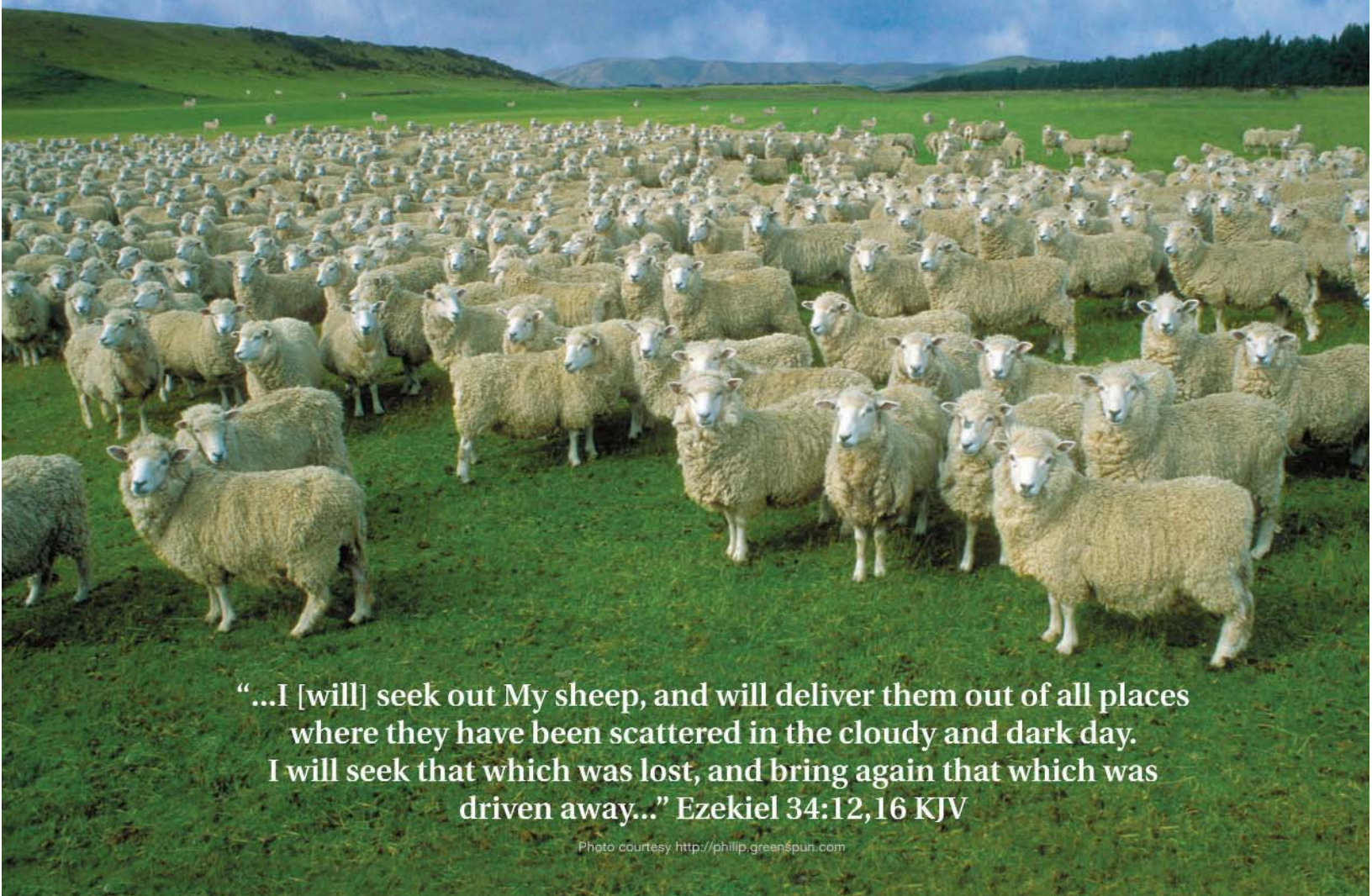


The _____ Philadelphia Remnant

July/August 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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JULY/AUGUST 2010

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

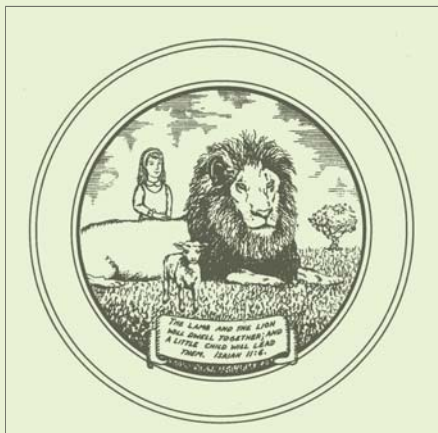
The Church of God Faithful Flock, with headquarters in Modesto, California, humbly presents this magazine – *The Philadelphia Remnant*, which continues to provide a conduit for the work Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong spear-headed, the work of reaching out to people worldwide with the message of the soon-coming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

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

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Revelation 12 in Prophecy

By Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong
Passover Day 1981

Well, greetings to all of you. This is the third time I've spoken to you since I've come back to Pasadena, but the first time to the Church.

I'd like to speak today on a prophecy. You know I think we seldom think of it this way, but the Bible gives us prophecies in about two or three different categories. There is one prophecy or series of prophecies found several different places in the Bible, probably somewhat based on Daniel, especially Daniel 2 and Daniel 7, although some of the other chapters in Daniel go along with it. In fact, the whole book in a sense; and it's connected up with Revelation 13 and Revelation 17.

Now, those prophecies are concerned about conditions in Satan's world, the governments of this world that are now replacing the government of God, the Kingdom of God. Of course, the Kingdom of God has never been established yet.

But the government of God was on this earth under angels at one time, only there was rebellion, and the angels sinned, and so we read of the angels that sinned in II Peter the second chapter and verse four.

Now, there is another prophecy in the 12th chapter of Revelation, which is a prophecy concerning the Church and especially the Church in relation to Satan. There are two Churches mentioned in the book of Revelation.

One is the true Church of God, a small persecuted Church, persecuted by Satan, persecuted by the governments of this world, which are the governments of Satan. The world doesn't realize it, of course, but they are actually the governments of



MR. HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

Satan. Then we have the prophecies, the principle prophecy you might say of the New Testament is the prophecy of Jesus that you find in Matthew 24, and Luke 14 and Mark 21. Jesus there is speaking also of the conditions in the world and of the Church and the condition of, well, the effect that the Church is having in the world, what would happen in the world and those of His disciples that were in the world.

I'm going to touch on some of those things, but today I'm going to take as my theme something I have never done before, the 12th chapter of the book of Revelation and, in effect, it spans the entire course of the Church.

THE CHURCH OF GOD – REVELATION 12

Now, the Church did not begin in the year of 31 A.D. as sometimes we mistakenly think. The New Testament Church did, which we call and

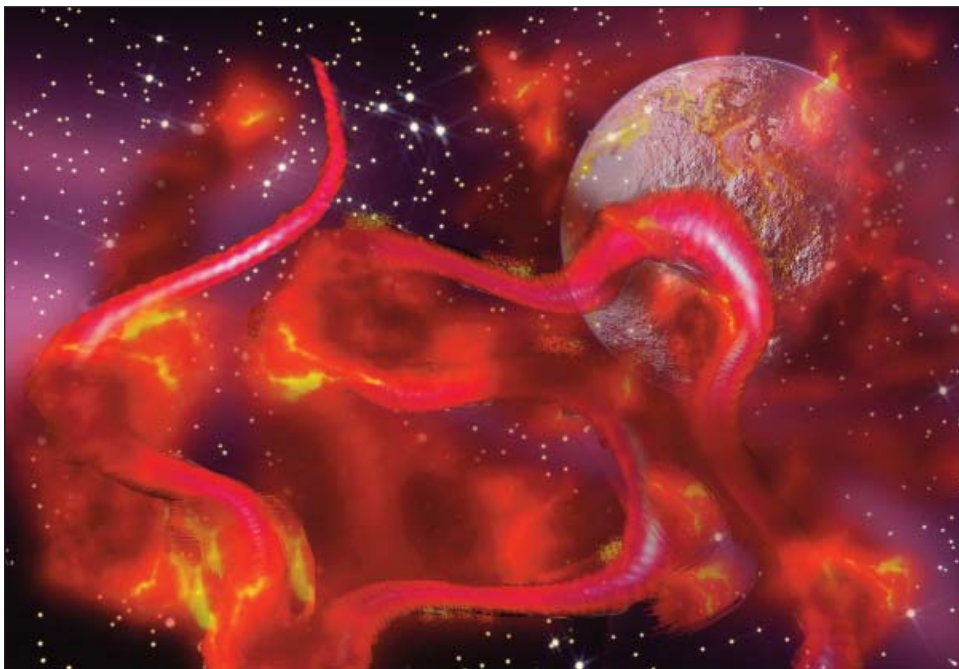


SATAN ON EARTH'S THRONE

we think of as the Church. But you find the Congregation of Israel, which was both the Congregation of Israel and also the Kingdom of Israel.

