
Personal from the Editor	Mr. Alton 'Don' Billingsley	12
A Pentecost Rapture?	Mr. Mark Mendiola	18
Web sites, statistics		44

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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Why So Few Called Now?

By Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong

June 5, 1982

I wonder if you realize that last Sunday, we all passed the 1951st anniversary of this Church. Because it was 1951 years ago last Sunday that the Church was born on the Day of Pentecost in Jerusalem. The Church was founded by Jesus Christ way back 1951 years ago. I just came in sort of the “Johnny came lately” like all of you did, so this is rather an old Church when you get down to it.

And it seems like it has taken 1951 years for the Church to learn what the Church is and why it is. Why should there be a Church? What is the Church? I want to tell you, the world does not know. The Church actually has been called the “called out ones.” A Church called out, but called out of what? Well, we’re called out of the world, and if we’re called out of the world, why? What’s wrong with the world, and why should we be called out?

The people in the world don’t understand that. If you ask them what is the Church, they say, “Well, it’s like a building. We have a number of them here in town. There is one down on the corner with a very steeply sloping roof and a steeple on top pointing up to heaven, a cross on its facade and Sunday morning people go there to that church.”

I read the Bible, and I found something else – a different kind of a Church, where I found the Church went to a



MR. HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

building or the Church sometimes went out by the riverside where prayer was commonly made, or the Church assembled in somebody’s home! But the Church was the people, not a building, and yet the Church is compared to a building in Ephesians, the second chapter.

But, if it’s called out of the world, why? What’s wrong with the world? Well, in this world we find a world of awesome progress. On the other hand, while it’s been progressing so rapidly, it began progressing fairly rapidly in the 19th century, and it has just run riot in its progress in the 20th century. We’ve sent men to the moon and back, and we’ve had photos close up on the surface of Mars, fairly close up photos from Jupiter and Saturn. We’ve invented the computer and so many new machines.

So it’s a world of AWESOME progress, but also it’s a world of APPALLING troubles, UNSOLVABLE problems and evils, sorrow, suffering, anguish, violence, war and of discontent and unhappiness everywhere. Half the world is illiterate. Half of the world is in abject poverty, living in filth and squalor. We’re supposed to have minds to learn what to do, and yet we haven’t learned to do it very well.





thing, “of Israel,” and Israel was a man, a human man. But this Church is not the Church of a human man like Luther or Calvin or Wesley or Fox. This is the Church of God. It is God’s Church, and that is the Church that Jesus said He would build.

He said in II Corinthians 6 verse 17, **“Wherefore come out from among them.”** That is of this world. It is a people called out of this world. **“Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.”** So, Paul there quotes Jesus as hav-

Now, the Church was started by Jesus Christ. He was the Founder of the Church, and He came into a world such as we have. Now, the world has progressed a great deal since that time. We have a great deal more progress. We are doing things they had never known how to do when Jesus came into the world.

But also the appalling evils and troubles have multiplied since He was here. So it’s gone in opposite directions, and nobody seems to think of the contradiction there between progress and retrogression at the same time and why? And what has caused all of that? Well, Jesus came into this world and He said, **“I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH.”** And He said that the gates of the grave would never prevail against it, and it has continued on.

However, the Church lost a great deal of its original teaching, and when I came among them and came into the Church, among the people of the Church, I found they still had the basic law of God. They had the name, “the Church of God.” The Old Testament Church was the Church of Israel or the “congregation,” which means the same

ing said that.

THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Now, Jesus began with His message that He brought from God, and the message was the foundation of that Church, and the Church was built on that message. And we read of it as I’ve read so many, many times Mark the first chapter and verse 1, **“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ.”** What is the gospel? In the Bible the gospel is Jesus’ message about the Kingdom of God.

Here you read the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and it talks about John the Baptist and finally the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John, and then His temptation by Satan.



And then verse 14, **“Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee preaching the GOSPEL.”** What gospel? The gospel ABOUT Jesus Christ?

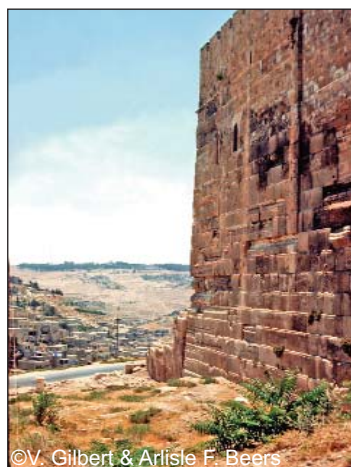
No, it was Christ doing the preaching and He said, **“the gospel OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD,** and saying,” the Kingdom of God, or **“the time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of God is at hand: REPENT YE, and believe the gospel!”**

Now, why did He say that? What does it mean? The Kingdom of God we find – if we research it a little farther in the Bible – is the born, the begotten and then born family of God – of people that are born into the very family of God. And they're as much God as God is, only God is the Father and Christ is His Son, and the Bridegroom or the Husband of those that are going to be born into it. We will be His wife ultimately, but they will all be the same family. God the Father will be in supreme command, and Christ will be the husband who is the Head of His wife. And the wife will always, even though of the same family, will be subject to the Husband in all things.



But, why was the time fulfilled? The time was fulfilled because I'm going to show you there was a Kingdom here on earth, and there was a throne over the whole earth and one sat on that throne, and that was Satan. And Satan was carrying on a sort of government all over this earth, all over the world, and Jesus Christ had come to wrest that government from him.

And Christ had qualified, as you read in just a verse or two ahead of what I was reading, the 13th. Jesus was there in the wilderness 40 days tempted of Satan, and He overcame Satan and in so doing He qualified to take over the throne of the earth and rule over all the earth.



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TEMPLE PINNACLE

JESUS CHRIST NEEDS A WIFE TO HELP HIM

Now, He was not only going to RULE the earth, He wanted to help people be begotten and then born as the children of God and to become His wife and help Him because a husband needs a wife to help him. And Christ when He comes to RULE this world is going to need a helper. That's where you and I come in. I hope we realize it.



Well, now, the time was fulfilled because at last someone had qualified to replace Satan and sit on that throne. Now, the first man, Adam, had had his chance to qualify, but as you know, He failed to qualify, and Satan continued to stay on that throne, but now the time was fulfilled because Christ had qualified!



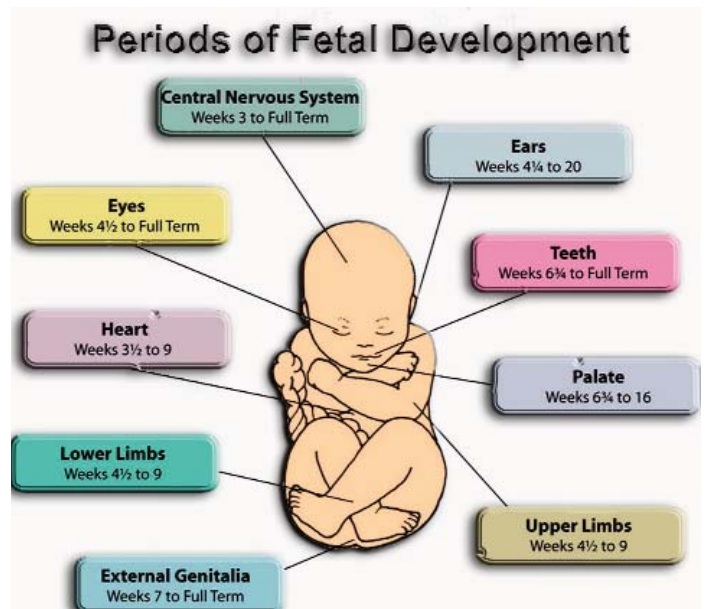
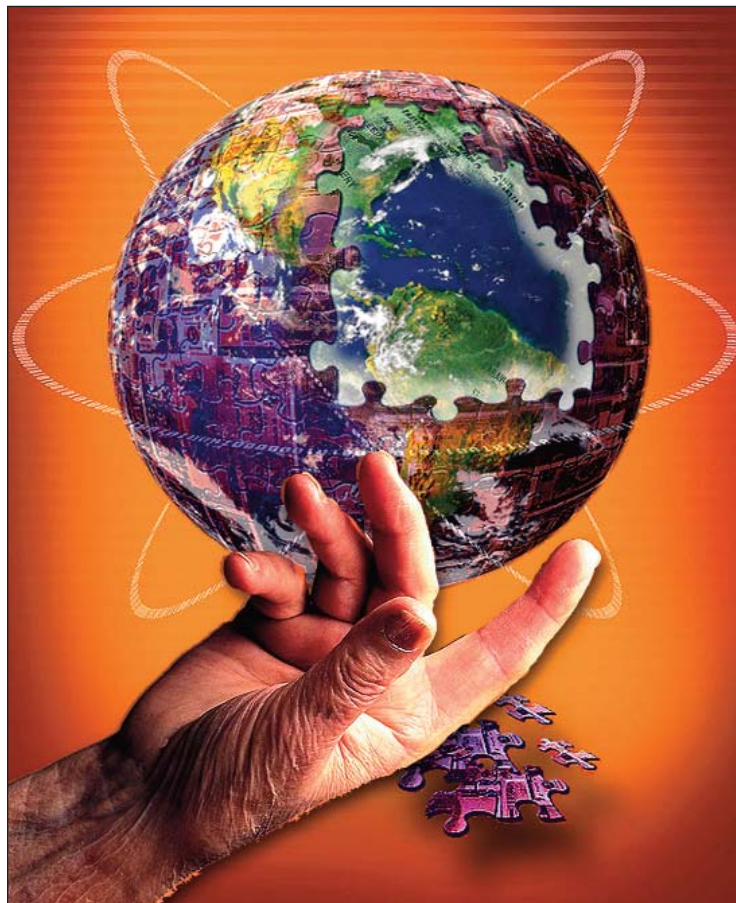
“The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is AT HAND.” Why was it at hand? Brethren, I don't think you ever realized that, and I know the world doesn't realize why the Kingdom of God was then at hand. You're going to have to come to see that the CHURCH, that means all of you and all the rest of the Church all over this world, the

Church IS the Kingdom of God in embryo, not yet born. Not yet developed very far, only an embryo or a fetus so to speak, unborn, but begotten. We ARE the Kingdom of God in embryo, and I don't think we've ever really come to realize that at all.

Now, He called us out of the world. Why? What's wrong with the world? God is continually revealing new truth. Now, new truth is just a little further understanding on truth we already had.

The Bible is like a jigsaw puzzle of several thousand pieces, and you get a certain group of pieces together, and that's what I did first to start 55 years ago. I had a number of Scriptures that went together, and all together they formed a picture. They formed a truth and that was that the Sabbath was made holy time and God commanded us to keep it that way, to keep it holy. And that is one of the very foundations of God's law, and it is the TEST Commandment of God's 10 Commandments. It is the one that is the crucial test, more than any other, is the Sabbath.

But what is wrong with the world and why must we come out of the world? You know we are the beginning of an-



U.S. Dept Health & Human Services, Creationwiki.org

other world? We ARE the beginning, just in embryo, or you might say we are just a begotten fetus. We are begotten children of the World Tomorrow! We are the World Tomorrow not yet born.

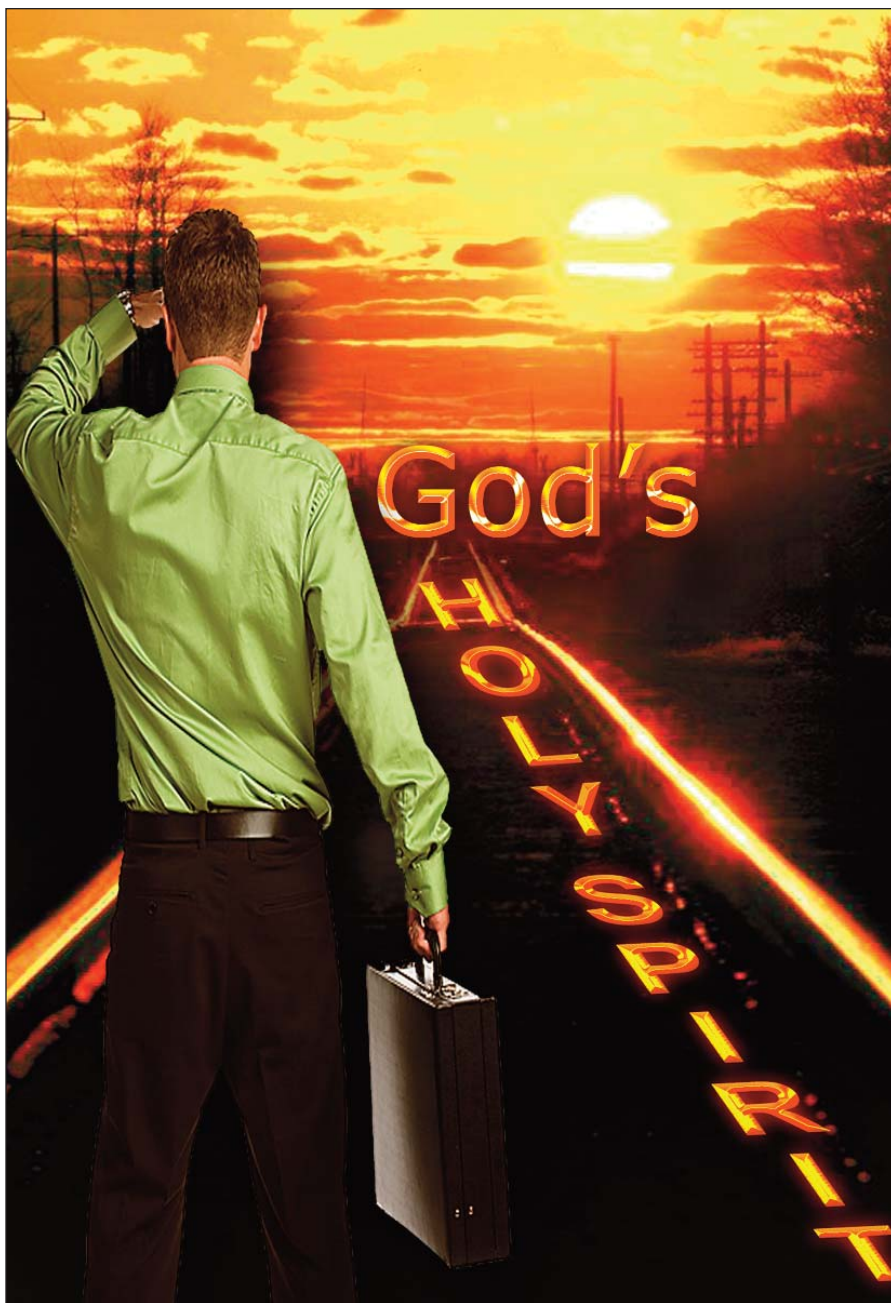
And we are to have nothing to do with this world, except that we have to live in it, but we're not to be of it. We are to come out of it. It means a different way of living, an entire different way of living.

Now, you can't understand unless you know how this world started because JESUS CAME TO START ANOTHER WORLD, THE WORLD TOMORROW! And He called us out of this world. Now, how did this world start and what's wrong with it? It's just that simple, so let's get back to it.

Everything started with the Creator, and I have to start there if you're going to find a place of starting. And once again I'm going to go to the first chapter of John. **"In the beginning was the Word,"** and the Word was a great Personage, the Spokesman in the family of God. **"In the beginning was the Word,"** that is a Personage. **"And the Word was WITH God."** God was another Personage. Now we have two Persons. **"And the Word was God."** Here was the Word and God and they two combined made God.

"The same," the Word, **"was in the beginning with God."** And **"all things were made by Him; and with**

Continued on Page 25



By Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong
November 28, 1981

I want to get back to a subject I was talking to you about the last time I was here about three weeks ago, and I'd like to turn to a couple of Scriptures first in the eighth chapter of Romans. Let's get to something a little more spiritual. Romans the eighth chapter, verse seven, speaks of the carnal mind, the natural mind. That doesn't say natural, especially evil mind. It's just the mind everybody is born with, but the natural or **"carnal mind is enmity against God,"** that is, hostile against God.

Do you realize that the natural minds of men are hostile against God? I find when people that don't know God or

even if they think they are in some church, and they really don't know God though they think they do, if I begin to mention any of the truth of God they want to change the subject in a hurry. It's very unpleasant to them because they don't realize it, but their minds are **HOSTILE** against God! And they are uncomfortable when you talk about God to them. It's just like they say, "Well, God, why do you try to stick Your nose in my business for? What are You trying to get from me, God? I want You out of my life." They think God is trying to harm them. They are afraid of religion. They don't understand. **"Hostile against God."**

"For it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." Take the Protestant religion. There is one basic truth, or it isn't truth, one basic belief that they have and that is the law is done away. They believe you repent, mostly they don't even put repent into it, but if they do you're just sorry for what you've done. You accept Christ. Now, that's all and you go right on. Of course, you go on still doing it again.

To them "repent" doesn't mean turn around and go the other way. It doesn't mean give up the way you've been living. They don't understand it at all, but if you accept Christ you are going to go to heaven when you die. Otherwise, because of Adam's sin you are consigned to go to hell. And most of them think that. **HOW MANY OF US HAVE BELIEVED THAT KIND OF ROT, BRETHREN?** Too many of us have let that rub off on us, and we don't understand the

real truth.

So then, "they that are in the flesh cannot please God" because that's the natural fleshly mind the way you're born. **"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit IF," IF "so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you."**

GOD'S SPIRIT DWELLING WITHIN HIS PEOPLE

BRETHREN, DOES THE SPIRIT OF GOD DWELL IN YOU AND HOW DO YOU KNOW? I want to tell you that many of you **DON'T KNOW** whether the Spirit of God is dwelling in you or not! **LISTEN TO ME, BRETHREN! I WANT TO WAKE YOU UP!** A lot of you don't know that, and your whole eternity is dependent upon it! You're not in

the flesh, but in the Spirit and that's Spirit with a capital "S" meaning Holy Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Is the Spirit of God dwelling in you? How do you know? What does the Spirit of God dwelling in you do? What change does that make, IF any, in your life? Has any change been made in your life?

"Now if any man have NOT the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His." Maybe you have said, "I accept Christ." You have been baptized in water. You have been received into the Church, and you say you are a Church member. You are a member even of God's Church, but if the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit of God, is not dwelling in you, and unless you are being led by it and you are following it, you are not a Christian. You're just a member of an organization.

GOD'S SPIRIT LEADS HIS PEOPLE

How do you know? Do you know what is the Spirit of God? Did any change ever take place when the Spirit of God came into you? Now turn onto another verse, verse 14, **"as many as are LED by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."**

Are you being LED by the Spirit of God? Now, is that just something to talk about or is it something real that really has happened and changed your life? Is your life different, is it led in a way by the Spirit of God now that it was not before your conversion? How do you know what is the Holy Spirit? How do you know whether you have received the Holy Spirit?

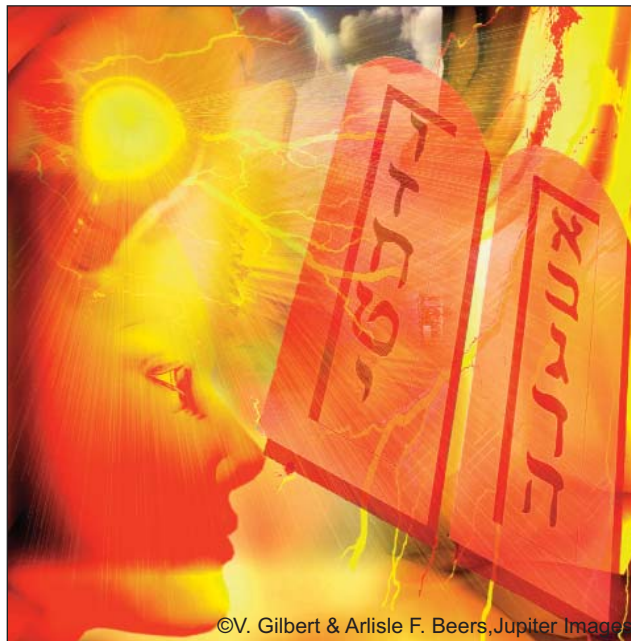
Do you know that there are perhaps a few million people in the United States? I know its many hundreds of thousands who believe there is only one way you know whether you have received the Holy Spirit and that's if you speak in tongues. Well, that's what THEY think is the evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit.

Now, we are going to have to go into a lot of these things a lot more than we have in the past, brethren, because I **THINK WE DON'T FULLY UNDERSTAND! AND I WANT TO GET THIS CHURCH ON THE TRACK! I** want you to be able to **RISE** and meet Christ in the air and to be **CHANGED** from mortal to immortal! From human to divine, so that you are an immortal divine being when you meet Christ up in the air.

HEARING AND HEEDING THE MESSAGE

And I'm afraid that many of you **ARE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT!** Listen to me! I'm talking to you brethren. What good does it do me to pour out my heart to you if you don't listen? If you don't believe? Jesus came and preached to thousands and only 120 out of those many thousands believed what He said. He fed the 5,000. They listened to Him, but He said, **"They didn't come to listen to what I said. They just came to get their bellies filled."** [John 6:26, Paraphrased]

I go and I speak to a group of our people in some city in the United States, and maybe most of the members of eight or 10 churches in that area will come. And there will be a much larger group than their normal Church services. And they go back and say, "Oh, I got to see Mr. Armstrong! I got to see Mr. Armstrong, God's apostle, isn't that great!" Yeah, well, what did he talk about? "Oh, what did he talk about? Oh, well, well, I don't know what he talked about, but I got to SEE him. Isn't that wonderful?"



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Now, how much did that profit them? Take a look at me! I'm nothing. I'm a nobody except as the Word of God is in me and except as Christ is using me. I'm nothing. You're nothing, but we can all become something to Christ Jesus. But only if we have the Spirit of God, otherwise we are NOT Christ's.

And, brethren, I **HAVE BEEN AWAKENED LATELY. I'M AFRAID**

THAT MANY OF OUR PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH COME AND SIT HERE AND LISTEN, but they don't really comprehend the message, and they are not Christ's at all! They are not really Christians. They are not going to meet Christ in the air, and He is coming in this generation.

I want you to take this seriously, brethren! I don't know what I can, all I can do is shout at you or something and hope that some of you will get the message. You need a shaking up. You just need to have someone shake you and shake something into you!

I think that a lot of you are like you read back here in Ezekiel [33:30-33], where it says the people come, and they come as God's people. Yeah, they're members of the Church, and it's a prophecy for our day. And they listen to God's minister, and they sit there as God's people, and they hear your words. And, lo, you are unto them as one that is playing on a wonderful, beautiful instrument or singing a beautiful song, although they don't hear the words or get anything out of it. They hear your words, but they don't understand them. They don't do anything about it. It makes no difference in their lives. They come as God's people. They hear your words, but they DO THEM NOT. It doesn't mean anything to them.

If I can't shake you up, if I can't send you home with a different REALIZATION than you had when you came here, I've wasted my time and my love for you. You know, I don't get paid any extra for it. I don't do it to please me or for profit, but I do want you to realize it. **"As many as are LED by the Holy Spirit, they are the sons of God."**



Now, what does it mean being led by the Holy Spirit? Let me tell you first of all, the Holy Spirit isn't going to grab hold of you and pull you along. It won't do that at all. The Holy Spirit won't get behind you and shove and push you against your own will. It isn't going to do anything like that.

I tried to preach a sermon on it about three weeks ago I believe it was, whenever I spoke here last. Let me see if I can, where do we a ... see a light bulb in there? That's like you, if the Spirit of God is not in you. (*Sounds of flipping off the light switch.*) The Spirit of God comes. (*Sounds of switch going on.*) Does it make any difference? It changed the light bulb, didn't it?

You know the Spirit of God in you will change you as much as that electric current coming in there changed that light bulb? Has anything taken hold of you and changed you that much? Or are you still just the same as you were, but you've just joined an organization? You just sit here as God's people.

Brethren, your just sitting here in a seat is not going to get you into the Kingdom of God. It just IS NOT!

THIS BODY OF DEATH

Now, I'd like to understand this just a little more. I've taken so much time already I don't have much time left. I want to go back to a little bit in the seventh chapter. Paul spoke about the law of God, and he said in verse 14, the seventh chapter, **"For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal,"** sold unto death. Brethren, you and I were all born carnal. Paul said, **"I am carnal."** That doesn't mean he was just naturally trying to be as evil as he can. It didn't mean that at all.

"For that which I do, I allow not: For that I would, that do I not; but that I hate, that I do. If then, I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law, that it," the law, **"is good."** But he said, **"I'm not good, the law is."**

"Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing." Do you know that in you dwells no good thing? The way you were born? You were just so much dirt out of the ground, that's all. And that's where you're going to go back. And it's appointed to men once to die and for most all people after that, the judgment, but the Church is an exception and judgment is already on the Church. We're the firstfruits. That's what the Feast of Pentecost means every year.

"For to will is present with me," that is make a decision and a determination, to will. **"But how to perform that which is good, I find not. For the good that I would do, do I not: and the evil which I would not, that I do."** Now, we're all going to have to wrestle with that problem.

"Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man."

Paul believed in the law of God. He knew it was the way to live, the right way to live, the way he wanted to live, but he found he wasn't living that way. Do you have that same trouble? Well, I've had it all my life, and I've had to struggle with it.

"But I find another law in my members." And, brethren, that same law has been working in your members unless you're doing something about it. It was in Paul. It's been in me, **"warring against the law of my mind."** The law of his mind is the same as the law of God, which he's ac-

cepted into his mind. That's that law of outflowing love first to God and then to neighbor. **"Warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members."** It's there because Satan has put it there beginning from the time we were a day old.

MAN'S HELPLESSNESS OF HIMSELF

"O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord." God only can deliver us, and it's through the power of His Holy Spirit.

Now, first we have to come to realize we have been wrong and realize that of ourselves we are helpless to do right, and we have got to have the help of God, and if we do that and we repent of what is wrong and of the way we have lived in the past. That means we turn from it, and we don't want to do it anymore. That doesn't mean we go on living that way and say, "Well, I'm sorry. Now it's all right."

You know, most people in the Protestant churches think if they just say, "Well, I'm sorry. I repent." Well, then they go right on doing it. They haven't repented, but if they accept Christ they think that's going to get them into heaven. Now, we know you don't get into heaven.

We know you get into the Kingdom of God and that will be right here on the earth, but it is not a change of place. It's a change of your state and condition. You won't be flesh and blood any longer. The only life you have now is the blood circulating in your veins and the breath of air that goes in and out of your lungs. That's what keeps you alive.

There is a spirit in you, but that spirit in you is not what keeps you alive. **THAT DOES NOT GIVE YOU LIFE!** That has nothing to do with your being alive or dead.

It just functions in your mind as long as you're alive, and your life comes from the food you eat and the water that you drink, feeding the body and keeping the heart pumping blood and your lungs breathing air in and out. That's all that keeps you alive. That's where your life is. That's the only life we have, brethren. We don't have immortal souls. **"The soul that sinneth, it shall die."** [Ezekiel 18:4]

So now you come to the first chapter, or the eighth chapter of Romans, **"There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."** And the Spirit of God, the law of God is the way of God and the Spirit of God opens your mind to understand that way.



THIS PHYSICAL WORLD

If Adam had taken of the Tree of Life, that would have opened his mind to revealed spiritual knowledge. And Adam never had spiritual knowledge. Adam said, "No, I'll just acquire my own knowledge."

God made Adam so he could acquire knowledge of the physical, the material and do you know that in all of the colleges and universities of this world, **ALL THEY KNOW AND ALL THEY TEACH – YOU LISTEN NOW, GET THIS, UNDERSTAND THIS – ALL THEY TEACH IS ABOUT PHYSICAL, MATERIAL THINGS!**

Spiritual principles they know nothing about. The things of God they know nothing about. They don't know what they are. They don't know what a human being is made of. They don't know why a human being is on earth. They don't know what God's purpose is and where we're going. They don't know the way. They don't know the cause of all of the world's troubles. They haven't solved our troubles. They don't know what causes troubles. They don't know the way to peace. They don't know the way to immortal, eternal life, and God won't **GIVE** you eternal life – and it is the **GIFT** of God – and He won't give it to you until you are willing to start to **LIVE** by the law of God and to **LIVE** God's way.

RECEIVING GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT

Now, God will put His Holy Spirit in you if and when you **REALLY** repent and accept Christ, but listen, God only gives you a little tiny bit of His Holy Spirit to start. The Bible talks about pouring out the Spirit of water. You pour out water. I've got some water here. I could pour it out. It's like air that you can blow, and it moves and the Spirit of

God moves, but the Spirit of God will come into you, and you only have a little of it to start with and if you don't grow in the Spirit and in the knowledge of God what little you had is going to leave you.

Brethren, take the parable of the pounds and the parable of the talents. The one who was given one and did nothing with it, when Christ comes, He will take away the one you had if you haven't increased it. If you have not grown spiritually, in spiritual knowledge and in the spiritual way of LIVING, so that you have actually LIVED a different way, you will lose



out entirely, and you will burn up in the final lake of fire. You will never be in the Kingdom of God. God will only give immortal life to those who will live it in a way to be happy and in a way to make other people happy and in a way to walk with God. And two can't walk together except they be agreed, and God doesn't agree with the way you lived your life before you were converted, if and when you were converted and supposing that you were.

The Spirit of God coming into you impregnates you with divine life. The spirit that is already in you does not give you any life. The spirit that is in you only supplies the power of intellect to a physical brain, and that physical brain is kept alive and active only by the air you breathe and the pumping of your heart and that has to be kept going by food and water out of the ground. You are of the ground and out of the ground that's ALL YOU ARE, brethren! Understand it. Nobody else is teaching you that. No other church on earth will teach you that. That's why this is God's Church, and it's quite different from any other church on this earth, quite different.

Now, when the Holy Spirit comes, that impregnates you with immortal life, but listen, you are like an embryo in your mother's womb as you were at one time. And you hadn't even grown large enough to be called a fetus yet, that takes four months, when your body began to take on

human form and shape. But listen, if you were not fed on PHYSICAL food you wouldn't have grown physically, and your mother would have had a miscarriage. You would have never been born. You would have died inside of her body, and she'd have had to get rid of you already dead. That is an exact type. If you don't grow spiritually, you will be aborted. You will not go on. You've got to GROW in the Spirit and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Brethren, listen to me, you talk about education. You go to school. You start in the first grade. They teach you to read and write and to figure – readin', writin' and 'rithmetic, the so-called "three R's." All they're going to teach you there and ALL they're going to teach you when you get to high school and ALL they will teach you in the university is physical, material knowledge. They're not giving you spiritual knowledge.

THE BEGINNING OF REAL EDUCATION

When you are converted then you BEGIN your REAL EDUCATION! You CAN'T get it in the college or the universities or the schools of this world! You can't get it there! You didn't get a real education. You only got a lot of physical knowledge, and about 50 to 75 percent of that is rot and is wrong and is error and not truth.

Your REAL EDUCATION begins when you're converted, and you feed on spiritual knowledge and the Word of God is that Spiritual knowledge. You feed on the Word of God instead of material food. And if you're not studying the Word of God, if you're not being educated EVERY day of your life like you're just starting to school all over again, you're only starting in the first grade. As a matter of fact, you're hardly in the first grade yet. You're only in the kindergarten spiritually when you're converted.

And if you don't go on spiritually studying SPIRITUALLY and SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE, the Holy Spirit opens your mind to comprehend it. Before that, you couldn't have understood it anyway. But when the Spirit of God comes you can begin to understand it, and it will reveal that knowledge.

Now, it is the impregnation of divine life, but it's only a start if you go on, but you must grow and grow and grow EVERY DAY of your life. Do you know more spiritually? Do you have more spiritual knowledge than you did a month ago? Most of you don't, brethren. Look in the looking glass and see and say "Here is someone who doesn't know any more than he did a month ago spiritually." SHAME ON YOU! You won't make it into the Kingdom of God if you don't change that!

Am I wearing myself out telling you that? Are you going to go away heedless, paying no attention? Nobody else gets up in front of you and tells you this. I'm the only minister that God has that can talk to you this way, and **YOU HAD BETTER OPEN YOUR EARS AND YOUR MINDS AND YOUR HEARTS AND LISTEN** or you won't **MAKE** it into the Kingdom of God, I'm telling you!

GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit then is the power that opens your mind to comprehend spiritual truth. Here are the great people graduated [from] Harvard. They can't understand spiritual truth. They've just been educated in physical knowledge. Now we have to get spiritual knowledge. You can know more spiritually than they do, but do you? We're going to school **EVERY DAY WE LIVE!** And you gain in spiritual knowledge through the Word of God and believe it or not, and listen, through prayer. **How much do you pray?**

And by listening to the Word of God as God's ministers give it to you. That was a wonderful sermon preached from this platform this morning. Though I think most of you weren't here and didn't hear it. Mr. Jackson preached a very fine sermon this morning. But that was spiritual food, and that's what we need, but we need to grow in spiritual knowledge.

Most churches don't believe in acquiring spiritual knowledge. I have a sister that's still in the same church I was brought up in, the Quaker Church. She said to me one time, she said, "Well, you Herbert, you don't read the Bible to try to understand it, do you?" **I said, "Well, of course!"** "Oh," she said, "but you can't understand it." **"Oh yes I can, but you can't Mary," I told her. I said, "Don't you read the Bible?"** She said, "Well, yes, of course, I read it." **"Well, why do you read it if you don't read it to understand it?"** "Oh," she said, "Just for inspiration, but we're not supposed to understand it." **I said, "Who ever told you that? Whoever told you that was lying to you, and you'd better quit believing them and believe what God says in the Bible. But you don't believe what God says. You say I can't understand it why should I believe what He says?"**

I make it plain. You can understand what God says to you through me. I'm trying to make it very simple and plain and clear so you can understand it, and if you don't accept it that's your fault, not mine. The Holy Spirit in you will begin to open your mind, but you must **GROW IN GRACE AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST**, that is the last two verses of II Peter [3:18], of Peter's letters. Peter the first apostle and the chief apostle at that time, and he was speaking the truth of God.



TALE-BEARING AND RUMORS

You know what the Bible says about tale bearing and rumors? Well, this Church has not practiced that. We're the biggest tale bearer and rumoring Church that I ever heard of! **SHAME ON ALL YOU PEOPLE THAT DO IT!** That's what, **SOME OF YOU RIGHT HERE ARE GUILTY OF THAT! YOU'RE GOING TO ANSWER TO GOD FOR THAT IF YOU DON'T STOP IT!**

Good news, do it! Good news, tell people! Bad news, shut your mouth up about it and try to believe the best in people, not the worst. It seems we want to believe the worst, and we want to whisper that to everybody. We want to tale bear it.

I say something, if someone takes exception to it, they get on the telephone, and it goes from one end of this country to the other to the whole membership. Read what James wrote about the tongue. That's another thing that we do that is wrong, and if we're going to grow in God's grace and knowledge, we'll quit doing those things.

REMOVAL OF MAKEUP

I've tried to clean up our women's faces recently. I think some women didn't like it. They resented it. I'm very glad that most of the women in this Church here I find, I've had reports that most of you when you knew I'd made that decision took your makeup off right off the bat, even before you heard a sermon on it. Well, congratulations and thank you for doing it, but you didn't please me by doing it. You only pleased God.

Sometimes I wonder what the women would do if the men started painting up their faces in all kinds of ways. Some of these things are so ridiculous, but we don't think about that. We just, the only thing women think of is other women do

it. The world does it. We just must go along with the world, mustn't we? Oh, no, we mustn't!

God says come out from among them and be separate. Do you want to still be with the world? Go to the world, don't come into this place. This place is not of the world. We are to be different from the world. We're a separate and a holy people, and we've got to live that way.

Now, the Holy Spirit will open your mind if you study the Word of God, if you listen to the Word of God. And you grow in Spirit as you pray to God more and more and pray for the brethren, pray for people, even for your enemies. I pray for my enemies even before I do for some of my best friends and some of the brethren. Of course, God may bless them by punishment to wake them up. Maybe that's the best thing for them. God knows. I don't, but I only pray for them, not against them. I don't want any harm to come to them. I just want blessings from God to come to them. You can pray for your enemies. God isn't going to hurt them, not unless it's for their good. He won't do anything that is not for their good.

THE LOVE OF GOD

Now next to understanding, the Holy Spirit will give you the LOVE of God that keeps His law. You were not born with the kind of love that will perform and keep God's law. You have to have a special love that comes from God. It's impossible for you to really love God like you should. We only love Him because He first loved us. And it's His love coming through the Holy Spirit into us and some of it going back. And you see there are two wires going into this light. One brings the electric current in and another goes back. The Holy Spirit comes in, but it flows like water or like air moving. And part of it must go back to God in love toward Him. And part of it out to neighbor and love toward them. And God will give you that kind of love. It's a different kind of love than you were born with.