It was one of the world's governments and one of the world's kingdoms or nations. But it also was a spiritual or religious, not spiritual but a religious congregation. It was not called church. It was called congregation, but the two words mean exactly the same thing, a called out assembly or group of people, and so, in a sense, the Church started back there under Israel.

Now, I'd like to begin in the 12th chapter of Revelation, **"There appeared a great wonder in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun."** Now the book of Revelation is primarily written in symbols, symbolic language and a woman is simply a symbol of a Church. So it's speaking of a Church, and this is the Congregation of Israel, which was the Kingdom of Israel back beginning with the days of Moses. This woman was **"clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of 12 stars,"** symbolic, of course, of the 12 tribes of Israel, although stars are often referred to as angels or as sometimes human leaders.



RED DRAGON'S TAIL DRAWS THIRD PART OF STARS OF HEAVEN

"And she, being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered." In other words, Christ was born of the tribe of Judah of the kingdom of ancient Israel, although Judah had split off and become a separate kingdom in the days of Rehoboam, after the days of Solomon.

"And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads." Now, that ties right in with Revelation 13 and also to a certain extent Revelation 17, although the same symbols are not in the 17th chapter. But it is referring to the governments of this world under Satan that you find in Daniel 2, Daniel 7 and Revelation 13 and 17.

SATAN THE REBEL AND ADVERSARY

Of course, that great red dragon as we see as we proceed is Satan the devil, **"and his tail drew a third part of the stars of heaven,"** that is a third of the angels. Stars, again, are a symbol of angels, and they are sometimes used as a symbol of human leaders or human messengers.

"His tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born." That, of course, is the Christ child, born of Judah. Jesus came to His Own — the tribe of Judah, the Kingdom of Judah. His own received Him not. But Satan tried to devour through the Roman king



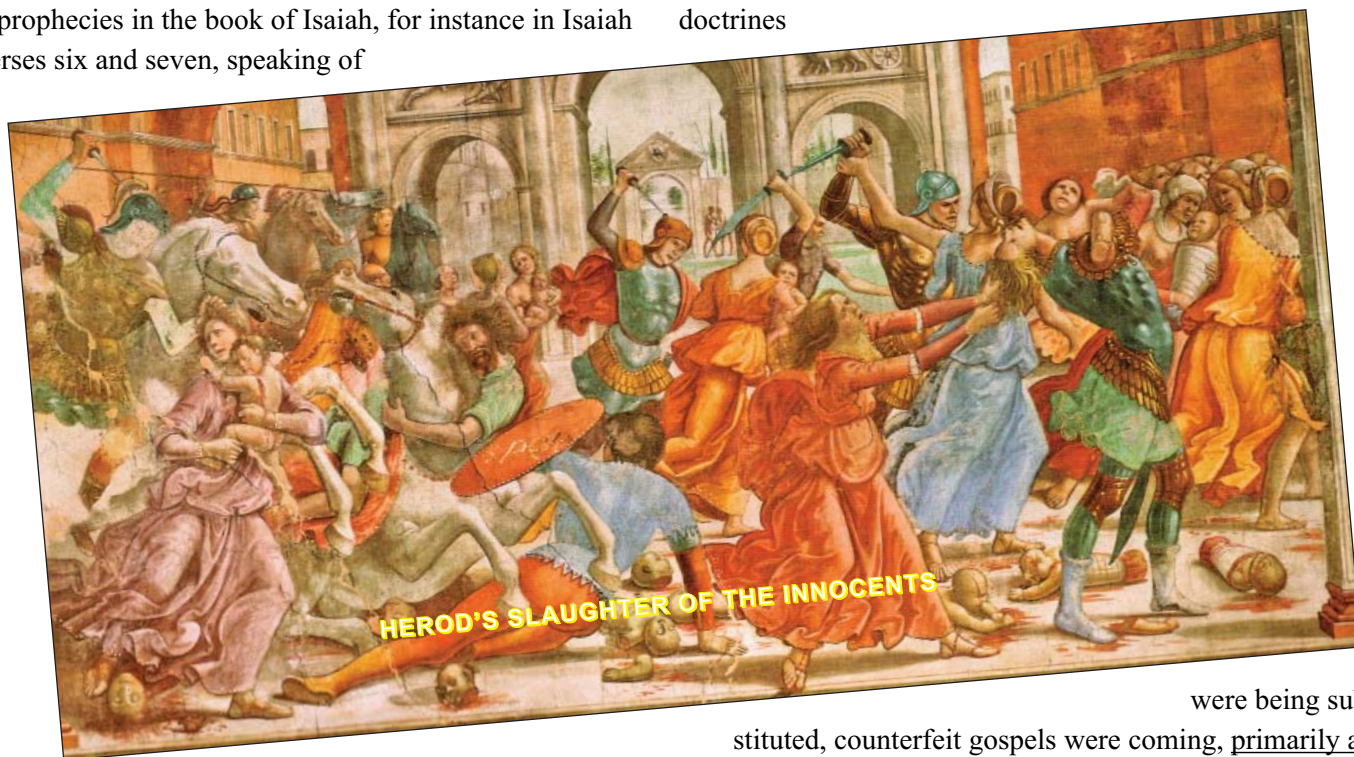
and through the Roman government that was in authority in Palestine at the time, as soon as Jesus was born. God had to warn Joseph and Mary – Mary was the mother of Jesus – to flee with the Christ child into Egypt until King Herod was dead.

And then they came back, and they went up to Nazareth, where Jesus was brought up, and he failed in that attempt. Again Satan tried to devour Jesus when he was 30 years old before He began to preach, before He began His ministry. But she brought forth the man child who was to rule all nations. So much in the Bible speaks of Jesus as a coming King.

The prophecies in the book of Isaiah, for instance in Isaiah 9, verses six and seven, speaking of

Satan's attack, Jesus' ministry, His death, His resurrection, His ascension to heaven caught up to God. All that has been covered in that little space that I have just read to you.

“And the woman,” the Church, **“fled into the wilderness.”** Now we get into the Middle Ages, part of the time the Church had to flee. About the year of 53 A.D., when the Apostle Paul wrote the book of Galatians, we find that the Gospel was already beginning to be suppressed. Jesus came, preached the Gospel, taught it to His disciples who became the original apostles, the original leaders of the Church, and the Church, of course, followed that doctrine and that teaching. And, that began in 31 A.D., but by 53 A.D. the Church had hardly become of age, and false doctrines



Jesus as a coming King to rule over nations and that His Kingdom would endure forever. It was spoken to Mary before Jesus was born by the angel.

Jesus said He was born to be a King, for that cause He came into the world, but His Kingdom was not of this time, this age or this world. This is Satan's world and His Kingdom is for the World Tomorrow, which is soon to dawn now in our time.

She brought forth this Child Who **“was to rule all nations with a rod of iron, and her Child was caught up unto God and to His throne.”** Now there quickly, it's traveled over the time from ancient Israel, the birth of Christ,

were being substituted, counterfeit gospels were coming, primarily a Gospel, it turned out to be later about the Messenger who brought the message.

Now, we're going to see just a little later that Christ was the Messenger of the New Covenant. He brought that message, and He came as a Messenger and that message was His Gospel. But it was the government again under Satan that persecuted the Church.

They had to meet secretly, and they finally even had to flee into the mountains in the Middle Ages, the Waldenses and other people like that, where a place was prepared of God, **“that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and three score days”** – 1,260 years.



WALDENSIA NS FLEE INTO THE WILDERNESS

Now, that particular 1,260 years is not synonymous with the 1,260 years of the revival of the ancient Roman Empire. It was revived in 554 as the Holy Roman Empire, and it lasted 1,260 years until Napoleon's Waterloo, as we call it, in the year of 1814, and that was 1,260 years, but that is a different 1,260 years apparently. Anyway, that carries us through the Middle Ages and brings us up to approximately our time now. So you notice how many years are covered in just a few short verses here in this 12th chapter.

Now, this 12th chapter of Revelation will cover clear up to the Second Coming of Christ. Now I want to begin to fill in other prophecies with it and some of the other things that are not mentioned at this place.

THE FLIGHT TO SAFETY

I'd like to show you first one thing about a duality of the 1,260 days. There were two of those, and they were not synonymous, but this flight of the woman into the wilderness was symbol. ... or was a forerunner of a duality of prophecy you might say of the Church today, this Church, our Church, that is to be taken on the two wings of a great eagle to a place of safety.

And it's time that we get back to that again, now. And I notice that some of our ministers are beginning to speak on it, and it's time that we get back to it. I've not said much about it now for about 20, 25 years, because at least one minister was ridiculing the whole idea, as much of the Bible was ridiculed at the time. And again, I was only speaking about this time a few being taken to a place of safety. I guess I was just ahead of my time a little bit.

THE TIMING OF JESUS CHRIST'S RETURN

I was in a lot of things. Way back in the time of World War II and even prior to World War II, I was speaking a great deal on the air about the Day of the Lord. I

thought it would be here almost im-

mediately. Yes, I was wrong, but you see Peter was wrong and all of the original apostles, and the Apostle Paul was wrong. They thought the Second Coming of Christ was going to be immediately in their time, in their generation 1,950 years ago. So they were wrong and, of course, I had to be a little wrong, too, or ahead of my time.

KNOWING THE TIME – NOW!

And so, I have not been speaking so much about the Day of the Lord now for some 25 or 30, no it's more like 35 years, or more. But it is time to get back to that now because we are coming into that time very quickly now. That's one reason I have selected this subject to speak to you today. *I want you to know the time we are in NOW!*

Where are we in the time of prophecy as a Church? As I say, some of the prophecies speak about conditions in the world. This speaks of the condition of the Church in relation to Satan.

Now, at that point I want to go back to Matthew 24, and I want to cover the first five verses. Matthew 24, Well, Jesus was speaking to His disciples in the temple, at the temple. **“Jesus said unto them, ‘See ye not all of these things?’**

Continued on Page 26

Personal from the Editor

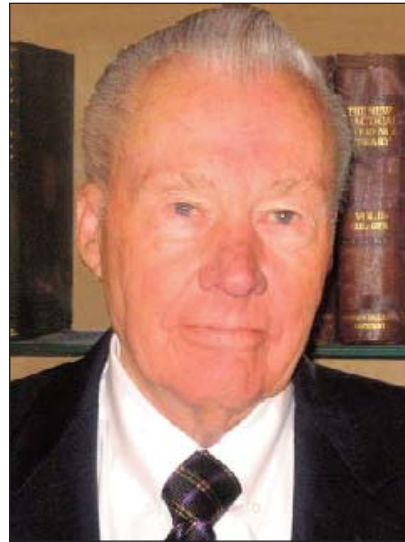
By Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley

'Anointed as Kings and Priests'

'... To Him who loved us and washed us from our own sins in His own blood, and has made us Kings and Priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen (Revelation 1:5-6).'

'... And has made us Kings and Priests to His God and Father (present tense) ...'

This Scripture, along with related ones, make known those who have been called and chosen in this age, upon being impregnated by the Holy Spirit from God our Father, were consecrated to become the sons and daughters of our Father (*each one selectively*



Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

chosen to be a part of the worship and service of God, John 6:44, 15:16).

Scriptures further make known the true sons and daughters of the true Church of God are to become the BRIDE of Jesus Christ.

They also have been anointed as kings and priests to share with Him a king/priest throne – a royal priesthood (Revelation 1:5-6, 20:6, 19:7-9; I Peter 2:9).

Scripture also makes known that this anointing by Jesus Christ has been given by the will and authority of our Father to Him. As Jesus said, **"Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner ... (John 5:19, 30)."**

Cruden's Concordance, Anoint: To pour oil upon with the idea of consecrating the person or thing to God, or to set him apart for an office (Genesis 31:13, Exodus 28:41). Because kings and priests were the persons most frequently spoken of as God's anointed (II Samuel 23:1, Isaiah 45:1) in like manner Jesus Christ as King and Priest was so termed (Acts 10:38).

"... God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil for God was with Him (Acts 10:38)."

OLIVE OIL SYMBOLIC OF GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT

Though olive oil was used during the coronation of kings and priests in the Old Testament, there is no Scripture in the New Testament that reveals oil is to be used for any other sacred purpose than being smeared on a person requesting to be anointed (*meaning: having hands laid on a person requesting prayer for some physical health problem*) as in James 5:14.





4:1-11, John 12:31, Luke 1:32).

Pilate asked Jesus: “**Are You the King of the Jews?**” Jesus responded to his question by saying, “**My Kingdom is not of this world (present age) ... My Kingdom is not from here** (John 18:33, 36).”

Pilate persisted: “**Are You a King then?**”

Jesus answered, “**You say rightly that I am a King. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice** (John 18:36-37).”

It should be recalled that God’s Holy Spirit was given to Jesus Christ without measure as a human baby (John 3:34); and since He has returned to His former Divinity He is Spirit with limitless powers.

No olive oil was needed then nor will it be during the coronation ceremony when He is crowned KING of Kings and LORD of Lords for it is only symbolic of God’s Holy Spirit.

Neither will Christ pour olive oil over each one when crowned as King and Priest, for then each one will have become Spirit sons and daughters having been born into the Elohim Family with awesome spirit power (John 3:3, 10:34; Psalm 82:6).



JESUS CHRIST BEFORE PILATE IN JUDGMENT

Jesus Christ knew He was already a KING in waiting and made it known to Pilate while facing him in judgment.

He also knew the time had not come for Him to ascend to His throne to rule over all nations for it was first necessary He qualify to replace Satan’s rule over this earth (Mathew

JESUS CHRIST SOON TO BE CROWNED AS KING

The prophet Daniel wrote of the very special coronation ceremony in which Christ will receive His crown from His heavenly Father; and that it will take place in heaven with an awesome coronation ceremony with great pomp and ceremony just before He returns to this earth.

PREPARATION FOR CHRIST’S CORONATION

“**I watched till thrones were put in place** (*margin: set up*), **and the Ancient of Days** (*God*

the Father) **was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheel a burning fire; a fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened** (Daniel 7:9-10).”



MANY CROWNS ...
and He had on His
robe and on His
thigh a name writ-
ten **KING OF**
KINGS AND LORD
OF LORDS (Revela-
tion 19:11-12, 16).”

GOD’S ELECT – KINGS IN WAITING

“...To Him who
loved us and washed
us from our own
sins in His own
blood, and has made
us Kings and Priests
to His God and Fa-
ther ... (Revelation
1:5-6)”

JESUS CHRIST ROYALLY ESCORTED BEFORE THE FATHER TO BE CROWNED

“I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they (*the holy angels*) brought Him near before Him (*His Father*) (Daniel 7:13).”

JESUS CHRIST CROWNED KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

“Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed (Daniel 7:14, Revelation 19:16).”

Jesus Christ will then begin His preparation to descend to this earth to begin His rule as KING of Kings:

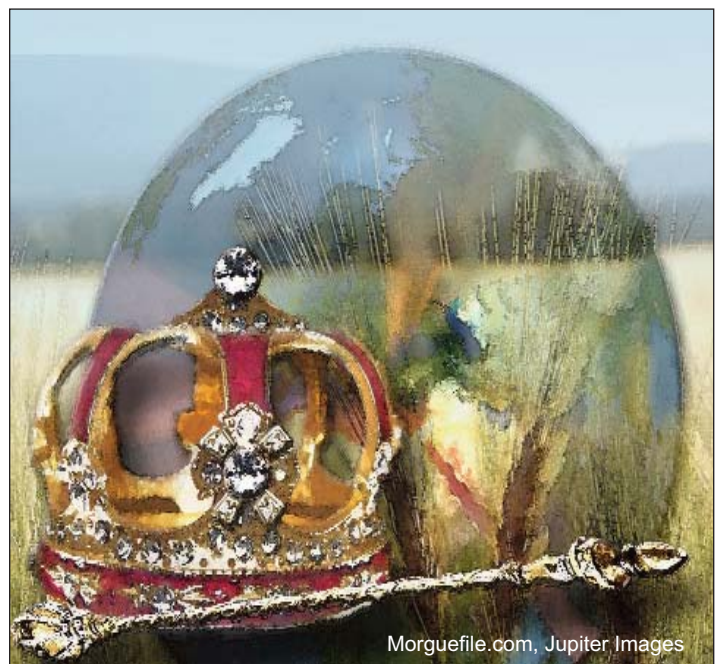
“Then the seventh angel sounded. And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our LORD and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever’ (Revelation 11:15-19).”

JESUS CHRIST BEGINS HIS DESCENT TO EARTH

“Then I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were

The implication from many Scriptures is that these offices were pre-ordained by our Father and Jesus Christ to be within the Holy Spirit of begetting as it was with the Messiah when He was impregnated within the womb of the virgin Mary – predestined before the beginning of time (Luke 1:26-35, Ephesians 1:4-5, II Timothy 1:9, Titus 1:2).

This very special and holy anointing is given as a down payment by our Father and Jesus Christ through their Holy Spirit to each begotten son and daughter as made known in the writings of the apostles Paul and John:





“Now He who establishes us with you in Christ (*the Anointed One, Messiah*, Daniel 9:24) and has **ANOINTED** us is God (*our Father by receiving His Holy Spirit*), who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a deposit (II Corinthians 1:21-22, I John 2:20, 27).”