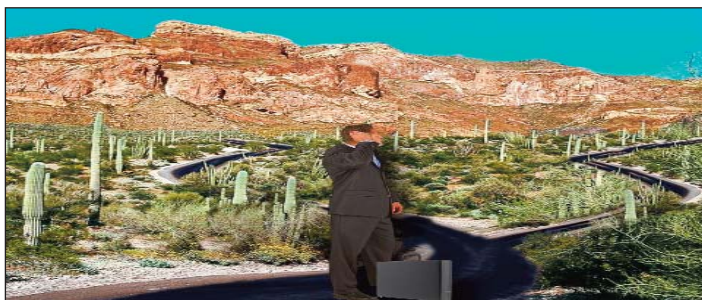
Next, the Holy Spirit will give you the faith of Christ. That's not some faith you work up, that's a gift that God puts in you, that kind of faith to believe Him, if you study His word, if you get to know Him. Faith is only knowing that whatever God has promised, He will do! You can rely on it. That's faith.

Then the Spirit of God will give you the power to do it. All those things will make a change in your life. The electric

light coming into that bulb here changed it and made it light up. It made a big change. You and I are to be the light of the world, and we are to let our lights shine, not that the world can hear what we say, but that it may see our good works and how we live.

Now, part of our good works they won't agree with in the world, but some of it they will. It reminds me of the first time that we held the Feast of Tabernacles, or really the second time in Mount Pocono. There was a merchant there running a store that said, "You people, we found when you were here last year. You are just the best people we ever knew in our lives, and all the merchants and businessmen

here say that they've never seen people like you. Why we think you're just the best people we ever knew. There's only one thing we can't understand. Why in the world a people as good as you have to believe that crazy religion of yours?"



Well, this man answered and said, "Well, that's why we're so good. It's a religion that does that, and it will do the same thing to you." And he was speechless. The world can see our good works. They know we're pretty good people if we act like good people, if we act God's way.

GOD'S SPIRIT OF IMMORTAL LIFE

Then finally, if we endure to the end, if we grow in grace and knowledge, finally, if we die, we'll be resurrected into the Kingdom of God. If we are still living, we'll be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye God will give us immortal life. This mortal will put on immortality.

That's the process, brethren. I wish I had time. I could talk on that for all day and all night. I've only said a little, but I hope you got that little because time is up, but let's go on into the Kingdom of God. Let's get this Church ready. Let's get each one of us. You get YOU ready. You can't make the neighbor next to you ready. You can make you ready. Make sure you do it, and God bless every one of you.



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

Alton 'Don' Billingsley

Personal from the Editor

By Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley

'THE FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS'

The Feast of Firstfruits (Pentecost) 2010! This Festival pictures the calling and selection of the BRIDE to become the wife of Jesus Christ. The wedding will fully take place at the time of Christ's coming that is pictured by the Feast of Trumpets.

CHRIST'S FIRST MARRIAGE A TYPE OF HIS COMING MARRIAGE

We sometimes wonder what this coming time will be like when God's true faithful Church comes to be the Bride of Jesus Christ. This can be understood in part by what the apostle Paul wrote of the Spiritual creation being understood by the things that are made in this physical universe to help us understand things that are not yet visible (Romans 1:20).

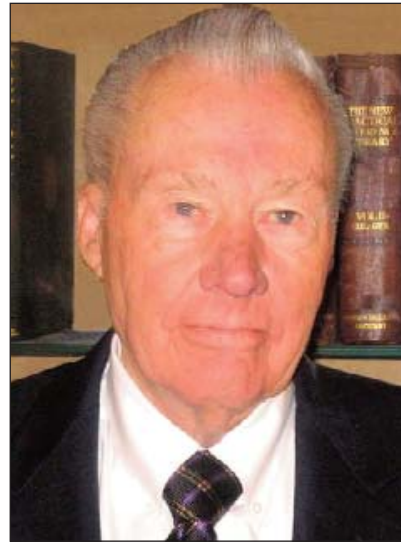
While considering the Marriage of Jesus Christ to ancient Israel, it becomes easier to see the duality of it to His coming Marriage to Spiritual Israel, His Elect Church, and by this means to have a better picture of our future Marriage to Christ.

Let us now consider the *duality* of the two Marriages. In so doing, please note and compare the parallel Scriptures that apply to God's Church.

ROMANCE, LOVE, MARRIAGE

An Allegory of Israel in Egypt – Scripture reveals an overview of the beautiful mature woman in Egypt who had blossomed into a fully developed gorgeous woman of marriageable age. The Bridegroom-to-be wooed and led her to Mount Sinai where He proposed to her; and she consented to become His wife (*consider this in type of each member at a marriageable age having been wooed, chosen and called by our Father in the Time of Love to become the Bride of Jesus Christ upon His return to this earth* – Ephesians 2:1-10; John 15:16, 6:46).

Through God's Blessings -- “You became very beautiful, your breasts were formed, your hair grew ... And when I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of LOVE; so I spread My wing (*margin: the corner of My garment, Ruth 3:9*) over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a Covenant (Marriage) with you, and you became Mine,” says the Lord GOD (Ezekiel 16:6-14).



Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

THE DUALITY OF THE GREATEST LOVE STORY AND MARRIAGE EVER

God's Proposal to Israel at Sinai –

After having brought Israel out of Egypt, the LORD proposed a covenant of Marriage just as He has with each one of His people of the New (Marriage) Covenant, the betrothal of Spiritual Israel (Jeremiah 31:31-34, 50:4-5).

“... And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, ‘Thus shall you say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: you have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, IF you will indeed OBEY My voice and KEEP My (Marriage) Covenant, then you shall be a Special Treasure to Me ABOVE all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a Kingdom of Priests and a Holy Nation’ (Revelation 5:10). These are the words (*conditional proposal of marriage*) which you shall speak to the children of Israel (Exodus 19:3-8).”

Acceptance and Engagement – “So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the LORD commanded him.



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Then all the people answered together and said, ‘All that the LORD has spoken we will do’ (Exodus 19:7-8; Luke 14:25-35).”

All of the members of God’s true Church since 31 A.D. have likewise made the same promise to our Father after having been drawn by Him and granted repentance through Christ (John 6:46; Acts 2:38; Romans 6; Luke 14:25-35).

Final Preparation for the Wedding – Instructions were then given to Israel for the preparation for the MARRIAGE – the same as God’s Church should be preparing spiritually for the coming MARRIAGE to Christ by cleansing the wedding garments through the WASHING of the Word (Ephesians 5:25, 27).

“And the LORD said to Moses, ‘Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud, that the people may HEAR when I speak with you, and believe you forever.’ Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Go to the people and **SANCTIFY** them today and tomorrow, and let them WASH THEIR CLOTHES. And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down upon Mount Sinai IN THE SIGHT OF ALL THE PEOPLE.’ ... (Exodus 19:9-11).”

The Third Day was **the Day of Pentecost – the Feast of Firstfruits!** This was the Day the Ten Commandments, judgments and statutes were given by Christ to Israel to be

heard and accepted by them before the completion of the Marriage Ceremony

This length of time also was given for their preparation for the wedding that would coincide with the Feast of Firstfruits. This was necessary to be *purified ceremonially and sanctified – set apart* – to be God’s special people, His Bride.

“Then Moses went down from the mountain to the people and **SANCTIFIED** (by relaying the LORD’S instructions) the people, and they **WASHED THEIR CLOTHES** (Ephesians 5:25, 27). And he said to the people, ‘Be ready for the third day; and do not come near your wives’ (Exodus 19:14-15).”

Christ then came down visibly in a dark cloud to be seen and heard by Israel to make known His conditions for their acceptance of His proposal of marriage:

“Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning (Pentecost – Feast of Firstfruits), that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain and **THE SOUND OF THE TRUMPET WAS VERY LOUD**, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. And Moses brought the people out of the camp to **MEET with GOD**, and they stood at the foot of the mountain (Exodus 19:16-17, Haggai 2:21-22, Joel 2:30-31).”

As the LORD descended down in fire and smoke to the top of the quaking Mount Sinai, accompanied by continuous heavy thundering and lightning flashing and striking, and the trumpet sounding long and loud witnessed by Moses and Israel, was so terrifying that Moses said: “**I am exceedingly afraid and trembling** (Hebrews 12:18-21).”

This is in type of what will take place when Christ and His Bride descend from the clouds to the top of the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:4).

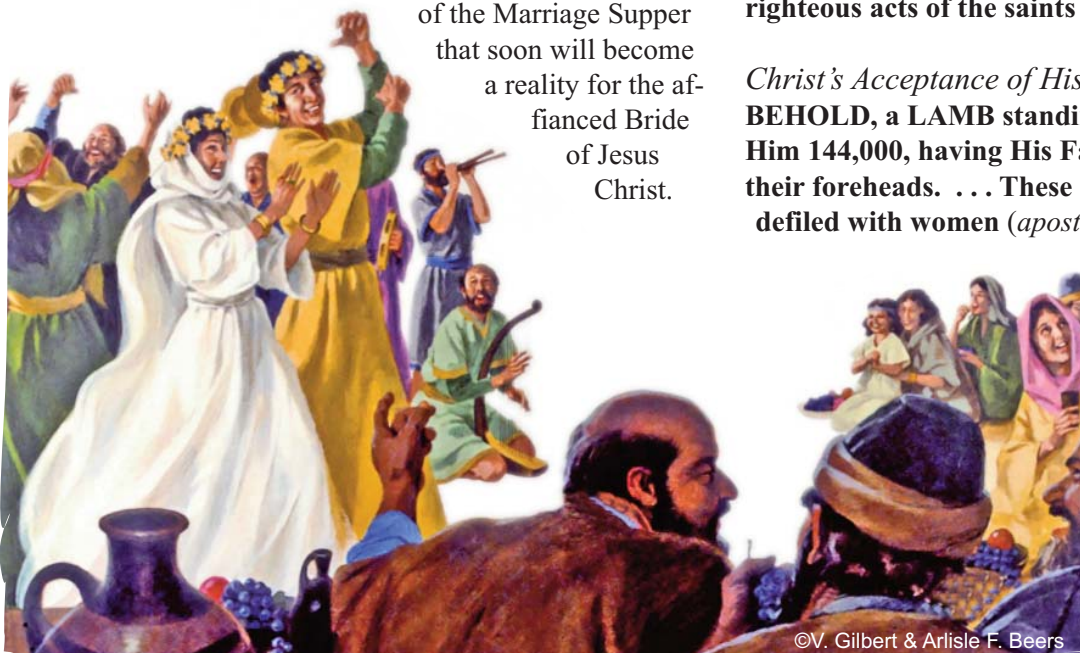
“The great day of the LORD is near; it is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter ... That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of devastation and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of **TRUMPET** and alarm. ... (Zephaniah 1:14-16). That day is a day of wrath (Joel 2:1-2, 30-31; II Thessalonians 1:7-10, Haggai 2:21-22).

God Spoke to Israel His Conditions for the Marriage – The LORD spoke directly His Ten Commandments loudly enough for all the millions of the House of Israel to hear Him (Exodus 20:1-17). After having heard Him, Israel then pleaded with Moses to speak to them rather than the LORD (Exodus 20:18-21). God then told Moses to speak His judgments (*based on the Ten Commandments*) and statutes (*based on a commandment*) to Israel (Exodus 20:22-26; chapters 21-23).

Israel Re-Affirms their Promise to be the Bride of the LORD God – “So Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, ‘*All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do.*’ ... Then he (Moses) took the Book of the Covenant (Marriage Contract) and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, ‘*All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient*’ (Exodus 24:3-8).”

The Physical A Type of the Coming Marriage Supper – “Then Moses went up (Mount Sinai), also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and they SAW THE GOD OF ISRAEL. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity. But on the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay His hand. **So they saw God, and they ate and drank** (Exodus 24:9-11).”

This was a physical type of the Marriage Supper that soon will become a reality for the affianced Bride of Jesus Christ.



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THE COMING MARRIAGE OF JESUS CHRIST TO HIS CHURCH

A Thrill Beyond Human Comprehension –

The anticipated thought of this wonderful coming time should be so thrilling for the members of God’s Church that each one should be focusing fully on his and her individual preparation for this WEDDING by the CLEANSING of their Bridal garments by the WASHING of God’s Word – His laws and His teachings. *The Apostle Paul wrote: “Christ also LOVED the Church and gave Himself for her that He might SANCTIFY and CLEANSE her with the WASHING of water* (*type of God’s Holy Spirit*) *by the WORD,*

that He might PRESENT HER to Himself a glorious Church, NOT having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she might be holy and without blemish (Ephesians 5:25-27).”

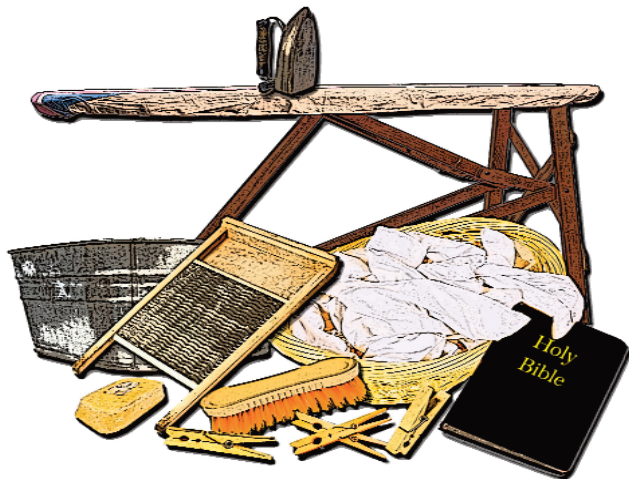
Then *the Bride (Firstfruits)* will be gathered together from the four winds by the angels and ascend up into the clouds to meet with Jesus Christ as He returns to this earth in all power and great glory (Matthew 24:30-31, I Thessalonians 4:16-18). And so shall we ever be with the Lord as His loving wife at His side.

The Time of Christ to Accept His Bride – “And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude ... saying, ‘Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, *for the MARRIAGE of the LAMB has come, and His WIFE has made herself ready.*’ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints (Revelation 19:6-9).”

Christ’s Acceptance of His Bride – “Then I looked, and BEHOLD, a LAMB standing on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000, having His Father’s Name written on their foreheads. . . . These are the ones who were NOT defiled with women (*apostatizing Churches*), for they

are virgins. These are the ones who FOLLOW the LAMB *wherever He goes* (John 10:4-5). These were redeemed from among men, being FIRSTFRUITS to God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found NO DECEIT, for they are without fault before the throne of God (Revelation 14:1, 4-5).”

The Time is Near – “Behold, the Day of the LORD is coming ... And in that Day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives ... thus the LORD my God will come, and all the saints (*His Bride*) with You (Zechariah 14:1-2, 5, 9).”



JOY Beyond Human Comprehension – “I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has **CLOTHED** me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a **BRIDEGROOM** decks himself with ornaments, and as a **BRIDE** adorns herself with her jewels (Isaiah 61:10, Ezekiel 16:6-14).”

The Marriage Supper Follows – “And in this mountain (*Mount Zion*) the LORD of hosts will make for all people a **FEAST** of choice pieces, a **FEAST** of wines on the lees (*the finest in quality, John 2:10*) of **FAT** things (Nehemiah 8:10), **full of marrow, of well-refined wines on the lees** (*margin: wines matured by the sediment*) (Isaiah 25:6).”

Jesus Christ Will Serve His Bride – “Blessed are those servants whom the Master, when He comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that **HE WILL GIRD HIMSELF** and have them sit down to eat, and will come and **SERVE** them (Luke 12:37).”

An Awesome Blessing – “Then He said to me, ‘Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the **WEDDING SUPPER** of the LAMB!’ And He said to me, ‘These are the true sayings of God’ (Revelation 19:9).”

Christ’s Loving Watchful Caution – “Let your waist be girded (*adorned – wedding gar-*

ment) and your **LAMPS BURNING** (Matthew 25:1-13); and you yourselves be like men who **WAIT** for their Master, when He will return from the (*preparation for the*) wedding, that when He comes and knocks (*for his Bride*) they may (*eagerly*) **OPEN** to Him immediately (Luke 12:35-36, Revelation 3:20).”

The Invitations from Christ Declined – “... The Kingdom of Heaven is like a certain king who arranged a **WEDDING** for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were **INVITED** to the wedding; and they were **NOT** willing to come (Matthew 22:1-5 8-14; Revelation 3:20).”

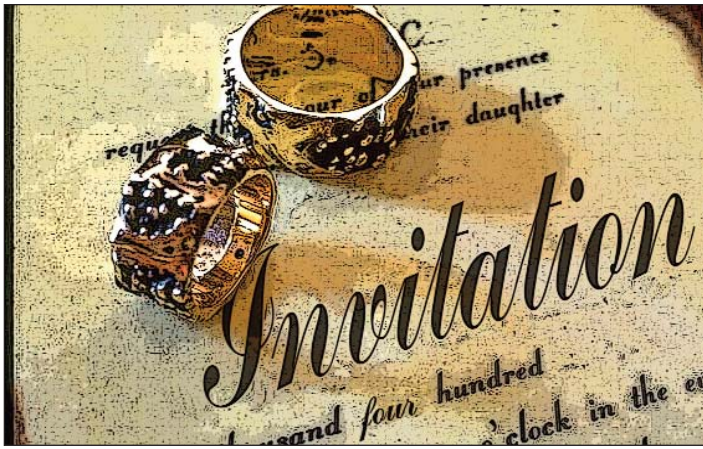
The Unwillingness to WASH Their Wedding Garments – Thousands of members are declining their invitations to become the *Bride of Jesus Christ* as many Scriptures make known by refusing to be faithful to all of the doctrinal teachings Jesus Christ restored within His Philadelphia Era of His Church through His late apostle, and His promised Elijah, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong (Malachi 4:4-6, Matthew 17:10-11).



In this manner they are refusing to cleanse the *blemished spots* from their wedding garments through the **WASHING** of the **WORD** (Ephesians 5:25-27). This is best described by what Jesus Christ said in the following parable:

Christ’s Warning Parable – “... A certain man gave A **GREAT SUPPER** and invited many, and sent his ser-





vant (our time today – Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong) at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready!’ But they all with one accord began to make excuses ... *I say to you that **NONE** of those men who were **INVITED** shall taste my supper* (Luke 14:15-18, 24).”

Through this parable, Jesus Christ is speaking of those who are *refusing* to come under His government into the one Congregation He is using to be with those who are faithfully proclaiming the Gospel, the Ezekiel warning message, and all of the doctrinal teachings, with no exceptions, nor liberalizing any of them, while crying out for repentance of sins for rejecting His laws and teachings (Isaiah 58:1-2, Luke 19:27).

Invitations Extended to the Sardis and the Laodicean Church Eras – “Behold, I stand at the door and KNOCK. If anyone HEARS My voice and OPENS the door, I will come in to him and DINE with him, and he with Me (Revelation 3:20).”

Only the FEW will be Accepted as His Bride – “Then one said to Him (Christ), ‘Lord, are there few who are saved?’ And He said to them, ‘STRIVE TO ENTER through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, WILL SEEK to enter and will NOT be able. When once the Master of the house has risen up and **SHUT THE DOOR** (Matthew 25:10, as did God the door to the Ark of Noah, Genesis 7:13,16), and YOU begin to stand OUTSIDE and KNOCK at the door, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, OPEN FOR US,’ and He will answer and say to you, ‘I do NOT know you, where you are from (churches He does not recognize as His Church) ... Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity,’ There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth ... (Luke 13:22-30).” “For many are called, but **FEW** are chosen (Matthew 22:14).”

An Added Urgent Loving Warning from Christ – “Behold, I come quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your CROWN. He who overcomes, I will make him A PILLAR in the Temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the NAME of My Father (Born into the Family of God and taking on the Family Name, Elohim, John 10:34, 3:3-8), and the NAME of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem (our new home to which the Bridegroom is in time to come taking His Bride, Revelation 21), which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My NEW NAME (A new identity for each one to connect with the Family Name as is now with human families)(Revelation 3:11-12).”

With great and caring love, Jesus Christ implores His affianced Bride with wonderful and caring promises to be vigilant while remaining faithful to Him in these very trying times that will only come to be more difficult and trying in days ahead before His return to accept His Bride.

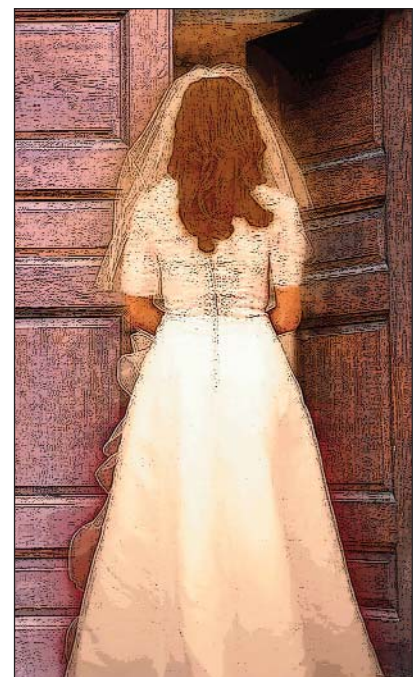
– THE TIME DRAWS NIGH –

Numerous conservative writers and speakers make known the difficult times this nation and the world have entered unlike no other in this end age with the forecast that the sun is very close to setting on the human reasoning of an evil age ruled by Satan (Galatians 1:4, John 12:31).

Satan’s very strong deception is in evidence on the whole world (Revelation 12:9).

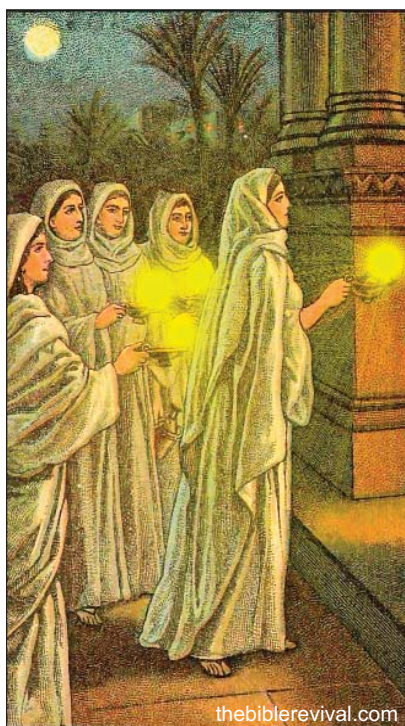
This *DECEPTION* is also in evidence on the 450+ corporate Churches of God, ministers and members, who are *rejecting their invitation* to become the Bride of Jesus Christ.

It should be realized, as individuals, and as a Church, *the beginning of the time of sorrows*, that was foretold to fully befall Israel for their adulterous relationships (Matthew 24:8) – *having been*





forewarned over many years by God's late apostle, and the Elijah to come, is now in evidence (Ezekiel 6:11, Leviticus 26:14-39, Deuteronomy 28:15-68)!



These prophesied times will also affect terribly God's Church for forsaking Him (Matthew 25:10-12, Jeremiah 23:1-2, Ezekiel 34:1-10). And unless we are fully on track and clinging to God in truth, while vigilantly watching with prayerful understanding in view of those prophesied horrors (Luke 21:29-36), we could very well die from either the famine and disease epidemics (*100 million in the United States alone*, Ezekiel 5:12) or end up in the **Great Tribulation**, and endure **a martyr's death** (Revelation 6:9-11).


This will be the price that will have to be paid due to the **rejection** of the wedding invitations yet being extended. There is an urgent need to prove from Scripture where the

Congregation Christ is using of the remnant of the Philadelphia Era of God's true Church, and then become an active part of it, for it is only the Spirit-filled members of it who will be counted worthy to escape those soon-coming horrors!

(They can be easily identified by the study of the sixth Church Era – Revelation 3:7-13.)

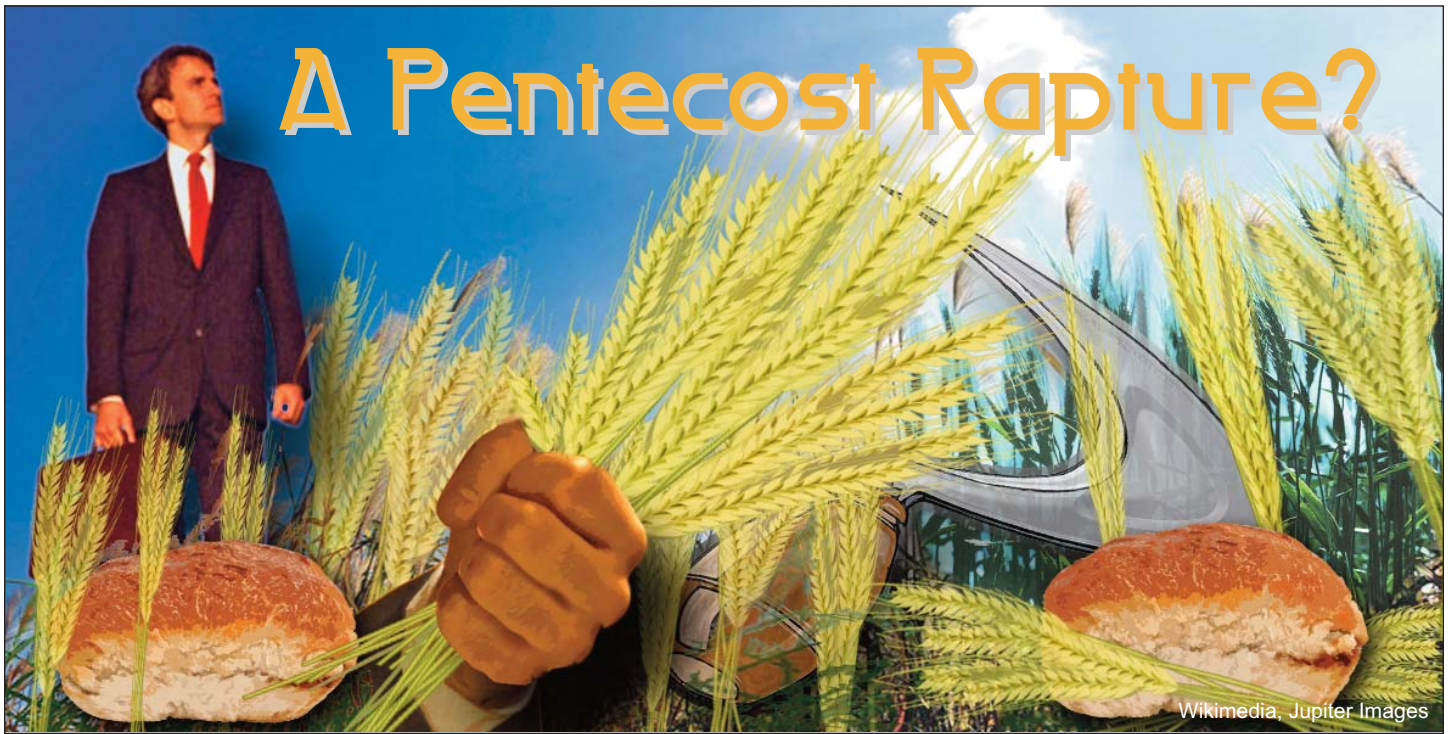
Paraphrasing the Warnings of Jesus Christ: "It will only be those who **STRIVE** to enter that **Narrow Door to Salvation** will be counted worthy to be accepted as His Bride; the added blessing will be **PRO-**

TECTION from the **Great Tribulation** (Luke 13:22-30, John 10:1-7, Luke 21:36)."

My heartfelt plea to all members is to please consider *where you now are* – and where you should be. It could mean the difference between being numbered among those of the Bride – or rejected to the **Great Tribulation** – and possibly salvation itself! *Time is running out!* 



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By Mark Mendiola

In his first epistle to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul emphasized, *“God is not the author of confusion. ... Let all things be done decently and in order* (I Corinthians 14:33, 40).” Perhaps nothing better illustrates God’s attention to a logical sequence of events than His design of the Annual Holy Days outlined in Leviticus 23, which still are to be observed by New Testament Christians.

Those Holy Days show His magnificent plan of salvation step by step, phase by phase, stage by stage – beginning with the sacrifice of Jesus Christ our Passover Lamb and concluding with the Last Great Day, which portrays the salvation of tens of billions of people resurrected in the Great White Throne Judgment. The seven Days of Unleavened Bread show the need for Christians to put sin completely out of their lives. The Feast of Trumpets heralds the Second Coming of Christ at the Seventh Trumpet. The Day of Atonement reminds us that Satan will be locked up during Christ’s reign on earth. The seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles foretell Christ’s millennial reign in the Kingdom of God.

The Bible plainly shows Paul, apostle to the Gentiles, kept these same Annual Holy Days, which were not “nailed to the cross” as millions of people erroneously believe. Decades after Christ’s crucifixion, His apostles diligently continued to keep these same days as commanded by God. History verifies that!

Millions of professing Christians today instead substitute, embrace and perpetuate holidays steeped in rank paganism. They refuse to observe the same days kept by Christ and

His disciples, keeping for commandments the tradition of men! Christ Himself condemned this approach (Matthew 15:3, 6-9, Mark 7:7-9, 13).

As a result, they are blinded to God’s astounding purpose for mankind.

Paul taught the Greeks in I Corinthians 5:6-8 to keep Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread – the first days listed in Leviticus 23:4-8.

Only seven weeks after Christ’s crucifixion at the Passover season in 31 A.D., early Christians gathered to observe the next Annual Holy Day in God’s sequence – Pentecost, the Feast of Firstfruits, the Feast of Weeks (Leviticus 23:9-22). This, too, is plain and obvious! There’s no denying it!





many mistakenly believe. They remain binding today for everyone!

CHRIST – OUR WAVE SHEAF OFFERING

Christ not only died as our Passover lamb, He also perfectly fulfilled the Wave Sheaf Offering during the Days of Unleavened Bread following His resurrection from the dead, directly linking the Passover season in sequence with Pentecost 50 days or seven weeks later.

There are more verses in Leviticus 23 devoted to Pentecost, although it is only a single day, than the Days of Unleavened Bread or the Feast of Tabernacles, which both include seven consecutive days.

“And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ... ‘When you come into the land which I

give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD ... on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. ... You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. ‘And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath ... You shall bring from your dwellings two wave

“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ... And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues (languages), as the Spirit gave them utterance,” Acts 2:1-4 states.

The fact God’s Holy Spirit was poured out precisely on this annual day of Pentecost squarely stamps God’s approval for continuing to observe the Annual Holy Days in sequence under the New Covenant with an emphasis on their spiritual meanings.

Pentecost is specifically referred to in the Book of Acts, underscoring the fact Christ’s followers faithfully continued to keep the Annual Holy Days many years after His crucifixion. Acts 20:16 states: “For Paul ... was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost.” He also wrote in I Corinthians 16:8: “But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost” – about 25 years after Christ’s crucifixion and ascension into heaven! Paul kept Pentecost with Gentile Christians in northern Greece and Asia Minor for many years after God poured out His Holy Spirit on the New Testament Church precisely on Pentecost! For centuries after Christ’s death, it was known as the Day of Firstfruits. It and other Annual Holy Days are not strictly Jewish holidays as so



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loaves ... They shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven. They are the firstfruits to the LORD. ...' (Leviticus 23:9-17)."

Numbers 28:26-31 and Deuteronomy 16:9-12 state: "Also on the Day of the Firstfruits, when you bring a new grain offering to the LORD at your Feast of Weeks, you shall have a holy convocation. ... You shall count seven weeks for yourself; begin to count the seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the grain. Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to the LORD your God ... and you shall be careful to observe these statutes."

God designed His Annual Sacred Days in conjunction with the two annual harvest seasons in Palestine as a pattern of His spiritual harvest plan. The first was a small spring harvest following winter rains, beginning with the Wave Sheaf Offering, ending on Pentecost. In the early autumn, the second occurred, following the late spring or latter rains. It

ended with the Feast of Ingathering – the much greater harvest.

The Days of Unleavened Bread occur at the beginning of the small spring harvest season when shoots of earlier planted grain grew to maturity as fruit-bearing stalks ready for harvest. Christ, the Wave Sheaf Offering, bridges the Days of Unleavened Bread and Pentecost. Without His sacrifice as a Passover lamb, salvation would not be possible. Passover is the beginning step in God's plan of salvation. Jesus the Messiah is the crux of these Holy Days!

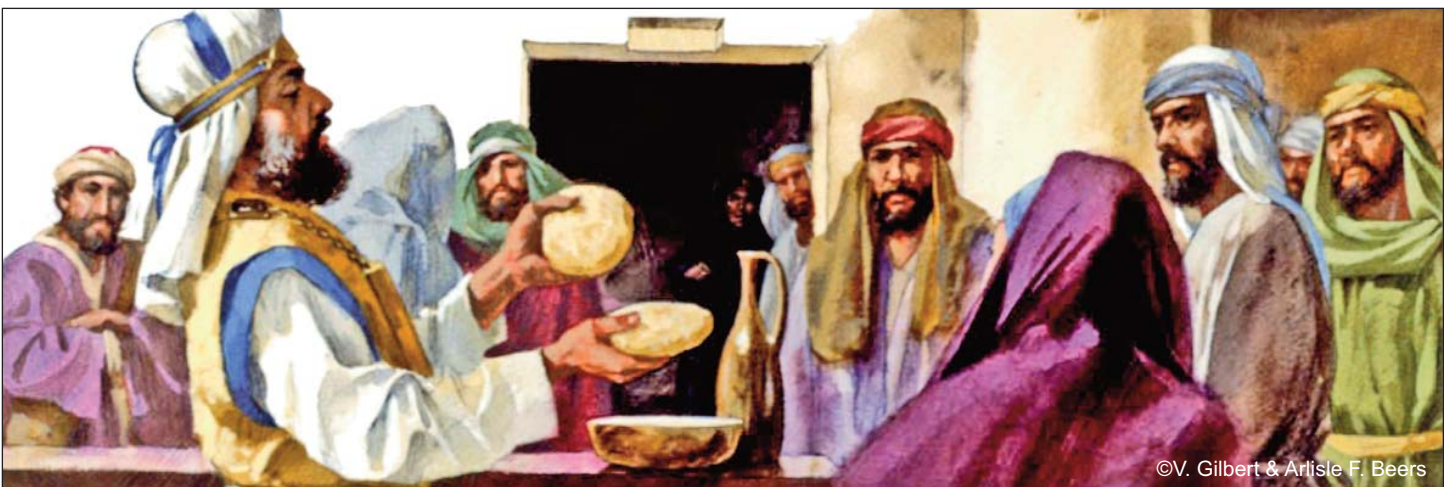
This first harvest began on Sunday morning, following the weekly Sabbath during the Days of Unleavened Bread, when a small handful of newly cut stems and heads of barley was brought to the priest. This was called the "Wave Sheaf Offering" or the "first of the firstfruits."

There was a countdown from the Days of Unleavened Bread to Pentecost. Again, it was in logical sequence.

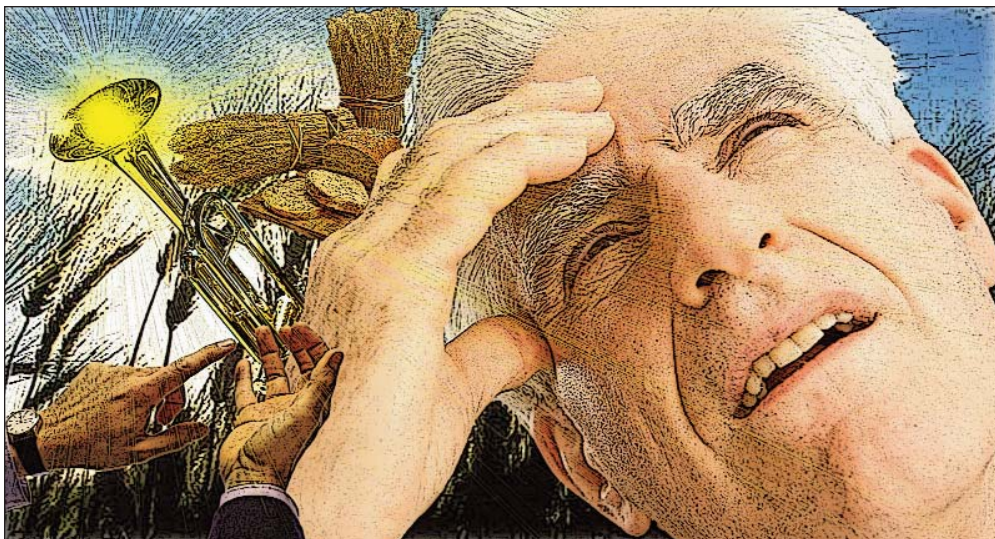
Christ obviously is the First of the Firstfruits. I Corinthians 15:20-23 states: "But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming."