A/C Correspondence Course, Lesson 50 (www.cogff.com) “The receiving of the Holy Spirit is called an anointing (I John 2:20).”

As the result, God’s true elect, having been chosen by our Father to become His Son’s bride, also has given each one to Jesus Christ to be a king and a priest in waiting.

KINGS TO AID CHRIST IN THE COMING WORLD

The Holy Scriptures reveals that Jesus Christ, as KING, will have many thousands of Kings of lesser offices to aid Him in ruling and teaching the world in their everlasting offices, men and women having qualified as did Jesus Christ and then counted worthy to stand before Him at His coming (Revelation 2:26, 3:21, 5:10; I Corinthians 9:25-27, Titus 2:12-13, Daniel 7:18, 27, Luke 21:36).

THE ANALOGY OF CHRIST’S WORDS TO PILATE

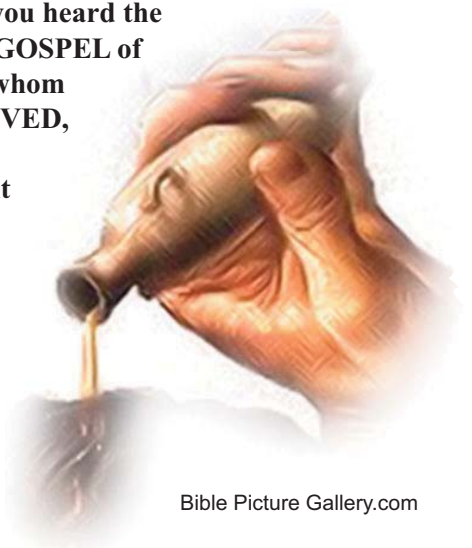
By carefully reading the Scriptures, one should be able to see a direct analogy of what Jesus Christ said to Pilate about Himself, and also speaks of God’s true people as well: Question: “**Are you a King then?**” Each one could answer as did Jesus: “**You say rightly that I am a King. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have**

come [*been born*] into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears [*understands*] My (*Christ’s*) voice (John 18:36-37).”

The awesome words and promises of Jesus Christ can be further understood by the writings of the apostle Paul:

“... Just as He [*our Father*] **CHOSE** us in Him **BEFORE** the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having **PREDESTINED** us to sonship as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.

“ ... Having made known to us **THE MYSTERY** of His will, according to His good pleasure, which He **PURPOSED** in Himself ... in Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the **GOSPEL** of your salvation; in whom also having **BELIEVED**, you were **SEALED** with the Holy Spirit of promise which is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. ... (Ephesians 1:4, 5, 9, 10, 17-21)”



Bible Picture Gallery.com

These Scriptures reveal a direct parallel with Christ and His begotten sons now in human life who are Kings in Waiting:

Jesus Christ said: “For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world” – God’s elect were chosen before the foundation of the world to become His begotten sons.

Having qualified to be born again into the Family of God, they will then be crowned as lesser kings at Christ’s coming – to begin offering salvation to all of mankind – *according to His timetable* – as the following Scripture makes known:

“Having made known to us **THE MYSTERY** of His will, according to His good pleasure, which He **PURPOSED** in Himself that in the dispensation of the **FULLNESS OF THE TIMES** He might **GATHER TOGETHER** IN **ONE** [*FAMILY of God*] **all things in Christ, both which are in the heavens and which are on earth** – in Him (Ephesians 1:9-10).”



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JERUSALEM AT NIGHT

SPIRIT BORN SONS TO BE CROWNED KINGS BY GOD

Having been given all power and authority after His resurrection by God His Father, Jesus Christ will be given by Him the authority to reward each one of His faithful and enduring elect people at His coming with eternal life and given kingship and rule according to our Works after we rise and meet Him in this earth's atmosphere (I Thessalonians 4:16-17, Matthew 28:18, Luke 19:12-19).

Each one will then be brought before Jesus Christ to receive the rewards of crowns and offices of rulership (II Timothy 4:8, I Peter 2:9, Revelation 11:18, Isaiah 40:10, 62:11). All collectively will then descend with Him to this earth to fight against those engaged in the battle of Armageddon (John 18:36, Revelation 19:11-21, Zechariah 14:3, 12-15).



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VALLEY OF MEGIDDO

The Bible Correspondence Course, Lesson 50, (www.cog-ff.com), makes known there will be no reason to go to heaven to be crowned because Jesus Christ will be bringing our reward with Him. Further, Scripture reveals there will be the TRIUMPHANT PARADE of Jesus and His saints to Jerusalem; a MARCH of TRIUMPH AND VICTORY and enormously welcomed with praise and happiness by liberated Judah and Israel. This victory parade CULMINATES CHRIST'S VICTORY over the enemies of His people (Zechariah 9:9, 11-17).

This has a DUAL fulfillment. IT WAS ONCE FULFILLED ONLY AS A TYPE DURING JESUS' FIRST COMING

(Zechariah 9:9, Matthew 21:5). But Jesus was NOT THEN "KING OF KINGS"! Jesus had NOT then gained victory over the nations. He did NOT then speak peace to all the nations. But in the final fulfillment, yet future, Jesus WILL BE KING and the people will joyously accept Him! (*The first time they immediately CRUCIFIED Him!*) The ways of PEACE will then be proclaimed by Jesus Christ to all the nations beginning with liberated Judah and Israel. His dominion will extend over the entire earth (Zech. 9:10).

ALWAYS A GRAVE DANGER

Jesus Christ gravely **WARNS** His elect not to let anyone DISQUALIFY us from receiving our CROWNS of rulership! **"Behold I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that NO ONE may take your crown** (Revelation 3:11)."

In addition, there are the crowns of "life" (Revelation 3:11) – betokening (*meaning: to typify beforehand, presage*) our EVERLASTING kingly offices under Christ – that would be given to us! (Revelation 2:10, James 1:12) To lose the one would also mean the loss of the other.

PAST FAILURES

Examples of past failures should serve to WARN each of us that what happened to others could also happen to anyone of us — *unless* we are extremely careful and always on guard against anyone or anything that could separate us from our wonderful God and Jesus Christ (Romans 8:31-39, Ephesians 6:10-18, I Corinthians 10:11, Romans 15:4)!

The Cherub Lucifer – rebelled against His Creator and will be replaced as the ruler of this world by Christ at His coming! He became the adversary of God and named for what he is – Satan the devil (Isaiah 14:12-15, Ezekiel

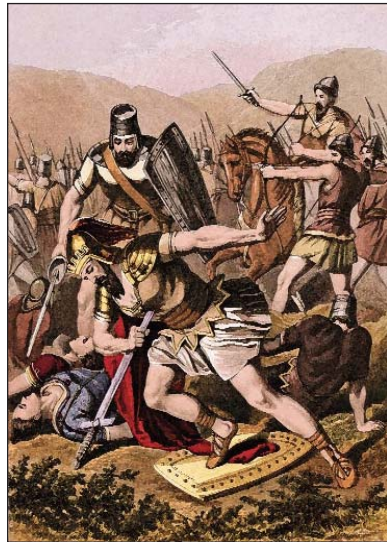
28:12-17). Soon he will be isolated by an angel of Christ for a thousand years (Revelation 20:1-3).

King Saul – was replaced by David, a man after God's own heart due to his *rejection* of God and His commandments (I Samuel 16:7, Acts 13:22), as noted in the following Scriptures:

“Now the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying, ‘I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has TURNED BACK from following Me, and has NOT performed My commandments’ (I Samuel 15:10-11).”

To Saul, God's prophet Samuel said: **“For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have REJECTED the word of the LORD, He also has REJECTED you from being king (I Samuel 15:23, Hosea 4:6).”**

God had given *explicit commands* to King Saul to obey, but he chose to only obey some of the commands while dis-



DEATH OF KING SAUL



obeying others in order to please the people rather than God (I Samuel 15:1-3, 16-26).

This should raise the hair on our heads to think of deviating from ANY of the doctrinal teachings of Jesus Christ as placed in the Church by Him through His early apostles and restored in His Church in this end time by His late apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong!!!

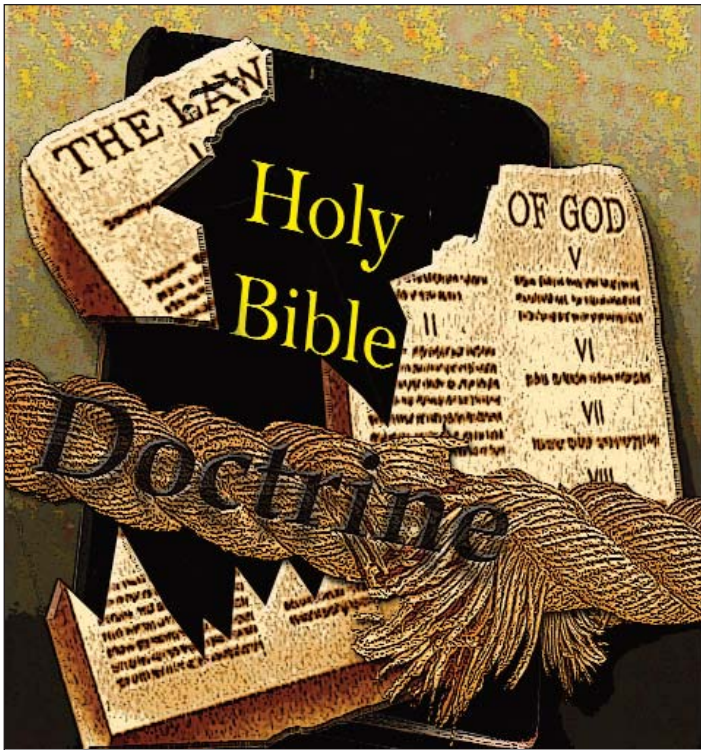
Do we not grasp the fact that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8) – and He does NOT change (Malachi 3:6)!!!



SAUL THROWS JAVELIN AT DAVID



TRASHING THE PAST



UNRAVELING THE TRUTH

There are presently more than 450 corporate Churches of God. Each one has varied from all others in doctrinal teachings and government.

There is no more evidence of the *FEAR* of God seen in these leaders than there was with King Saul. They conveniently forget that God has NOT changed (Malachi 3:6).

To make the point: One evangelist said to me regarding the doctrinal changes in these corporate churches, "*These little things do not matter that much!*"

Unless there comes to be repentance, all are headed for the **Great Tribulation to experience martyrs' deaths!!!**

We could very well be added to the list of those given examples if we turn away from God and then lose our crown of life and rulership:

LEARNING TO BE OBEDIENT TO GOVERNMENT

It should be realized that NO ONE will actually be given kingship in Tomorrow's World to govern over others – *unless we first learn to be governed* – by God's Government as restored within the Church by Christ through His late

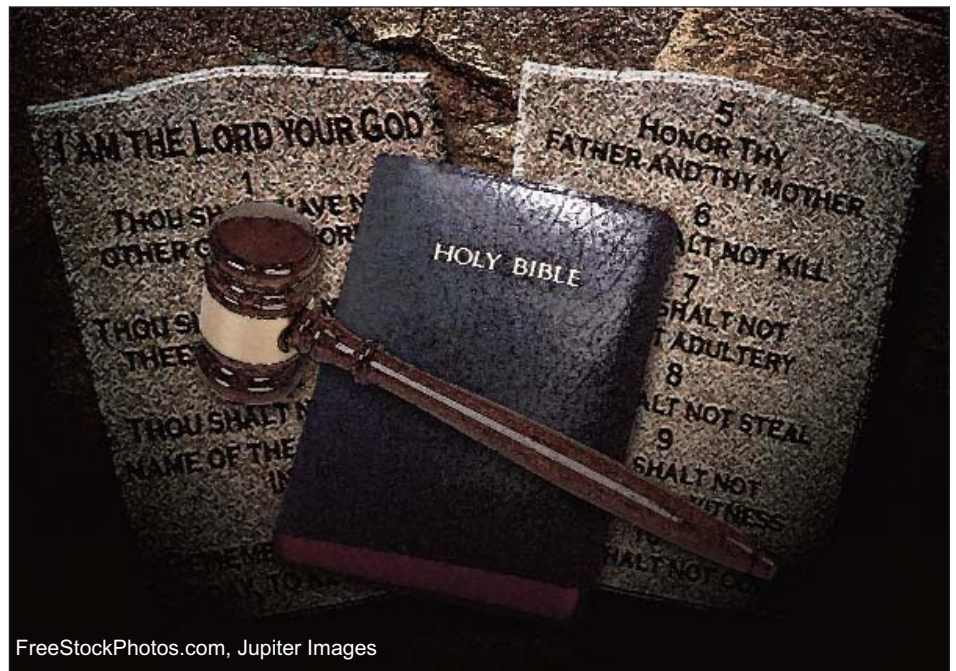
apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong (Luke 19:27). Please realize – Saul was *rejected* as king because of his rejection of explicit commands by God. This is deadly serious!

If we compromise any of His true teachings – we are headed for terrible deaths as martyrs in the Great Tribulation – unless there is repentance, as can be noted by the example of Saul:

I Samuel 15:23: "... Because you have **REJECTED** the Word of the LORD, He also has **REJECTED** you from being king."

Saul was replaced by David – a man after God's own heart. Question: Are we after God's own heart – living by every word of God – while having a loving relationship with Him? (Matthew 4:4, 22:37; Luke 14:26-27)

Note once again this life and death WARNING from our wonderful caring Savior Jesus Christ in Revelation 3:11: "**Behold I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that NO ONE may take your crown.**"



FreeStockPhotos.com, Jupiter Images

KING SAUL REJECTED GOD'S COMMANDMENTS

DAVID SCHOOLED TO BE A KING

Consider the following analogy – an exact type of the Church of God: I Samuel 16:1, 5-13: Though David was chosen, and anointed as king, he did not ascend to the throne UNTIL Saul was killed in battle (II Samuel 1).

In the interim, David was in the court of King Saul, and while there he was learning how to govern as a King with the many responsibilities of government. While being

schooled, David also experienced life-threatening trials and tests to prove his loyalty and faithfulness to God as will we before this is all over (Daniel 12:10).

THE ANALOGY FOLLOWS THROUGH WITH GOD'S TRUE CHURCH

Mr. Armstrong has made known there is a reason and purpose as to why we are to be among the FIRSTFRUITS: **"To go to school as students, learners, called to become teachers. God cannot start His Kingdom without teachers."** *MYSTERY OF THE AGES*, Pages 226-241.

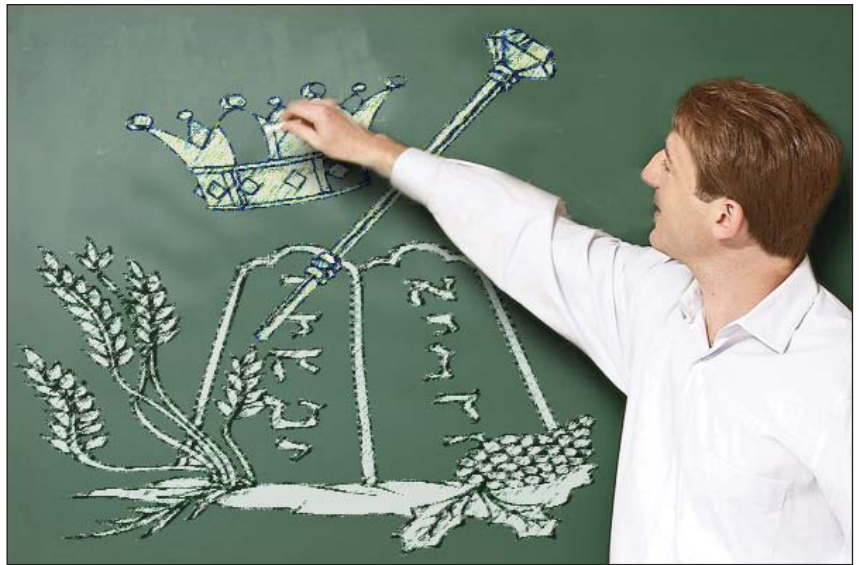
We are NOT called to just get into the Kingdom, but rather we are called to prepare ourselves to become TEACHERS for the survivors of the human race inside the millennium: First: To teach the liberated people of Judah and Israel. Later – the Gentile nations.

In like manner as Christ, those who have been CHOSEN (anointed by God's Holy Spirit) to aid Christ in ruling and teaching in Tomorrow's World – have to be schooled – to prepare as much as we can in this life to fill those extremely high offices.

In the interim, we as His people, also are in God's court learning HOW to govern while being governed before ascending into those incredibly High Offices joining Christ who will soon be returning to earth as KING of Kings and LORD of Lords.

THE END – THE BEGINNING

As this age is rapidly coming to a close and preparation is undergoing in heaven for Christ's return to gather His peo-



ple to Himself, we should ask: *"What progress are we making with our final exams? Pass – or fail?"* (I Peter 4:17)

Jesus Christ led the apostle Peter to both warn and also to encourage each of us at the same time:

"You therefore, beloved, since you know these things BEFOREHAND, BEWARE lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but GROW, in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen (II Peter 3:17-18)."

"If we endure, we shall also reign with Him (II Timothy 2:12)."



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Could a Global Economic Collapse Be Imminent?