THE RAPTURE FABLE

When Christ encountered the Samaritan woman at the well on a hot summer day, the context indicates it very well could have been at the time or season of Pentecost (John 4:6). He discussed living water springing into eternal life (v. 10-14), salvation (v.22) and God's spirit (v. 23-24). It



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would not have been the actual day of Pentecost because He would not have been traveling extensively on that Sabbath (Matthew 24:20), but rather would have been in a synagogue teaching on that High Day as was His custom (Luke 4:16).

Nonetheless, the Apostle John stresses the importance of God's Annual High Days as a recurring theme throughout this book, including the Passover and Fall Festival seasons. There is a four-month gap between Pentecost and the fall festivals, underscoring the sequence in God's plan of salvation.

"Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest,'" Christ said (v. 35).

The four months between Pentecost and Trumpets symbolize the centuries or lapse of time between 31 A.D. when God's Holy Spirit was poured out upon His Church to the time of Christ's Second Coming at the Seventh Trumpet some 2,000 years later, when the firstfruits will be harvested. It also illustrates the process of conversion from an individual's begetting by God's Holy Spirit after baptism to when one is "born again" at the resurrection when Christ returns. It is at Christ's Second Coming at the last trumpet when God's saints will be resurrected or changed as firstfruits – in logical order (I Corinthians 15:23).

The return of Christ at the Seventh Trumpet obviously is the next major event in the sequence of God's master plan of salvation to be fulfilled. Christ's sacrifice at Passover, His ascension to heaven as a Wave Sheaf Offering during

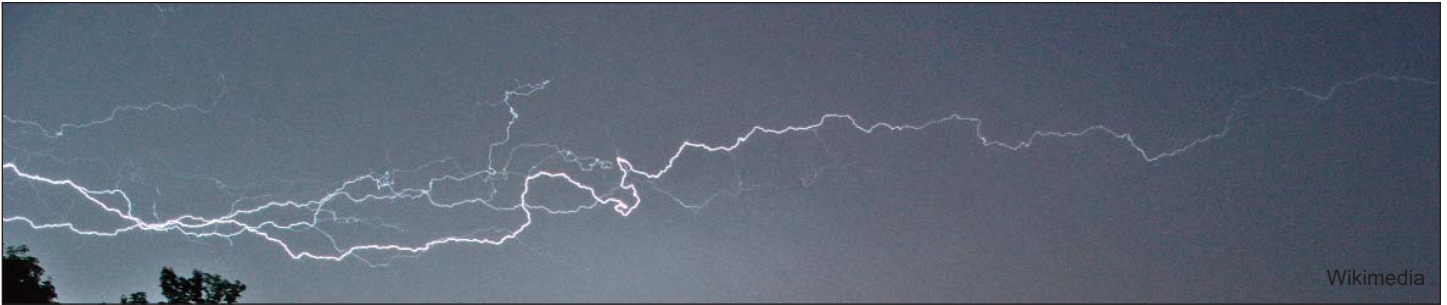
the Days of Unleavened Bread and the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on Pentecost nearly 1,980 years ago were major actual fulfillments of those days' meanings. Yet, many people in some Church of God groups are accepting various versions of a teaching gaining popularity and promoted by clever, deceptive ministers that purports Christ will harvest His saints on Pentecost and secretly rapture them off to heaven, where they will participate in a wedding supper prior to His actual return. This belief is a radical departure from apostolic doctrine and does not align with plain Bible scriptures.

These people are like the Athenians whom Paul encountered in Greece who "spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing" (Acts 17:18-21)." He warned: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables" (II Timothy 4:3-4)."

Paul plainly taught God's truly converted saints would be resurrected or transformed – harvested together – when Christ returns at the Seventh Trumpet, the next major event to be fulfilled in the sequence of God's plan of salvation, not on Pentecost!

"For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep (dead). For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air," Paul wrote the Greeks at Thessalonica (I Thessalonians 4:15-17).

He also wrote the Greeks at Corinth: "Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed – in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed (I Corinthians 15:51-52)."



Paul plainly shows the saints – both living and dead – be-gotten by God’s Holy Spirit will be harvested *together* as firstfruits when Christ returns with *a loud blast of the seventh or last trumpet*. He will not return secretly to rapture His saints off to heaven beforehand for a wedding supper. His Second Coming will be spectacular beyond words!

“Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, and they also who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him (Revelation 1:7).”

Jesus Christ’s own words refute the notion He will secretly return to rapture His saints and then return to earth again. Tremendous, awe-inspiring signs in the heavens will precede His Second Coming, which every human being will not be able to ignore.

“*For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.* ... Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. *Then* the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and *they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.* And *He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other* (Matthew 24:27-31).”

As the Book of Revelation shows, six trumpet blasts will precede the seventh trumpet when Christians who are alive also will be transformed and born into God’s divine family. This directly ties in with the meaning of the *Feast of Trumpets*, not *Pentecost*. God is not the author of confusion and does all things decently and in order!

GOING TO HEAVEN?

The concepts of “going to heaven” at one’s death or being raptured off into heaven originate from the same source. The Bible nowhere shows heaven is the reward of the saved. Christ Himself said, “*No one has ascended to heaven*” but He who came down from heaven, that is the

Son of Man who is in heaven (John 3:13).” The Bible plainly shows only Christ has ascended to heaven. Christ plainly stated the most righteous men and women in the Bible did not go to heaven when they died.

In his sermon given on the very same *Pentecost* when God powerfully poured out His Holy Spirit, the Apostle Peter boldly proclaimed: “Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ... For *David did not ascend into the heavens!* (Acts 2:34)”

King David was still dead and buried when Peter preached his *Pentecost* sermon 1,000 years after David’s death. He remains in his grave today. Hebrews 11 shows the most righteous men and women of the Old Testament are not in heaven, but still awaiting the resurrection and God’s promise of salvation.

Despite plain statements by Christ and Peter, millions believe they will ascend to heaven upon death. The rapture theory caters to this same innate desire of humans to somehow transcend the earth’s gravity and dwell in heaven. This same attitude has crept in among Church of God members who believe Christ will take them to heaven on *Pentecost* as harvested firstfruits, contrary to plain Bible scriptures and God’s logical sequence or pattern.

Where does this concept of going to heaven that permeates virtually all of the world’s religions originate? Isaiah shows Lucifer fell from heaven, but yearns to ascend above the clouds and exalt himself even over God (Isaiah 14:12-15). After Lucifer’s rebellion, God changed his name to “Satan,” which means enemy. Notice what Christ said in Luke 10:17-18: “*I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven*’.”

Satan, the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2), surcharges our atmosphere with the false idea that we, too, will ascend to heaven above the heights of the clouds. He cannot stand to be subservient or confined to the earth. He wants to climb, ascend and be supreme. *You cannot reconcile the resurrection from the grave* (which the Bible plainly shows) *with going to heaven at death. Why*

would God need to resurrect anyone who is already in heaven?

“Rapture” cannot be found in the Bible. It’s a fabrication. It’s a fable! The rapture theory purports Christ will secretly whisk “born again” Christians off into heaven to be protected from the **Great Tribulation** for either 3½ years or seven years, depending on the version. Millions supposedly will vanish. Those who believe in a Pentecost rapture essentially believe they, too, will be protected in heaven. If they are waiting for a big liftoff, they are in for a big let-down!

The Bible shows in Revelation 6:9-11 there will be a martyrdom of possibly hundreds of thousands of professing Christians prior to Christ’s re-

turn. They will not be swept off to heaven in a rapture. Those who believe in a Pentecost rapture also mistakenly think they will be feasting with Christ during a wedding supper in heaven while all hell is breaking loose on earth! To be selfishly, joyously indulging ourselves during a marriage feast in heaven while millions are in the throes of the most horrendous death and destruction in mankind’s history defies logic!

CHRIST TO THE RESCUE!

Without Christ intervening at His Second Coming, all of mankind will be wiped off the face of the earth by weapons of mass destruction! “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened,” Christ warned (Matthew 24:21-22).

Christ will return as He left the earth – visibly in the clouds, but this time with the blast of trumpets. His Second Coming will not be secret. Those dead in Christ in their graves and those true Christians alive at His return will rise to meet Him in the clouds of the earth’s atmosphere. They will not then be raptured off to the heaven of God’s throne. When He returns, He will touch down that same day on the Mount of Olives just as He left when He ascended to heaven nearly 2,000 years ago. Zechariah 14:1, 4, 9 says: “Behold, the day of the LORD is coming ... And in that

day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives ... And the LORD shall be King over all the earth.”

The earth will be the reward of the saved (Matthew 5:5, Psalm 37:9-11, 22, 29, 34). Revelation 5:10 says true Christians will be made “kings and priests to our God” and “reign on the earth.” Planet earth is where the action will be! From Jerusalem, Christ, His saints and angels will crush opposing armies, which will wage war against the Lamb (Revelation 17:14).

In “*The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last*,” Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong explained: “Yes, when the Seventh Trumpet is sounded the nations are going to be angry. Once again it is proclaimed, ‘Thy WRATH is come.’ The only thing de-

scribed under the opening of this Seventh Trumpet that could possibly be the Third Woe is THE WRATH OF GOD! But all the trumpets have been plagues, pouring out the WRATH of God – His punishments to bring this hell-bent world to its senses and to a happy peace! The Seventh Trumpet consummates this wrath!”

The Day of the LORD will conclude with the Seventh Trumpet. When it is blown, the seven last plagues will be poured out on rebellious nations, completing the wrath of God, leading to “the battle of that great day of God Almighty” or what the world calls “the Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 16:14, 16).”

Given major fulfillments of God’s Annual Holy Days during Passover, the Days of Unleavened Bread and Pentecost in 31 A.D., it stands to reason Christ’s Second Coming will coincide with the Feast of Trumpets and true Christians will be harvested as firstfruits at the Seventh Trumpet. It also makes sense that the seven last plagues accompanying that final trumpet could take some days to complete the wrath of God. Given God’s emphasis on order, could that occur between the Feast of Trumpets and the Day of Atonement 10 days later when Satan is bound? That remains to be seen. Time will tell.

“Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ,

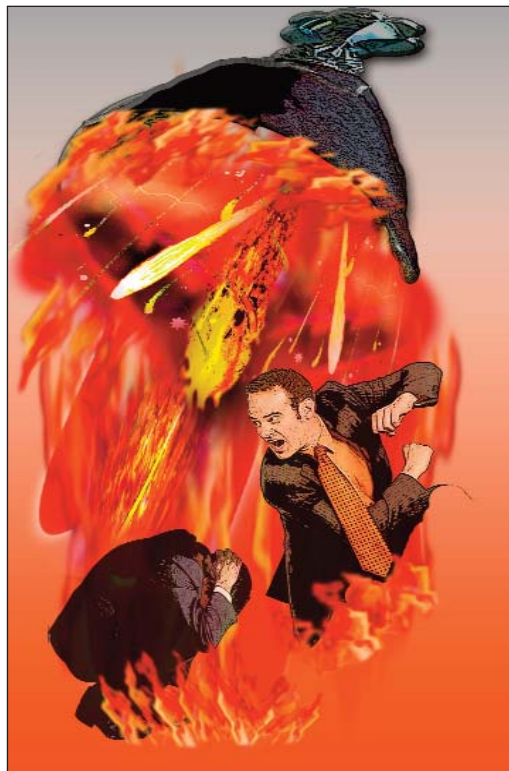


and He shall reign forever and ever! ... ‘Because You have taken Your great power and reigned. The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth’ (Revelation 11:15-18).”

The two loaves of leavened bread waved by the priest on **Pentecost** symbolize the Old Testament and New Testament firstfruits who will be harvested at Christ’s return (Leviticus 23:17).

Revelation 19 shows Christ returning on a white stallion with a large army accompanying Him. “... in righteousness He judges and makes war. ... Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God (v. 11, 14-15).” After Christ crushes the beast and false prophet who lead the final resurrection of the Roman Empire in Europe (v. 17-21), notice what follows next.

“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and **bound him for a thousand years** (Revelation 20:1-2).” It makes sense that Satan could be literally locked up on the **Day of Atonement**, picturing his banishment.



Next is the fulfillment of the **Feast of Tabernacles**, which pictures the millennial reign of Jesus Christ in the Kingdom of God. “And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. ... And **they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years**. ... they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and **shall reign with Him a thousand years** (v. 4, 6).”

In the final verses of Revelation 19 and the first verses of Revelation 20, we see the literal fulfillment of the **Feast of Trumpets**, **Day of Atonement** and **Feast of Tabernacles**. All of God’s Annual Fall Festivals are outlined in these two chapters!

No, Jesus Christ will not rapture off His saints on **Pentecost** for a wedding supper in heaven while absolute chaos is under way on earth and millions of people are suffering the worst afflictions ever recorded. **Scriptures indicate the marriage of Christ and His saints will occur at the time of the Seventh Trumpet, and the wedding supper will ensue on earth upon His return.**

“For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for **the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.**’ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, ‘Write: **‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’** (Revelation 19:6-9)”

Could the seven days of the **Feast of Tabernacles** picture the seven days of feasting traditionally celebrated by Jews after the marriage of a bride and groom is consummated? Could this occur after Christ marries His Church and the Kingdom of God assumes rulership on the earth?

What better time to rejoice and celebrate than when warring nations are finally vanquished, Satan the devil is finally removed and global peace and happiness are finally secured! The Bible indicates seven days of feasting followed Jacob’s wedding with Leah (Genesis 29:26-28) and Samson’s wedding with a Philistine woman (Judges 14:10-20).

The firstfruits harvested at the **Seventh Trumpet** and who marry Jesus Christ as His bride will have the

awesome responsibility and privilege as members of God’s divine family of directly assisting Christ when He returns to rule on the earth. **God’s Annual Holy Days are signposts directing us in logical sequence to the Kingdom of God!**

At that time, as Isaiah 2:2-4 shows, God will teach us His ways; we shall walk in His paths; God’s law shall go forth from Zion, and nations will not learn war anymore! As Paul exclaimed in Romans 11:33: **“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!”**



Why Few Called

Continued from Page 4

out Him was not anything made that was made.” And you read in Ephesians let’s see, third chapter, ninth verse, God “**created all things by Jesus Christ.**”

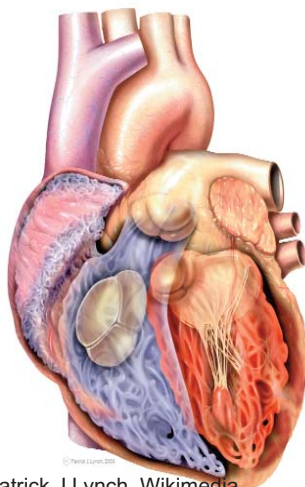
Now God is the leader. He directed what should be done, what should be made. He told the Word to do it. The Word was the Spokesman, and the Word spake, as you read in one of the Psalms, He spake and it was done.

Now, we also find that when He spake the power, the Spirit that emanated from both God the Father and from the Word – Who was not yet His Son, but later was born as God’s Son – the Spirit is a power that did whatever He said, and He only said what the Father told Him.

And in Him was life – L-I-F-E. Life! He had life inherent, life within Himself, immortal life. He had always been. Now, of the Word, who became Christ in the 14th verse, “**the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,**” and became Jesus Christ, verse 14.

Now, we read over in the book of Hebrews that Christ was immortal, and there never was a time when He came into existence. He had ALWAYS existed. Now, of course, your mind can’t conceive that, so don’t try to. My mind won’t, and I don’t think yours will, either. But He was without Father, without Mother, without descent, without beginning of days, having neither beginning of days nor end of life.

Now you and I don’t have that kind of life. We have to have our life by breathing air, which will oxidize blood and keep the heart pumping blood throughout your body. And the blood in you is the life thereof as the Bible says, and the breath is the breath of life and that isn’t life. It’s only a chemical, physio-chemical existence, and that’s all we have now.



Patrick J Lynch, Wikimedia



But you notice that They lived. If They had life, then They lived! If They lived, They had to live a certain way. They had to do something. What did They do? Well, They created and the Word made everything that was made. And God is the Creator, but the Word did only what the Father told Him.

And God created all things by Jesus Christ, so that was Their job, that was Their profession, that is what They did, but how did they do it? How did they live? That is quite important because they lived together. Now, two cannot live together except they be agreed. So They were agreed. When Jesus came to earth in the human flesh, He said, “**I and My Father are one. I have spoken nothing of Myself, the Father that sent Me told Me what I should say and what I should speak, and I have spoken according to His word.**” There was perfect agreement, so they could walk together because They agreed. Two can’t walk together except they be agreed. They knew how to love.

Now, when Jesus came to earth as born and grew up to about age 30 and He was baptized in the River Jordan by John the Baptist and God the Father said in a voice from heaven, “**This is My BELOVED SON in Whom I am well pleased.**” He LOVED the Son, and Jesus LOVED the Father and He OBEYED the Father, and there was LOVE between them. There was cooperation. They were in perfect agreement, but One had to be the leader over the other.

You take a couple getting married, one has to lead! And one always will lead, but there must be harmony. There must be love! The husband should dominate his wife, but NOT domineer over her. There is quite a difference. He should be the leader in love, and there should be perfect agreement and harmony, and they should get along. There

should be no quarrel. There should be no difference of mind whatsoever, and if you're not of one mind, you shouldn't get married in the first place.

Now, on the earth was a throne. They created angels first, and then the angels were the first occupants of this world, of this earth. But you read in, let me see **II Peter 2 verse 4**, **"God spared not the angels that sinned,"** and so angels did sin, and we find elsewhere in the Bible it was about a third of the angels which sinned. Apparently, the other two-thirds are still holy and righteous and have not sinned sin, but a third of them became demons, and God took a super archangel, the cherub named Lucifer, and set him on the earth.

Now, God and the Word had a way of living together. Now, they had a job to do and that was creation, but there was perfect cooperation. There was a leader though, that is nec-



essary that there is direction and you have to have direction, especially when there is more than one person. If there's two or more, there has to be a leader. Always there has to be a leader, and they had a way of living together.

Now, that WAY of living becomes a law. Now, what is a law? Well, a law is merely a guide that is a way of life. If you break the law, it means you live contrary to that way of life that is defined by that law. A law is always a way of living, and laws that we have in the world are SUPPOSED to be designed to help us cooperate along together and get along with one another, husband and wife to get along together, neighbors to get along together, people to get along together. The trouble is nations DON'T get along together. Nations have troubles and finally, you know, they set up a court of international justice. There has to be a law or there has to be a rule of conduct to guide the way you get along together or you're going to have trouble and you DON'T get along, and you'll have nothing but trouble and friction and unhappiness, and one impedes the work of the other.

ANGELS PLACED ON EARTH

And so God set angels on the earth and He set a LAW, and He set a government over them, and he put the super archangel Lucifer, who's one of the two archangels or cherubs whose wings had spread out over the throne of God, right on the very throne of God. He was experienced in the administration of the government of God over the universe, and God set him on a throne on earth to rule over angels. Now, we don't find in the Bible very much given about it. You find quite a lot about this and what brought on the sin of the angels in the 14th chapter of Isaiah and the 28th of Ezekiel.



And we find that the one on the throne was named Lucifer, which means “*shining star of the dawn*.” And he was given, naturally, a law which is the Law of God, which is love – L-O-V-E.

Now, we find in the Bible that God’s law of love is divided into two great laws. It’s love to God first of all and love to neighbor. Why God first of all? Because you have to have direction, and the direction has to come from God. He’s the leader and without that leadership you are sunk!

And then that’s divided in turn, love to God is divided into the first four of the 10 Commandments – how to love God. And how to love your neighbor is divided in the last six of the 10 Commandments, telling you how to love your neighbor.

Now they are just 10 broad principles in the principles of the spirit or the attitude of love; and love is an attitude. It is a spirit, and it’s a spiritual principle. It’s a spiritual action rather than a material action.

But the angels sinned. Lucifer led a rebellion. He inoculated his angels with a spirit of rebellion, a spirit of get instead of give, of hate and opposition instead of love, of vanity, and of coveting, wanting to get, and toward others of jealousy, of envy, rebellion of authority, of competition leading to strife and violence, and destruction and all that sort of thing.

So they had that attitude toward God, one of rebellion, one of vanity, I mean, one of vanity toward themselves and one of jealousy and envy and competition against God. And they flew up to heaven to try to pull a coup and knock God off the throne and rule the WHOLE UNIVERSE instead of just this earth, but they were cast back down to the earth.

Now something happened to the earth, and the earth became, as you read in the first chapter of Genesis where it says “**without form and void**,” or that’s the (Hebrew), and comes from the (Hebrew) word “tohu” and “bohu” and actually it means chaotic, in confusion or decay, and it probably was decayed. It probably had been a long time. God did not finish the earth. He put them here to finish it and to work on the earth. The earth contains not only just matter, but it contains many forces like energy and many forces of energy that can be put together.

Even electricity can be created, and energy in various fuels and finally we found the energy of the atom – the atomic bomb and now the hydrogen bomb and other things like that, all exist in the matter of this earth.

But the earth had come into the light of truth and of God’s truth, now it was in the darkness of error and sin. So we read in Genesis 1, “**In the beginning God**,” and God there, the Hebrew word was **Elohim**, which is a uniplural noun and includes the One Who was God and the One Who was the Word, and including those Two it was the God family and it began with those Two, who had existed always, forever.

“**God created the heavens**” and it should be plural and is as Moses wrote it in the original Hebrew, “**and the earth**.” And they were created all at the same time as you read in the second chapter of Genesis and verse 4.

GOD RENEWED THE EARTH FROM WRECKAGE

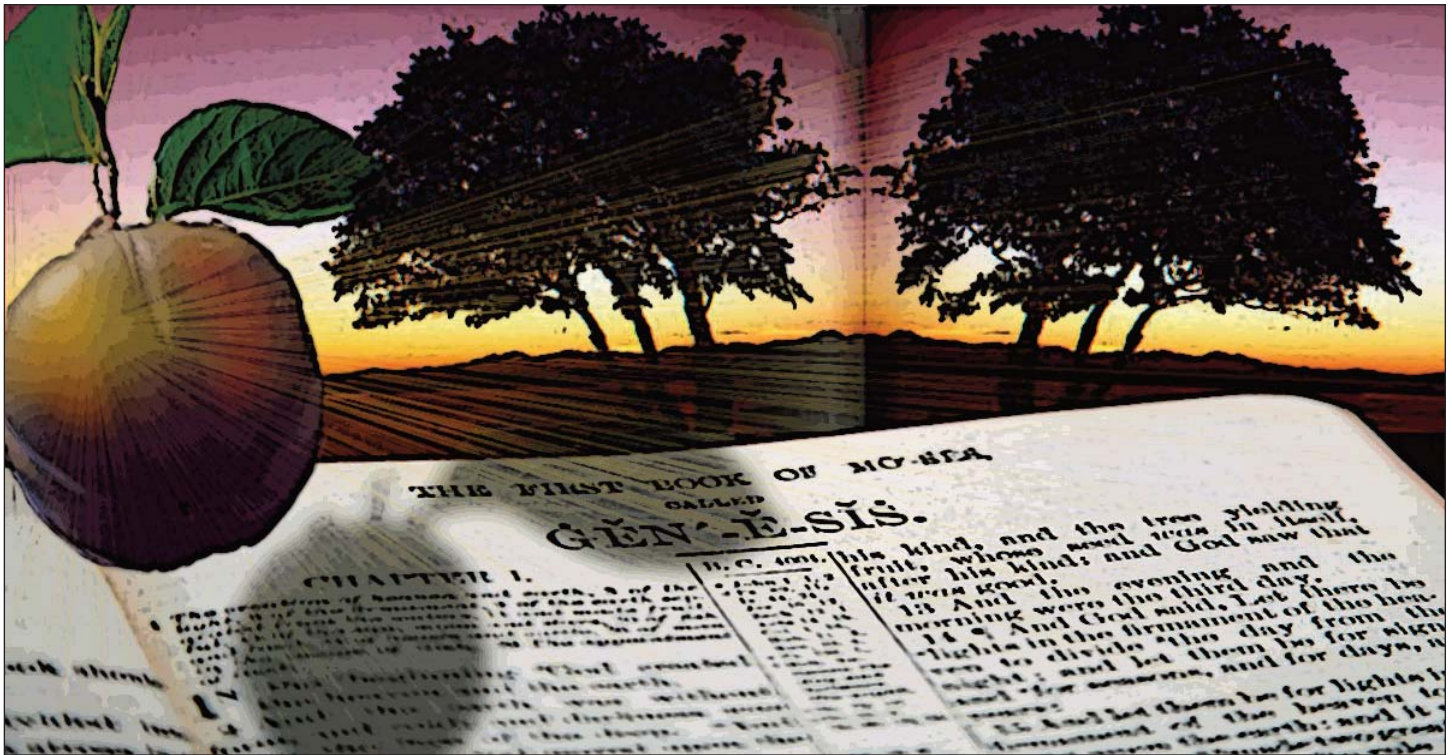
So the earth was or became in this chaotic and decayed state and darkness was on the face of the deep. Now, you read in the 104th Psalm and verse 30 that God renewed the face of the earth. It says, “**Thou sendest forth Thy Spirit**,” and you create and renew, “**Thou renewest the face of the earth**.” So notice here now, darkness was upon the face of the deep. This was all a watery ocean surface, and the Spirit of God moved upon the waters. There is the Spirit of God, the Power that was going to do it.

“**And God said**,” oh, the One Who said it was the Word. And what did He say? Whatever, the Father told Him to do. Whatever God said to say. He said, “**Let there be light: and there was light**.” So He went on REMAKING, RE-NEWING the face of the earth for man.

GOD CREATES MAN IN HIS IMAGE AND LIKENESS

And after He had done that, then in verse 26, after He had created animals after the animal kind – cattle after the cattle kind, dogs after the dog kind and others, **He said**, “**Let us make man in Our image, after Our likeness**.” Let us make man after the God kind.

Now, man was made to be born into the God Family right there, and the first man, Adam, was not given eternal life.



You read in the seventh verse of the next chapter that God formed man, that was the man Adam and his wife, Eve, out of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. Breath is called the breath of life, and man became, the dust of the ground, became, a soul. So a soul comes out of the ground and is not spirit, but is matter, but he didn't have eternal life. He only had a temporary existence.



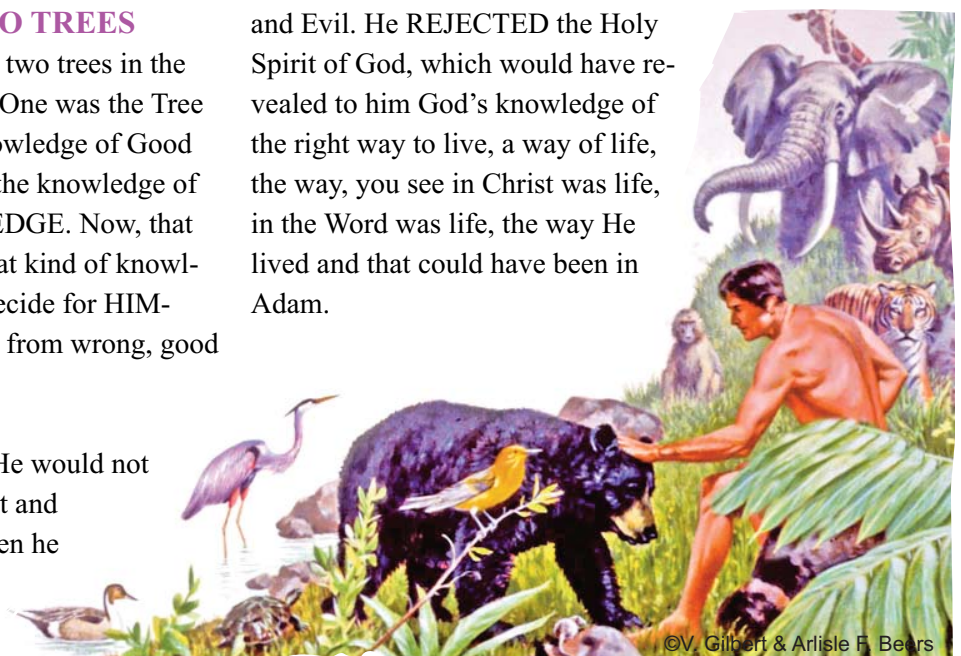
A CHOICE OF ONE OF TWO TREES

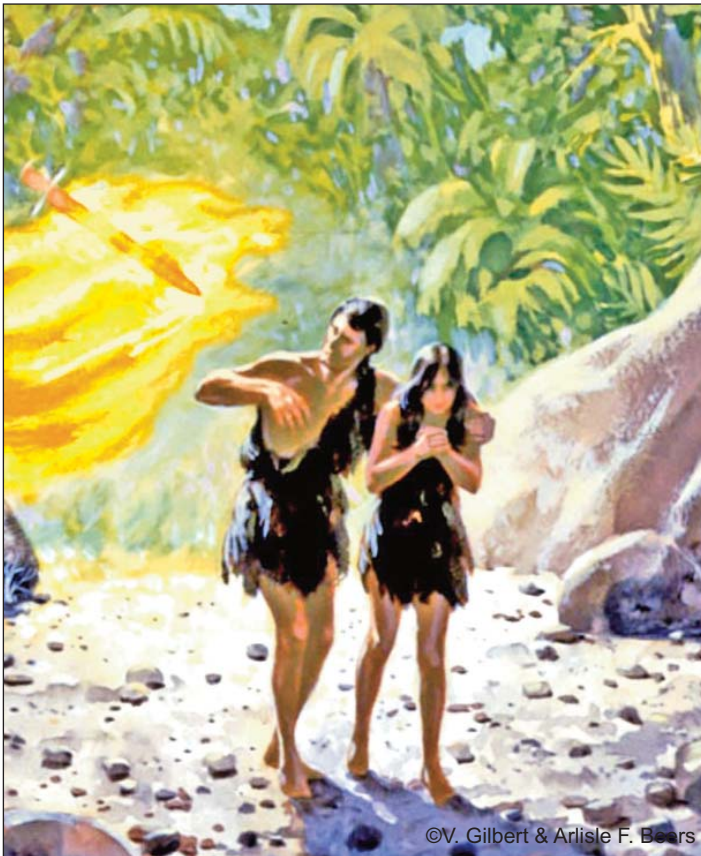
Now, you know the story. There were the two trees in the garden, and Adam had to make a choice. One was the Tree of Life; the other was the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. The Tree of Knowledge meant the knowledge of taking to himself SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE. Now, that was the knowledge of the way of life. That kind of knowledge meant a way of life that he would decide for HIMSELF how to live. He would decide right from wrong, good from evil, all by himself.

He would not look to God as the leader. He would not look to God to tell him which way is right and which is wrong. He took it to himself when he took of the fruit of that tree. That's why God forbid it.

Now, what about the Tree of Life? That was also a tree of knowledge. That was REVEALED knowledge from God, but that kind of knowledge was a way of life, the SPIRITUAL way of life, the way of cooperation and peace, the way of happiness, the way that God and the Word had always lived together. The way that He had intended the angels to live, but they didn't live that way. Adam made the wrong decision. He took of the Tree of Knowledge of Good

and Evil. He REJECTED the Holy Spirit of God, which would have revealed to him God's knowledge of the right way to live, a way of life, the way, you see in Christ was life, in the Word was life, the way He lived and that could have been in Adam.





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Now, in the third chapter of Genesis in verses 22 to 24 you find that as a result of man's sin, now Adam was on trial to see if he could take over the throne of the earth from Satan, he had to reject Satan's way of living. He had to accept God's way that would have come through the Holy Spirit of God because you cannot understand spiritual knowledge, which God must reveal, but even though God reveals it, you can't understand it without the Spirit of God.

And so Adam made the wrong decision and he did not qualify and Satan remained on the throne! [Satan] deceived Eve, and Eve led Adam by the nose to do the wrong thing, and many wives have been misleading their husbands ever since, when a wife is supposed to be her husband's helper, and they are supposed to get along together. But it takes two to get along together, and just one alone can't do it, but the two had better both be right or else they are in trouble.

GOD SHUTS UP HIS HOLY SPIRIT

So now, God shut up the Holy Spirit. Now, He shut up the Holy Spirit UNTIL Christ the second Adam should come, until SOMEONE could qualify to set up God's world, God's government. Adam would have accepted God's government, which God would have revealed to him through the Holy Spirit, if he had taken of the Tree of Life.

But Adam never did get it, and he never learned God's law really. He never learned spiritual knowledge because he had rejected that, and Satan went on with the whole spirit of rebellion, of vanity, of glorifying himself with the spirit of coveting and trying to get everything he could, of competition, of strife, of envy and jealousy and of hate and of tearing down instead of building up.

THE MIND OF MAN

Now, we have to understand the mind of man at that time before we go any further, and I have explained that again and again, and I just want to cover it again because you want to have it in mind. The mind of man is brain PLUS spirit.

Man has to have knowledge. He has to be trained because his mind has to lead everything his hands or his feet or his body does. The mind has to govern. In other words, you need a head just as we need God over all people, your own body to perform and to function needs a brain to guide it and tell it what to do.

Man had to have knowledge. He not only had to have knowledge to deal with matter and with things, and God created him with that kind of a mind, but He didn't create him with a mind to get along with other people and in making things. The reason man never learned to even make anything until this 20th century was because – and that's the 20th century since Christ, it's a lot more than the 20th century from Adam – but it's because man did not have the Spirit of God and spiritual knowledge.

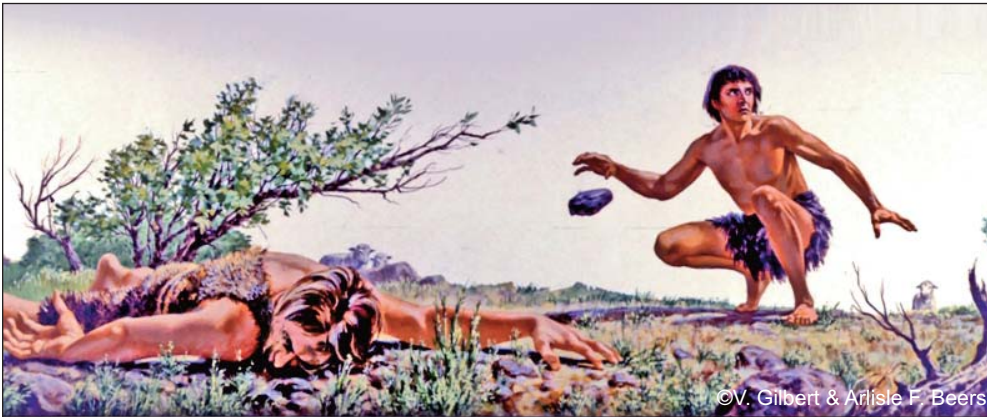
He only had the knowledge to deal with things, but one person alone does not build an airplane or an automobile or a steam engine or a railroad train. One man doesn't do it. It takes cooperation of many men. One man can't build a great steel works that supplies the steel to build many of these things with, and men can't work together except there be a right leadership and a way of living and working together and that requires the law of God or you are in trouble, and the world has been in trouble all the time, ever since Adam.

THE LAMB SLAIN FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

God closed up the Holy Spirit from man. I want to read you first a Scripture here. It's in Revelation 13, and it's just the latter part of verse 8 where it speaks about "the Lamb,"

which is Christ, **“slain from the foundation of the world.”** Now the foundation of the world is the time of Adam because the world didn’t start until Adam made that decision

Now, also at the time when God closed up the Holy Spirit at the foundation of the world you read in Hebrews 9:27, this became the policy of God. It was appointed from that



and the world started in Adam as he was influenced by Satan. So, at that time it was decided that Christ was to come and be the second Adam. That He could pay for the sins of humanity, otherwise humanity could never be redeemed from the sin of Adam.

Now, you take the sin of Adam and his son Cain, who was born the same way, and Abel, but you see Satan got to Cain and began influencing him before he was even six months old. Cain had a spirit in him, and that spirit was on the wavelength of Satan who is a spirit, and Satan’s spirit had access to his spirit and put a spirit of animosity and contention, disagreement. And Cain disagreed with his brother, Abel, and he was about to have a fight and God talked to him and God warned him, but he didn’t listen to God. He didn’t have God’s Spirit, and he wasn’t in tune with God, and he went ahead and killed his brother Abel.

God did speak to him, but his mind wasn’t open to understand what God said. He didn’t comprehend any truth that God revealed. If God revealed the truth to him, he would be in trouble if he did it, if he went ahead with his anger and his spirit of revenge. But he got revenge all right, and his brother Abel was dead, and Cain was greatly punished and then he complained his punishment was too great, and that’s the way humans have been ever since, just like that, same attitude.

be slain. That was about 4,000 years later, but nevertheless it did happen.