The specter of a major economic collapse in the United States and European Union has shaken stock markets throughout the world. No longer is that prospect considered far-fetched by economists, who warn that immense, burgeoning government deficits threaten to bring down the pillars of modern western civilization upon mankind!

By Mark Mendiola

In what has been dubbed the “flash crash” of 2010, global investors were horrified to witness the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) plunge nearly 1,000 points or about 9 percent in less than 20 minutes on Thursday, May 6, wiping out a staggering \$800 billion in value at lightning speed.

It was the worst single-day selloff in Wall Street’s long history with 17 million trades recorded. Some shares instantaneously lost more than half their value before recovering! “Perhaps the most stunning characteristic of the

flash crash was that liquidity actually evaporated from the market, sending shares of some big-name companies momentarily to a penny when they couldn’t find a bid,” Jeff Cox, a CNBC.com columnist, wrote June 21.

At the end of trading on May 6, the Dow closed at 10,520, a drop of nearly 350 points or 3.2 percent. The terrifying debacle’s cause remains undetermined to this day.

Everything from a technical glitch to debt crises in Greece, Spain and Portugal was blamed. Fears are the gut-wrenching chaos could happen again at a moment’s notice. The DJIA fell nearly 8 percent in May, the worst May for the blue chip index since 1940.

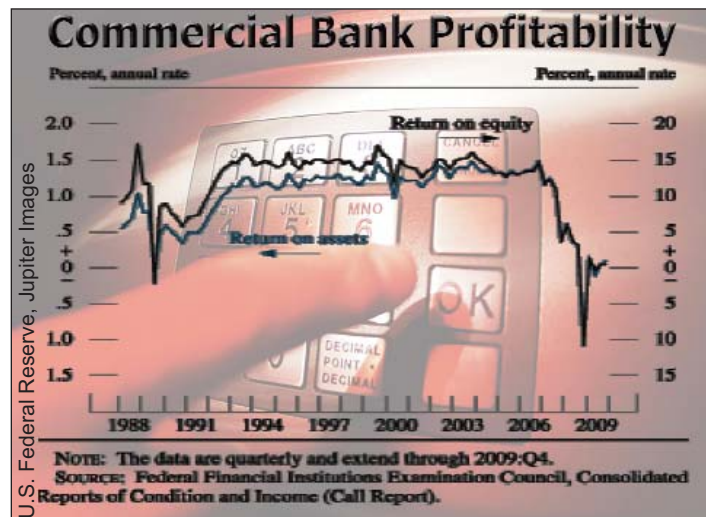
On Monday, June 7, the Dow closed below the 9,870 level to which it plummeted on that Black Thursday, dropping 115 points to a seven-month low – following a plunge of 323 points the previous Friday when fears of a financial collapse in Hungary flared up.

On June 29, the DJIA closed at 9,870 after sliding 268 points or 2.65 percent. It concluded the second quarter by dropping the next day nearly another 100 points to 9,774, **putting it down 10 percent or more than \$1.5 trillion in value for the second quarter!** The selloff made it the worst quarter for Wall Street in more than a year.

“Global tensions are at a pinnacle,” Mike Daly, a PFGBest gold specialist, told the *Wall Street Journal*. Meanwhile, gold prices – viewed as a hedge against instability – have soared to record levels, up 15 percent in value this year, as U.S. bankruptcies and foreclosures also escalate.

Major cracks and fissures are developing in the U.S. economy – bulging under the weight of mountainous debt like an earthen dam ready to burst. Yet, most people do not want to contemplate the distinct possibility of a disastrous structural failure like the world has never seen. It very well could be a lot closer than anyone dares imagine!

The Old Testament Prophet Isaiah foresaw such astounding conditions prevailing at the time of the end: “Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel: ‘Because you despise this word, and trust in oppression and perversity, and rely on them, Therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach ready to fall, a bulge in a high wall, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant’ (Isaiah 30:12-13).”



Library of Congress, Lee Jordan, Flickr, Wikinews

PARALLELS WITH THE 1930s

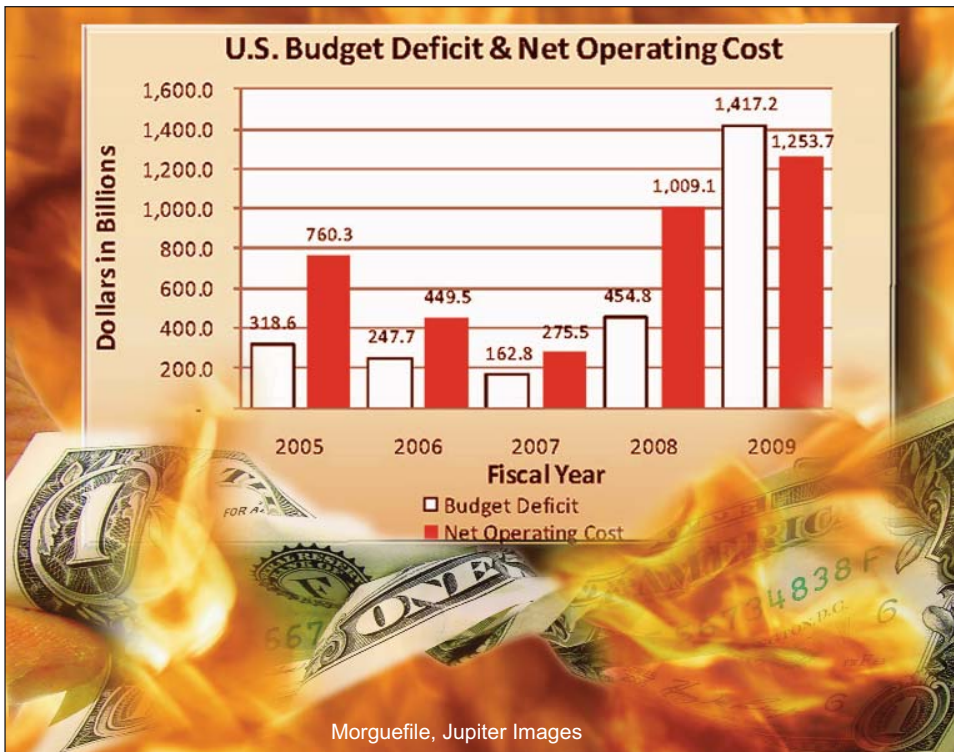
The world economy has never fully recovered from the darkest days of 2008 when millions were astonished to see their savings and investments vanish virtually overnight in what has been called **the worst financial meltdown since the Stock Market Crash of 1929, which led to the Great Depression.**

An Institute of Economic Affairs pamphlet published in 2009 warned there are "troubling similarities" between U.S. President Barack Obama's actions and those in the 1930s that **sent the U.S. spiraling into the worst economic collapse in recorded history.**

Jeff Cox of CNBC.com observed June 24 that many analysts see **striking parallels between the 1930s and economic conditions now, fearing a deep slide looms worse than a "double-dip recession."** Cox quoted Walter Zimmerman, a United-ICAP senior technical analyst, who said, **"The market's taken a big hit. We're not optimistic. We think we'll be fortunate if the double-dip is the worst that lies ahead. ... We would eagerly like to see divergence from the parallels to 1930. So far, there are no signs of divergence."**

Zimmerman noted 2010's wild stock market swings and economic trends are much like those after the 1929 crash. David Rosenberg, a Gluskin Sheff economist, echoed his words, saying the '29 crash was followed by asset deflation, credit collapse, natural disasters, geopolitical frictions, low interest rates and high gold prices in the 1930s.

Sales of new homes sunk 33 percent in May to the lowest level on record. It was the slowest sales pace on records dating back to 1963, and it was the largest monthly drop on record. Housing sales that month fell 78 percent from their July 2005 peak. "Analysts were startled by the depth of the sales drop," the Associated Press re-



ported. Meanwhile, retail sales plunged in May by the largest amount in eight months, as factory orders fell.

Banking analyst Dick Bove warned in a report that **financial regulation reforms pushed by the Obama administration and Congress are likely to shove the U.S. economy deeper into recession by constricting money supply.** Regulators in 1937 also increased reserve requirements for banks, steepening the Great Depression, Bove said. **“It is quite possible that voting for this banking bill and the associated regulations is voting for recession.”**

The Telegraph reported May 26 **the U.S. M3 money supply is contracting at an accelerating rate that matches the average decline from 1929 to 1933** despite nearly zero interest rates and the largest fiscal stimulus in history. During 2010’s first quarter, the money supply shrank by nearly 10 percent.