Now, also it was decreed as you read in I Corinthians 15, verse 22, 23, 24 and on, chapter 15 beginning with verse 22, **“As in Adam all die.”** Adam only had a temporary life. He was going to die, and God said **if you take of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil you will surely die.** Well, his children did the same thing, and they’ve been dying. So it’s appointed to men once to die, but after this the judgment. Well, there has to be life after that or there couldn’t be a judgment.



And so **“as in Adam all die,” I Corinthians 15:22, “so in Christ shall ALL,”** the same ALL, all who died, **“be made alive,”** by a resurrection.

Now, God decreed that. He decreed that Christ would come and pay the sins of people and that they would be given a chance like Adam had in the first place, but God had shut up the Holy Spirit. Now, we have to know something about the human mind, I wonder how many of you could explain this to someone else, someone out in the world, that’s not in the Church that say, “Well, what is this? I understand psychology.”

And there is a man who used to be on our faculty. He is now on the faculty of another college, and he’s teaching



we fall away it's impossible to renew us to repentance again, and I sometimes wonder. The only chance that some of those people who have been here have is IF, so far as I can see now, if they were never really converted in the first place and God had not really called them and He will do it sometime in the future. Otherwise, they HAVE HAD IT! They live the rest of this life, and THEY'VE ALREADY BEEN JUDGED! WE ARE BEING JUDGED NOW, but the people from Adam's time on until Christ were not being judged! It's appointed to men once to die, after this the judgment. They have not come to their judgment yet!

THE FIRSTFRUITS

psychology that you are an okay person, that you must have confidence in yourself. You must have vanity. You must think you're a somebody, and it's only if you think that you are pretty good that you ever will be, but it's all in your own self. You don't need any help from God. You just do it yourself in your own. That's what Adam had! That's what the world's been doing ever since and look at the world. That's the world Christ came to call us out of and here is one that has been here and graduated from this college and been on the faculty and been a head minister in this Church THAT IS NOW TEACHING THAT KIND OF ROT! SOME HAVE TURNED BACK, like Lot's wife!

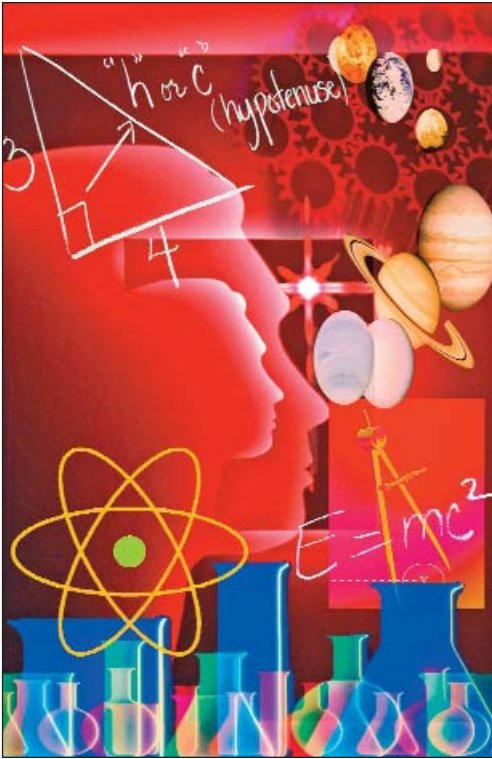
Now, do you realize that? Why is it God is only calling a few, and that we are the firstfruits, and God isn't calling others in the world? I want to show you why God could not have called the others. Do you think He's playing favorites to call us and not others? Oh, no! If anything, He's playing favorites for them, but that needs to be explained.

Well, now about the human mind here in Job the 32nd chapter and verse eight, "**There is a spirit in man,**" and now you turn to verse 18 and it says "**I am full of matter.**" I was composed of it. "**The spirit within me constraineth me.**" That is it influences, or well, it doesn't force you, it

There was something in the sermon this morning if you were here in the morning for service, about turning back, and unfortunately, some have gotten to the top in this Church and then turned back. I don't know that they'll turn into a pillar of salt like old Lot's wife, but they certainly won't turn into children in the Kingdom of God and sons of God.

I read in the book of Hebrews that if after we have come to the knowledge of God's truth and tasted of God's Holy Spirit, that if





doesn't compel you, but it does tend to lead you, and it does motivate you, the spirit. And Satan is a spirit, and he gets you into a wrong spirit and that wrong spirit does motivate you into the wrong attitude and the wrong way all together.

Now, in I Corinthians the

Now, here it comes, next verse, "**for what man knoweth the things of a man,**" has the knowledge that a human can have – knowledge of chemistry, knowledge of physics, knowledge of astronomy, mechanical knowledge – "**save by the spirit of man that is in him?**" The spirit of man is what gives you physical knowledge, but it doesn't give you spiritual knowledge.

"**Even so, the things of God,**" or spiritual knowledge and what God reveals and what God teaches, "**knoweth no man, but the spirit of God.**" The Spirit of God will open your mind to understand, and you can't understand the things of God until the Spirit of God comes.

But these truths, the spiritual truths are revealed by God but THROUGH the Holy Spirit and cannot be understood except after you have received the Holy Spirit. Now, God closed up the Holy Spirit from the time of Adam until Christ should come.

So I want you to notice when Christ came He said, "**I will build My Church,**" but before I come to that I want to talk about the world Jesus came into. A civilization started with Adam, and Adam only had the knowledge to deal with things, he DID NOT know how to even deal with other people let alone how to deal with God and to receive instruction and direction from God and supervision and you must have supervision. You must have a leader.

Now, the next verse, "**But God hath revealed them to us by His SPIRIT!**" Now, the SPIRIT doesn't do the revealing, brethren. The Holy Spirit is not a teacher! The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God to open your mind to comprehension! God is the teacher! And now notice here, but God has revealed, not the Holy Spirit has revealed, God has revealed them unto us BY HIS SPIRIT. The Spirit is merely the means that opens your mind to comprehend when God teaches, when God reveals, and it's revealed knowledge. "**For the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God.**"



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And it's a comparison all the way through, but when Adam rejected it, now the Holy Spirit was not yet available. So, Adam started a world because he had children. Now, he had Cain and Abel and he had Seth. Now, the Bible says he had other sons and DAUGHTERS, but it doesn't name them, and others came and they had sons and daughters, and it came to the time when population was increasing at the time of the flood. They were having a population explosion. God caused them all to be drowned because they were going the wrong way, except Noah and his family, eight people, and ALL the world has come from those eight people, but they have come on without the Spirit of God, without the direction of the Spirit of God, without the Spirit which would open their minds to understand the teaching of God.

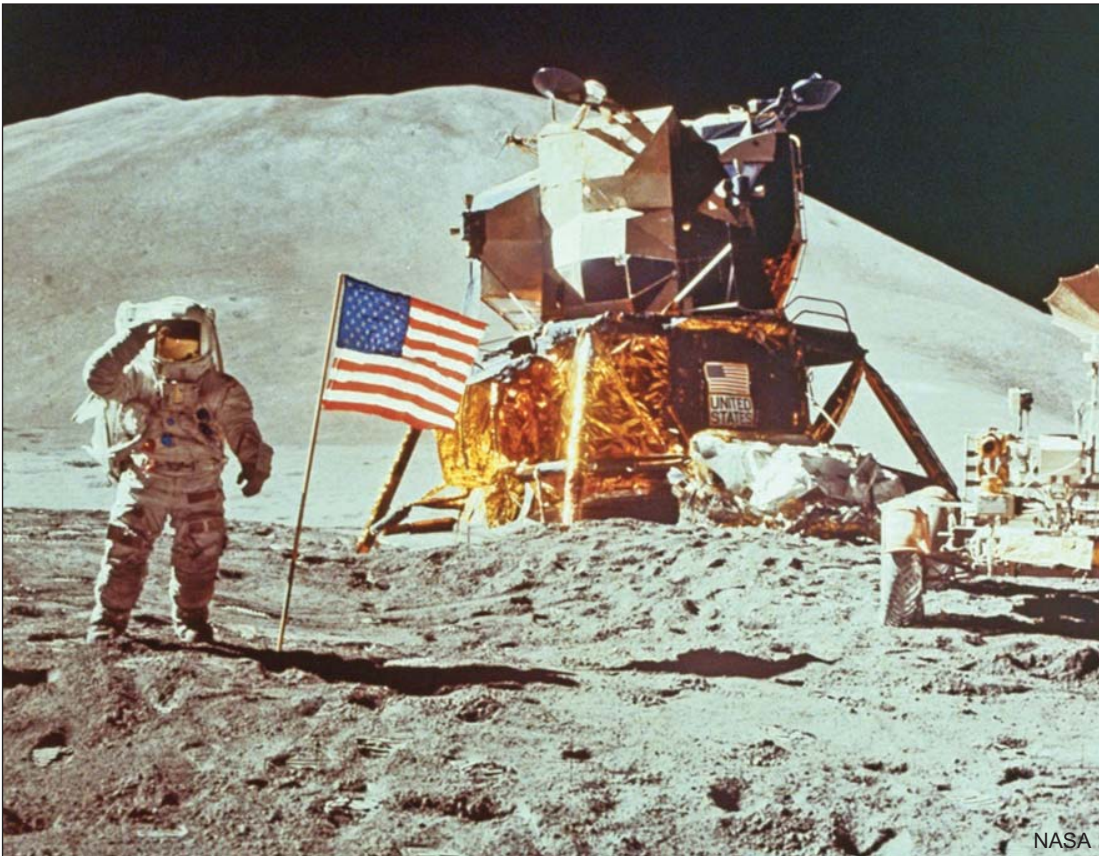
But Adam's children now gradually got into a civilization. As they were then many people, they began to realize they had to get some kind of organization, so they had men at the head of this and that and the other, but they didn't have right knowledge of how to get along with one another. And the man at the head was always self-centered, and he tried to use those under him for his own good and his own benefit, where God uses those under Him for the benefit of the ones under Him. God is a giver, not a getter, but those who are head over other people in this world try to get from them.



Now, the rulers over governments and kings over governments in this world, they pretend to be and they pose and represent themselves to be the benefactors of the people. They pose as the servants of the people.

Politicians running for office, they're trying to tell the people how they are going to serve the people. DON'T KID YOURSELF! They want to get rulership over the people to serve themselves. Anytime a person gets in a good size political office, he doesn't have to worry about where his money is coming from the rest of his life! Now, you don't know how it's manipulated and how it's handled, but he finds a way, and he always gets along just fine. For one thing they can write their memoirs, and GREAT money is going to come, and there are GREAT ways through politics that money keeps coming into them, ways you don't know anything about and I don't know either, so I can't tell you.

But anyway, a civilization got started, and man began to have his own government. Now, first after the flood there was a city started by Nimrod and his wife Semiramis started the religion, and so a religion, different religions came about, other religions came. And then there were different cities, there were just city-states, no countries, no na-



tions yet, for a long time. Finally, we came into ancient nations. There was Egypt and, well, there was Greece and Syria and Assyria and other nations like that.

And then one king over Babylon got many nations together into a united empire, and the first world empire was the Chaldean Empire called Babylon. And so we came to live in empires and ever since we have different nations or empires.

Now, empires are just about gone. The British Empire the sun has set, and it isn't really an empire anymore. It's no longer Great Britain. It's just Britain, but there came governments over the world. There came a system of education devised by man and man believing in himself and teaching a psychology of "Believe in your own self, but don't believe in God."

Different religions came, a different system of society or a certain system of society, and it came into what we call civilization, and that's the way people were living when Christ came and that's the way people are living today, only it's bigger and it's worse today than it was then. Now, the only reason they didn't produce materially and physical things a lot sooner, men could have gone to the moon and back a lot

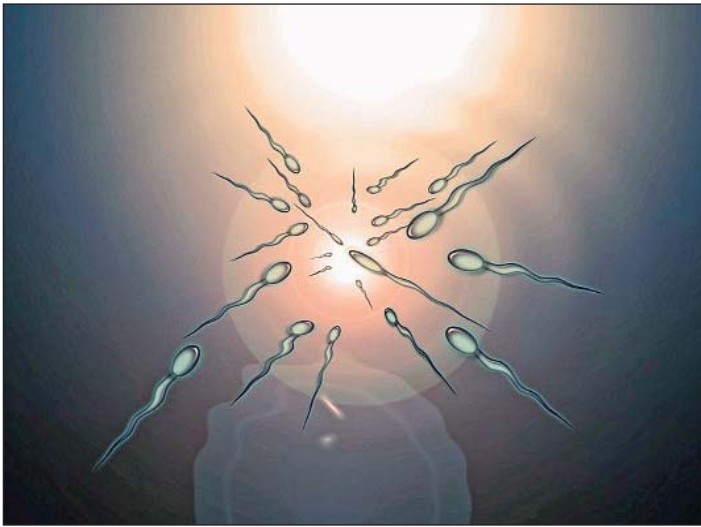
sooner than they did, but they didn't know how to cooperate together. There was always competition, and man didn't know how to get along with man, and so even his material progress was slowed down very greatly and almost stifled, but a human society was built, and human nature came. Now, human nature came from Satan the devil.

Well, let me just say the one thing: In Ephesians 2, it says that you were dead in trespasses and sins, and you were because you were just going to die and anyone is subject to

death in this life. People think they're going to live forever. You're not. This life we're just here for a short time.

But here was this world, and we are the same as dead in trespasses and sins, but now God says "**You are alive.**" In other words, we have life through the Holy Spirit. Jesus came and called His Church out of this world. Jesus came to QUALIFY TO SIT ON THE THRONE OF THE EARTH AND HE DID, before He came to preach a word. After He had qualified, He said, "**The time is fulfilled!**" Now, He had qualified, and He could proclaim the GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD. That's the GOVERNMENT of God, the FAMILY of God that will rule a different civilization, and He came to call people out of this world and to start that new civilization, the WORLD TOMORROW, and that's what the Church is! It's a new civilization just begotten, just started.

Now, let me explain right now while it's on my mind what that means. How were you born? Let me go over it once again. I want to refresh your minds right at this point. You were an ovum in your mother's womb. You came out of one of your mother's ovaries. She had two of them, and you came out of one of them, and you were a little tiny ovum the size of a pinpoint, the size of a period at the end



of a newspaper sentence of just ordinary small type. But there was no life except a maximum of not longer than 28 days and probably not that long.

It is only a temporary existence, but you wouldn't have been born except a sperm cell from the body of your father entered into that ovum and imparted life to it. And it took the male to impart life. Otherwise, it would have only had a temporary existence. And then you became an embryo. You were an embryo human being, but you weren't really a human being yet. You didn't even have human form or shape, and you were as small as a pinpoint.

And after four months you were beginning to take on human shape. There was a sort of a body and off of that body was sprouting arms and legs, and there was a head and things like that were beginning to appear, and inside of that body a heart was forming and veins and arteries were beginning to form, and blood was beginning to circulate, and a heart was beginning to beat, and you were taking on

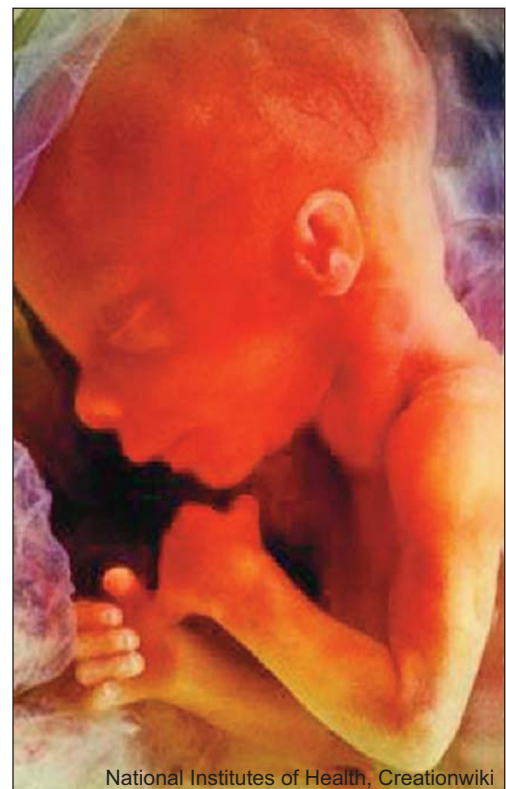


Bill Davenport, Wikimedia

human form and shape, but you were still very, very tiny and just beginning to have human shape.

And it took five more months for you to develop. You weren't born again! You weren't born yet! You were begotten. And after five more months you were ready to come outside of your mother and be born and now to have your own life.

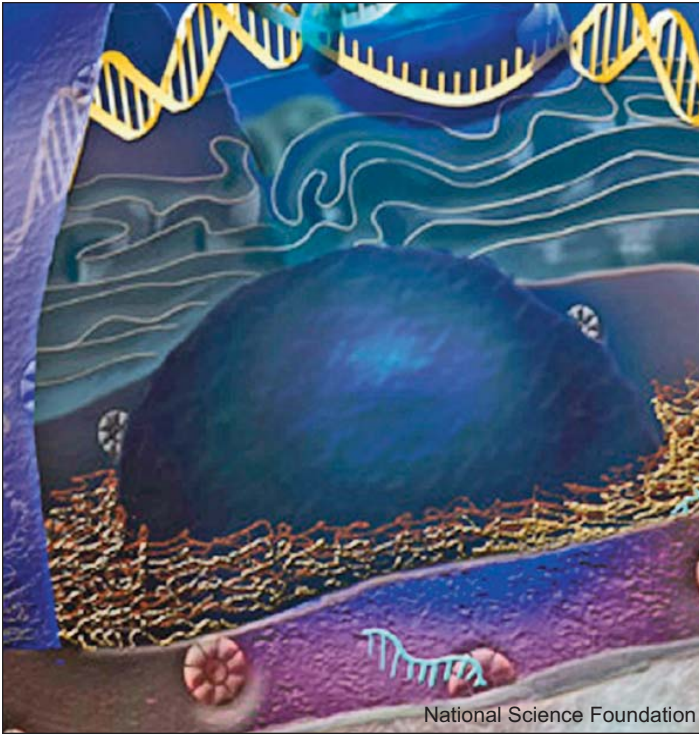
But even now it was only a temporary life, and you had to grab your first breath. And you yelled, "BLAH! BLAH!" I guess it hurts the lungs when they grab that first breath and makes them yell out, and that's the way you were born. Well, now let me tell you, if you receive God's Spirit in the Church, the Church is merely an ovum with the Holy Spirit of God impregnated. And we are an impregnated ovum,



National Institutes of Health, Creationwiki

and we are therefore an embryo impregnated by the Holy Spirit that comes from the very body of the Father who is God! And this is the Divine Father coming into us, and His Spirit therefore mingles with our spirit.

And the Spirit in us as we grow up is the nucleus, and we as a human being, an adult human being, is a fetus, and a fetus that only has a temporary life and it is not an embryo until the Spirit of God comes, and when the Spirit of God comes in that is, you might say, the earnest. It is not a full



down payment on eternal life. But you are now begotten to be in the Kingdom of God.

THE CHURCH IS AN EMBRYO NOT YET BORN

So the Church is an EMBRYO, the Church IS the KINGDOM OF GOD, but not yet born, not yet with divine life only just the life of the Holy Spirit in us with ours, and Satan the devil is still getting to us.

The Spirit of God now is going to open our mind to understand God's knowledge, and it's as many as are LED by the Holy Spirit as God through the Holy Spirit reveals knowledge. God is the teacher. The Holy Spirit opens your mind to understand that teaching. Does the Spirit of God open your mind to understand what I'm teaching you now today? How wonderful it is that we can be begotten into the Kingdom of God. We are begotten gods, children of God.

Do you realize how great that is, brethren, or is it of that much consequence to you? THAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THAT COULD POSSIBLY HAPPEN! And we just take it as if it's, well, everyone's supposed to go to Church and I guess maybe we should have the Holy Spirit, but you don't know if you've got it or not. Is that the way you look at it? Is it just of no consequence? OR IS IT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THAT EVER HAPPENED OR EVER COULD HAPPEN IN ALL THE UNIVERSE TO ANYBODY? TO BE AN ACTUAL CHILD OF GOD!

And Scriptures say, "**Behold NOW are we the children of God.**" It just doesn't appear yet what we will be. That doesn't appear yet. It will appear because then we'll be like Christ, and this vile body will be changed into a Spirit body like His when He comes.

So I tell you, what is the solution of all the problems in the world? The world is in trouble. The solution is that the Spirit of God must come as a result through Christ. Christ is the door, but Jesus said, "**NO MAN CAN COME TO ME EXCEPT THE SPIRIT OF THE FATHER, EXCEPT THE FATHER THAT SENT ME DRAWS HIM!**" And God is only drawing a few now!

Now, I want to get to that now. WHY IS GOD ONLY DRAWING A FEW NOW? Why is God calling THIS Church, and it's just as many of you sitting here as HAVE the Spirit of God and are being LED by the Spirit of God that are really in the Church because you're not baptized into the Church in water.

Well, that didn't put you into the Church. Did you think it did? A lot of you have been thinking wrong. That didn't put you into the Church. Let me read it to you, Romans the eighth, the seventh, no the eighth chapter, the ninth verse, "**But you are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit,**" that's the Spirit of God, "**IF so be, that the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.**" He's not a Christian, and he's not a member of the Church, "**By ONE SPIRIT ARE WE ALL BAPTIZED INTO THE ONE BODY OF THE CHURCH**", by one Spirit, not by water.

Water baptism is only something you are commanded to do to show that you are willing to do what God said, but that doesn't put you in the Church. So don't ever say, "Oh, I'm a member of the Church because I was baptized," meaning you were baptized in water, not unless you have the Holy Spirit to open your mind to comprehend the teaching of God, and unless you are being led by that teaching once you hear it, that you follow it! "**Not the HEARERS of the LAW are just before God, but the DOERS OF THE LAW shall be justified!**"

You first have to hear it or read it, then you have to DO IT because knowledge alone won't save you, but you have to have the knowledge before you know what to do, but it's



the doing that finally saves you. Oh, I hope we can get these things straight.

JESUS CHRIST BUILDING HIS CHURCH

Now then, I'm coming to the most important part of all. Jesus said, **"I will build My Church,"** but He said also John 6:44, read it in your Bible there: **"NO MAN CAN COME TO ME!"** Now there is only one door to God, and that's Christ. There's no other way you can get to God but through Christ and yet He said, **"NO MAN CAN COME TO ME, except the Father draws him,"** and God is only drawing a few. Why? Why isn't He drawing them all? Well, how did God start the Church? Now, let's get to that. Jesus called 12 disciples. Now, they didn't choose Him. He was walking along a place, and I know, I've walked along that same place many times. I've been all around the Sea of Galilee, and I think there is only one place that it could be, the place that He was walking along, and He saw Peter and his brother Andrew out in a boat with their father.

And they were fishermen. You know like father, like son, and they were two sons of their father. And it was Simon and Andrew really because his name wasn't Peter. His name was Simon, and Jesus called him and said, **"Come follow Me. I'm going to make you fishers of men. You are through fishing for that kind of fish."** And they came.

Apparently Jesus didn't call the father, but He called those two brothers, and they came. And when Jesus saw Peter, He said, **"Thou art Peter,"** or **"Cephas,"** I forget which, it means the same thing, and anyway, Peter is merely a surname, and it says that Jesus surnamed Simon Peter.

Now his real name was Simon the son of Jonah, and Jonah was his father, but Jesus surnamed him, and a surname is a title designating the kind of job or occupation you have. Now, Peter is the title of a leader, and Peter was made to be the human leader in the Church of the apostles, and Christ made him the leader. He chose 11 others along with it.

But now I want you to notice the Great Commission. Jesus taught those apostles for 3½ years. Now, they went to school. They didn't sit in a classroom. It was a little different. He followed His own system, and they went from city to city, and they all went along with Him, and they had to walk most of the way. I don't know how they slept. It doesn't say much about that in the Bible, but Jesus taught them, and they were listening.

And now Jesus preached to the people, but as a witness. He didn't call them to be converted. He only called primarily these 12, however, to those He preached, He said, **"Repent ye and believe the gospel,"** the good news of the Kingdom of God. And it is recorded that on the Day of Pentecost there were a total of 120, including this 12 that had come and were there ready to receive the Holy Spirit when the Church was founded on that day.

Now, Jesus taught them so they could become teachers. Now, I want you to get this principle. He didn't start a Church with a lot of members. He only started a few students that they could become teachers and that He could start the Church around them, and they would be the foundation of the Church, and they would be the teachers! Do you get that, brethren? He didn't call members of the Church at all. He called students, and they weren't members of the Church. They were taught so they could become teachers and when He started the Church He had teachers already there, and the teachers were the apostles. Now, I don't think you've ever understood that before. Did you get that?

He taught them, and when He had finished teaching them He had some people taught to become teachers. They had

been students or, you see if you look up in a dictionary – the word disciple and what do you think I'd find in the dictionary? It means a student or a learner, one who is learning and who is a student. The disciples were students, and Jesus was the teacher. Now then, when they were taught and ready to be graduated and they didn't graduate until they received the Holy Spirit, and that was going to come later, after Christ's crucifixion. But He called them, and I want you to notice now in Matthew 28, Matthew 28 verse 18, notice the Great Commission. Let's see if you don't see something here you never noticed before. Here is the Great Commission, **“Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, ‘All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.’”** He had qualified. Now He had ALL POWER IN HEAVEN AND EARTH!

And He said, therefore, **“Go ye therefore, in view of the fact I have that power and you represent Me you have that, I am giving you power of attorney to represent me, and I am conferring some of that power on you.”**

“Go ye therefore, and TEACH.” They were now teachers. They were going to become the teachers, and the ones they teach were going to be the students, but no man was going to come and could be taught spiritual knowledge except the Father drew them. But they, He said to Peter, **“Feed the flock. Go and TEACH. Go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name, or into the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit: TEACHING,”** there again **“teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.”** He spent 3½ years teaching them the doctrines, the way of life, how to live.

And it's all based on the word LOVE, and it's all based on loving God first of all and then on loving your fellow man AS yourself, but you have to even love your own self because the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and you need to take care of it. Be sure of the food you poke into it, be sure of the kind of mental food you poke into your mind and take care of this body, and most people don't!

Most people don't know what they ought to eat. They've never studied to find out and a very large percentage of people are way overweight. They eat too much. They abuse their bodies by eating too much. They feed their minds on the wrong kind of food. You don't even love yourself like God intended you to, but its love to God and your neighbor AS yourself, and there is a responsibility towards your own self. So that's what He said to do.

Now the Holy Spirit was not then given yet to everybody. Back in Joel 2:28, where Joel the prophet made this prophecy, **“It shall come to pass afterward,”** now actually this has not fully happened yet, **“afterward, that I will pour out of My Spirit,”** that's God speaking. God says that He will pour out His Spirit, upon **“ALL flesh.”**



Well, He's not doing that yet. He's only pouring out His Spirit on those that God calls because Jesus said that no man could come except those called by God. Now why did Jesus, Jesus didn't go out and say, “Well, who will come? Whosoever will, may come.” Oh, no! He chose 12. HE selected them. They didn't have anything to say about it. Jesus decided who He would call. Peter

didn't decide he'd be the head, the leader among the ministers of the Church, the apostles. Jesus decided it.

The Apostle Paul didn't decide it. Jesus struck him down blind and put him through quite an experience to wake him up because he was going the wrong way and Jesus just turned him around to go the other direction so to speak.

So it isn't a case of whoever will can come— get into the Kingdom of God. No, not now and there is a reason, and I want to explain that reason, and I haven't come to the real crux of this sermon yet. All this is building up to it. Now we're coming to it.

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

The Day of Pentecost He called a 120 that were filled with the Holy Spirit that day. I don't need to turn to it and read

that in Acts the second chapter, beginning with verse 1. But now, with the spiritual mind they were sent out to grow in grace and in knowledge. II Peter 3:18 where Peter said, it's the last words of Peter in his **II Peter 3:18, "Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!"** Now anyone who comes to have the Holy Spirit now the Spirit of God will open their mind to understand when they are taught. So you must grow in spiritual knowledge, in other words go to school. That's what it means. Go to school.

Now, next I want to read from Hebrews the fifth chapter and verse 12. I want you to notice Paul says here in writing this book of Hebrews, **"For when for the time ye ought to be TEACHERS."** Now, he's talking to people in the Church and says, **"YOU OUGHT TO BE TEACHERS, you in the Church. You should have learned enough to be a teacher."**

"You have need that one teach you again" because they weren't good students, and they weren't paying any attention in the first grade and the second grade and the third grade, and they didn't learn very well.

To **"teach you again ... the first principles of the oracles of God,"** as in spiritual knowledge and the way of God, and to become **"such as have need of,"** you are **"become such as need of milk, and not strong meat"** or solid food. Only just liquids and milk like a little baby. A baby hasn't grown up yet. We, although we're grown human beings, are merely infants in Christ. We are merely in the embryo and the fetus stage of the Kingdom of God.

Now, you notice Revelation 5 and verse 10 where it's speaking here of Christ **"hast made us unto our God, kings and priests,"** and priests means teachers, and we're to be teachers and kings ruling and teaching. **"And ye shall reign on the earth,"** that's in the Kingdom of God and we're being taught. Everyone in the Church is now a student **BEING TAUGHT SO WE CAN BECOME TEACHERS AND RULERS UNDER CHRIST IN THE KINGDOM! THAT'S THE POINT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET OVER!**

Now, I want you to notice what Jesus said here in **Revelation 3:21, "To him that OVERCOMETH,"** overcomes

the wrong things and goes by the way he's learning, and learning in spiritual knowledge. **"Will I grant to sit with Me on My throne, even as I ... overcame and am set down with My Father on His throne."**

And in Revelation 2, verses 26 and 27, **"and He that overcometh, and keepeth My works unto to the end, to him will I give POWER over the nations: and he shall RULE them with a rod of iron,"** but we're going to teach them a new way of living! The Kingdom of God will have to live a different way if we're going to have peace. We don't have peace in this world.

But the Church is the Kingdom of God in embryo. Now, I have to give you this in conclusion. When I was over in Amman just recently in Jordan, I found that the princess who is the wife of the heir apparent to the throne, in other words it's King Hussein's brother, Prince Hassan, she had started a school for the mentally retarded, and I got interested in that. I went out to see the school, and the princess showed me all the way through. And they had mentally retarded children, and they were trying to teach them. They even had to teach them how to put a button in a button hole. They had to teach them how to go to the toilet, and they had little practice toilets for these little kids. They had to be taught how to do everything because they were mentally retarded, and their parents didn't know how to teach them.

Now, they had just a little over a hundred pupils there, I believe it was, and I said, "Well, now is this all of the mentally retarded people in your nation here?" She said, "Oh, no, it's only a small fraction." I said, "Ooh, you mean you've got a lot more mentally retarded?" "Oh yes." "Well," I said, "Why can't you go on and teach them all?" "Well. Mr. Armstrong, we can't teach them until we first teach teachers. We have to get other people taught how to teach them, and we can't do it and are trying to do that."

Do you see? Jesus couldn't start the Church until He taught some to be teachers. Jesus can't start the Kingdom of God until He has **ALL OF US AS TEACHERS TO TEACH THE MILLIONS!** So He called 12 to teach a few thousand, and there were 3,000 converted that very first day, and they were taught by the 12. And then they were multiplied for a few days, and they must have gotten up to about 100,000 or so and about the size of this Church right now.

And then they went backward and then the false doctrines came in and false apostles, and the true gospel was suppressed and was not preached to the world, and even the true Church began to lose most of the teaching that they had.

When I came among them, they knew the right name, Kingdom of God, they knew about the Sabbath, but oh, there was so much they didn't know! They didn't know about the annual Holy Days. They didn't know the purpose of the Church. They didn't know the meaning of it. They didn't know what was going to happen in the Millennium. They just knew there would be one, but they didn't know anything about it.

You have to teach teachers to teach the others. Christ came to start a NEW WORLD, A NEW CIVILIZATION! People think this civilization is wonderful. OH, it's Satan's civilization! Jesus came to start GOD'S civilization. He started it with 12. Then He started it with the Church. Now here are more than a thousand of us right here today, and each of us is going to be able to teach several hundred if not a thousand, and if there are a thousand of us and each of us can teach a thousand, a thousand thousand, let's see, is that a million? I guess so. How many does it take to teach the billions of the earth?

That's why God did not call everybody. He was not calling the world to salvation. The world can't be saved until they learn the way of God, and to learn they first have to have the Spirit of God, and then begin to learn at the beginning in first and second grade. And then maybe the equivalent to junior high and high school, and then they can get into the college and university. And He's calling us now in order that in the Millennium we can teach the millions and even the billions! We have to learn the way of living of God. The way that is cooperation that helps to produce and, brethren, ultimately, after that thousand years and the Great White Throne Judgment, we are going to go to other planets, and we're going to raise up new people. We're going to start

new worlds, and it's going to go on and on until there are billions times billions of people, and God is starting with a few of us. DOES THAT MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU? IS THAT A CHALLENGE TO YOU TO GET ON FIRE AND TO LEARN MORE? But learning alone isn't enough. You have to be doers of the word as well as hearers and learners, so God is developing character and that is the knowledge plus the action of doing.

THE MEANING OF THE CHURCH

Then I want to give you the MEANING OF THE CHURCH! The people in the churches of this world haven't any idea of why there should be a church. Why has not God called everybody? Just like in Jordan, they have to teach teachers before they can teach others, these kids. And God has to call and teach teachers before we can teach the others, and they have to be taught before they know how to live in a way to build a right society and a right civilization that will be both happy and productive, and everybody cooperating with everybody, and everybody at peace and enjoying life, and none of the troubles that we are having in this world today. Do you get the message, brethren?

And the purpose of the Church is to CALL people that GOD HAS CALLED AND GOD SELECTS THEM to be educated, to be taught now as students so that we can become teachers when God does start to save the world! The world has to be TAUGHT HOW TO LIVE! The world has to be taught how to cooperate! And

they have to be taught that they have to have a head, a leader, who is God, and God leads through Christ, and Christ has to have human leaders. He leads on this earth with me, through me, and I lead through different ministers and through heads of different departments and through men over the heads in Australia, in South Africa, in England and other countries around the world. There is organization, and there has to be such organization.

And Satan has done everything he could to stop this. He tried to kill the Christ child, and then he tried to get Christ,



tempt Him when He was 30 years old, just before He began to preach. He has thrown everything he has at me personally. You don't know what Satan has thrown at me personally, and what I've had to suffer! And Satan is the accuser of the brethren, and he's accused me of this, that and the other thing. Every rotten thing that Satan can think up, he just thinks it up, and I'm supposed to be guilty of it.



You were given the opportunity that Adam had, and you have to make the same decision he did, but you're now, you're students. What are you going to do? How much are you going to learn?

As I say, we are doing everything we can; we have all kinds of things to feed people. We're trying to teach you. We are trying, and you are students, and there is no Church like this on the face of the earth. The oth-

And, brethren, I want to tell you, those that were in the Church and that got embittered and have gone out. They are much more concerned about this Church and what goes on in the Church than you people who are in it. With them, it's their life, it's just their energy! What's going on in this Church? They are against it, and they want to destroy it, and with them it's a PASSION!

A PASSION TO LEARN THE WAY OF GOD

Is it a passion with you to learn to be a student, to get good grades of learning the way of God, the way of life of God and to be a teacher of others? They have to be taught from the ground up the way of life of God and of Christ, and you are all called or otherwise, what are you doing here if God hasn't called you?

Well, God help you to open your minds to see and to have a vision and to have ambition to get there and for the Kingdom of God. And ambition is a desire plus the willpower, of the effort, to put forth the effort and the inspiration to WANT TO DO IT! IS YOUR WHOLE HEART IN IT, BRETHREN? Or is it just a little something that's, and are you just here to be amused and entertained or were you here to learn something today? Well, God help you.

ers are not Churches of God. They are churches of men! They are part of Satan's world, and Jesus says the people in them are the children of Satan. We're called to become the children of God.

Oh, brethren, I hope you get it! I hope you can put your WHOLE HEARTS into it! And some of you are, in fact, many of you are. I feel that somehow we haven't really been stirred, we haven't really GOTTEN the message, and we don't have that inspiration we ought to have.

Well, I hope that God gives me a little of that inspiration, that it's catching, and that you catch it, and that you get to have the dynamic interest and vitality and will to go ahead in it, that God has given me. I wear myself out, and I hope that you will, too. Thank you very much, brethren.



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.

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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

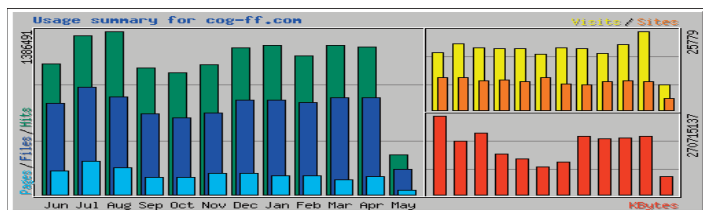
Which Day is the Christian Sabbath?
www.sabbathcentral.com

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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