Professor Tim Congdon of International Monetary Research told the *Telegraph*: “It’s frightening. The plunge in M3 has no precedent since the Great Depression. ... **The U.S. has just tried the biggest fiscal experiment in history, and it has failed.**”

Former U.S. Labor Secretary Robert Reich told the *Telegraph*: **“The economy is still in the gravitational pull of the Great Recession. All the booster rockets for getting us beyond it are failing.”** Noting that eight million U.S. jobs have been lost during this recession, a columnist reported on July 4: **“This really is starting to feel like 1932.”**

More than 90 U.S. banks and thrifts missed making their May 17 payments to the U.S. Treasury under the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP), showing more lenders are struggling to meet obligations, Reuters reported.

More than 600 smaller banks still hold \$130 billion under TARP. As of June 18, 83 banks had failed this year, more than double those that were closed by this time in 2009, the AP reported.

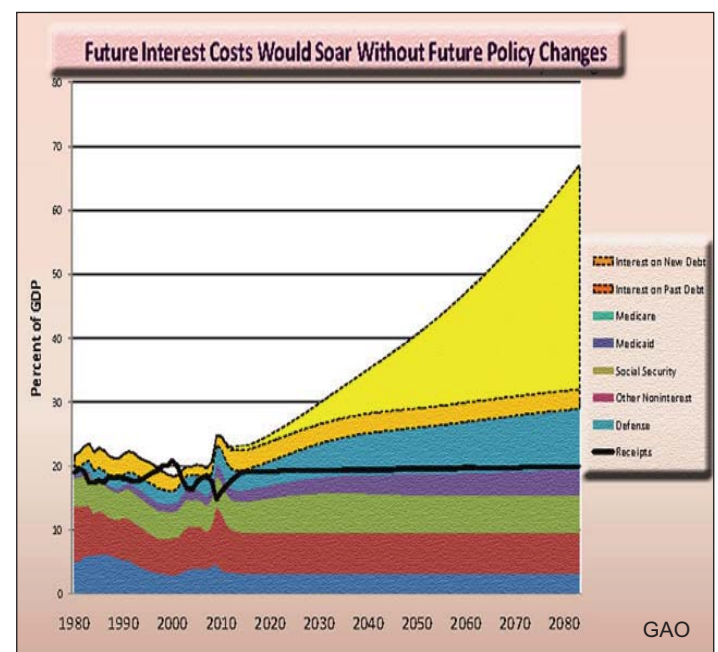
Bank failures this year are expected to exceed the 140 shuttered in 2009 – the highest annual total since 1992’s savings and loan crisis.

The number of U.S. banks on the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation’s “problem” list jumped to 775 in 2010’s first quarter. For many, the

steep rise in bank failures is hauntingly reminiscent of the Great Depression.

DEBT BOMBS TICKING

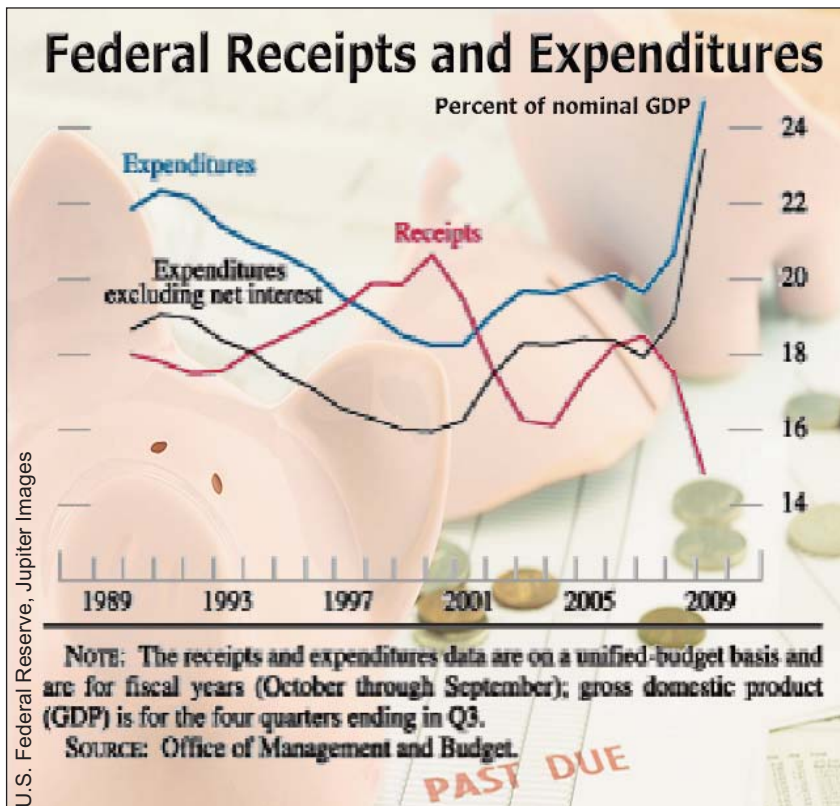
On June 30, the Congressional Budget Office issued a report saying the federal debt will represent a mind-boggling **62 percent** of the nation’s economy by the end of 2010, **the highest percentage since after World War II!** At the end of 2008, the debt equaled about **40 percent** of the nation’s annual economic output. As of June 1, 2010, the U.S. Treasury this year spent an estimated \$248 billion alone in interest payments on the national debt!



Moody's Investors Service Inc. warned at the end of May that the AAA bond ratings of the United States and United Kingdom could be downgraded because of massive deficit spending in both nations. In a Dec. 8 report, Moody's analysts said U.S. and U.K. finances are submerging in the wake of the global financial crisis.

The U.S. government's finances have been "substantially worsened by the credit crisis, recession, and government spending to address these shocks," Moody's analysts wrote on May 25. "The ratios of general government debt to GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and to revenue are deteriorating sharply, and after the crisis they are likely to be higher than the ratios of other AAA-rated countries."

Regarding Britain's massive debt, the *New York Times* reported the British deficit now equals 11 percent of its



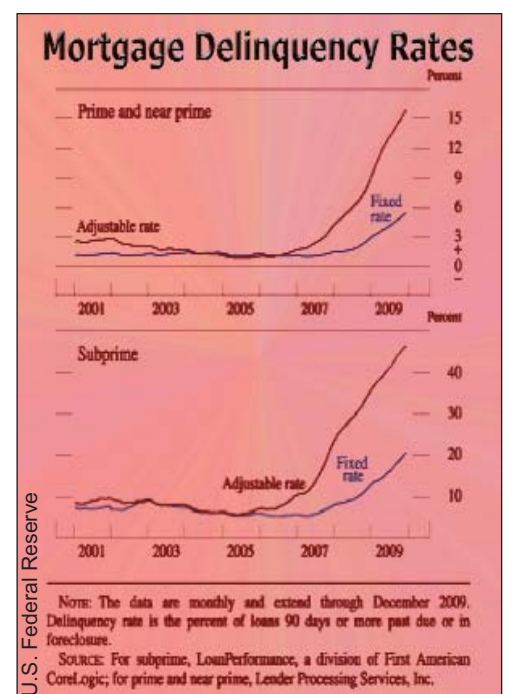
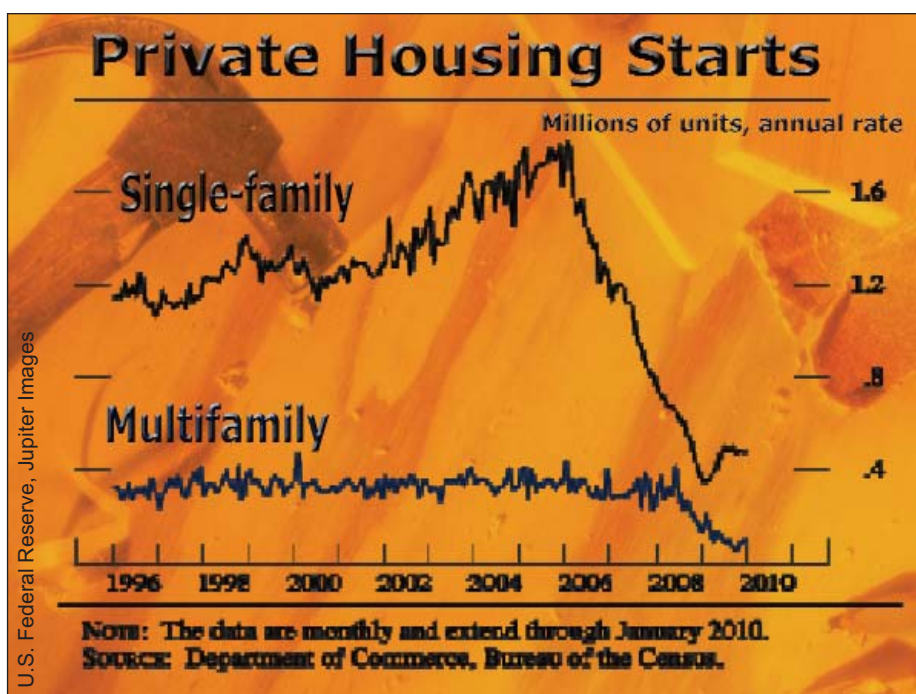
GDP, putting it at the dismal level of the nearly bankrupt Greece.

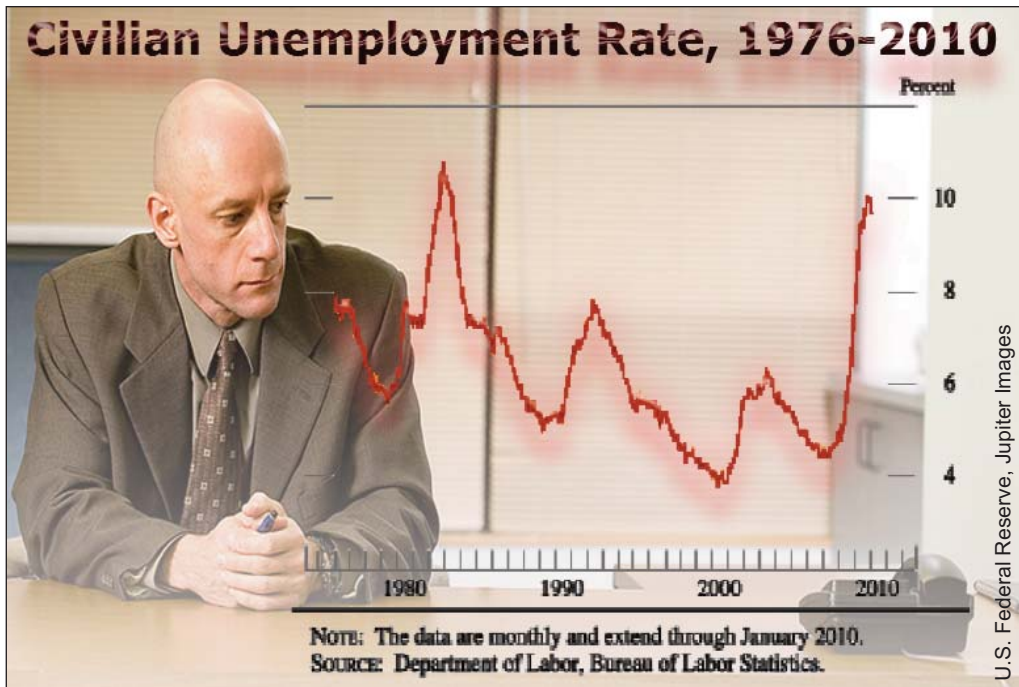
"As governments from Greece to Portugal to Spain try to sell markets on their budget-cutting zeal, the country that may face the biggest hurdle is Britain. Propelled by a robust economy that finally collapsed in 2008, Britain's spending boom was the most expansive in Europe ..."

In a recent report, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) warned the United States and Britain will need to

make the most significant sacrifices in spending cuts and tax increases to return to pre-crisis levels of indebtedness.

The volatile global market and the fragile U.S. economic recovery have investors, stock brokers, government officials, economists and private citizens on extreme edge and reeling as they worry about where these massive losses and sustained high unemployment are leading. The U.S. and U.K. economies are teetering on the brink





of collapse – like wobbling houses of cards. Many American cities and states, including California, New York and Illinois, also are on the verge of insolvency!

In a June 6 *Wall Street Journal* column, economist Arthur Laffer predicted a 2011 economic collapse will occur after tax cuts imposed during the George W. Bush administration expire.

Federal, state and local tax rates will rise sharply on or about Jan. 1, 2011, “meaning that the highest federal personal income tax rate will go to 39.6 percent from 35 percent, the highest federal dividend tax rate pops up to 39.6 percent from 15 percent, the capital gains tax rate to 20 percent from 15 percent, and the estate tax rate to 55 percent from zero,” Laffer wrote.

“Tax rate increases next year are everywhere. ... When we pass the tax boundary of Jan. 1, 2011, **my best guess is that the train goes off the tracks, and we get our worst nightmare of a severe ‘double dip’ recession. ... If you thought deficits and unemployment have been bad lately, you ain’t seen nothing yet.**”

A U.S. Treasury Department report sent to Congress in early June warned **the U.S. national debt will exceed \$13.6 trillion this year and vault to an estimated \$19.6 trillion by 2015!**

The report said the ratio of debt to GDP would rise from 93 percent this year to 102 percent by 2015 or what some are calling a “debt super cycle.” The national debt stood at \$9 trillion in 2007, soaring by about \$5 trillion in three years!

“The U.S. debt has grown rapidly with the economic downturn and government spending for the Wall Street bailout, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the economic stimulus,” Reuters reported.

Risks to the global economy’s recovery have risen significantly as many governments struggle with debt. **“After nearly two years of global economic and financial upheaval, shock waves are still being felt,** as we have seen with recent developments in Europe and the resulting financial market volatility,” Naoyuki Shinohara, the IMF’s deputy managing director, told *The Telegraph* June 9. **“The**

global outlook remains unusually uncertain and downside risks have risen significantly.”

Nouriel Roubini, a New York University economist, warned the U.S. dare not assume the next phase of the financial crisis cannot return to the United States – like a tidal wave. “Bond market vigilantes have already woken up in Greece, in Spain, in Portugal, in Ireland, in Iceland, and soon enough they could wake up in the U.K., in Japan, in the United States, **if we keep on running very large fiscal deficits,**” Roubini told Bloomberg News. **“The chances are, they are going to wake up in the United States ... and say, ‘This is unsustainable.’”**

Writing June 16 for Weiss Research Inc.’s “Money and Markets,” financial analyst Claus Votg warned when a government and its central bank throw billions in tax stimulus dollars at the financial markets, undesired consequences include a deteriorating economy and weakening financial indicators.

“The fact is, no matter how much money is thrown at the problem, **the economy isn’t getting any traction. Nor has it entered a self-sustaining recovery.** The economic rebound we’ve seen in the past months is just the short-term reaction to the unprecedented stimulus programs. And **as the stimulus money fades away, so does the economic recovery – and so does the stock market rally,**” Votg wrote.

Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said in a *Wall Street Journal* column the United States may soon face higher borrowing costs on its ballooning debt or much

higher interest rates. He called for a “tectonic shift” in fiscal policy to sharply reduce borrowing.

“Long-term rate increases can emerge with unexpected suddenness,” Greenspan wrote. “The federal government is currently saddled with commitments for the next three decades that it will be unable to meet in real terms. ... The very severity of the pending crisis and growing analogies to Greece set the stage for a serious response. ... Our economy cannot afford a major mistake in underestimating the corrosive momentum of this fiscal crisis.”

EUROPEAN TURMOIL

The *Washington Post* reported May 24 one false move in Europe could set off a global chain reaction because the U.S. economic recovery’s future rests with politicians in assorted European capitals. “If one or more fail to make the expected progress on cutting budgets, restructuring economies or boosting growth, it could drain confidence in a broad and unsettling way. Credit markets worldwide could lock up and throw the global economy back into recession.”

Bloomberg reported concerns Europe’s sovereign debt crisis may spread among the EU’s member countries sent the euro to a four-year low against the dollar on June 7 and wiped out more than \$4 trillion from global stock markets up to that point.

Moody’s downgraded Greece’s sovereign debt rating to “junk” status. Meanwhile, Fitch Ratings and Standard & Poor’s trimmed Spain’s AAA rating as Europe combats a debt cri-

sis that has prompted the European Union (EU) to create an almost \$1 trillion bailout for the continent’s weakest economies.

The euro lost 7.1 percent against the dollar in May on speculation Greece’s fiscal crisis would spread to other nations and hamper the region’s economic growth.

“It is becoming more of a casino,” John Merrill, Tanglewood Wealth Management’s chief investment officer, told *Bloomberg Businessweek*. Such traumatic events, he added, drain confidence in financial markets, making investors wonder if they are gambling with their retirement investments, which took heavy hits when global markets melted in 2008.

In early June, Reuters quoted Roubini predicting the European Union is heading into zero growth

if not outright recession, and the United States is veering into more financial trouble.

“Even if that is perhaps not a real recession, it will feel like one. Greece was just the

tip of the iceberg,” he told the Swiss newspaper *Tages-Anzeiger*. “And the Americans too will run into the wall at some point if they carry on the way they are.”

Roubini warned there is serious risk the global economy will enter a second major financial crisis, banks will collapse and European countries such as Spain and Greece will go insolvent, getting forced out of using the euro as their



main currency. Delays in implementing austerity measures could provoke a catastrophe brought on by high interest rates and inflation. Europe as a whole faces a much greater risk of a Japanese-style period of deflation, stagnation and high unemployment, he said.

The most vulnerable European countries – Greece, Spain, Portugal and Ireland – may represent only about 4 percent of world economic activity, but "the debt crisis and its ripple effects are bad news for all corners of the world," Cornell University economist Eswar Prasad said.

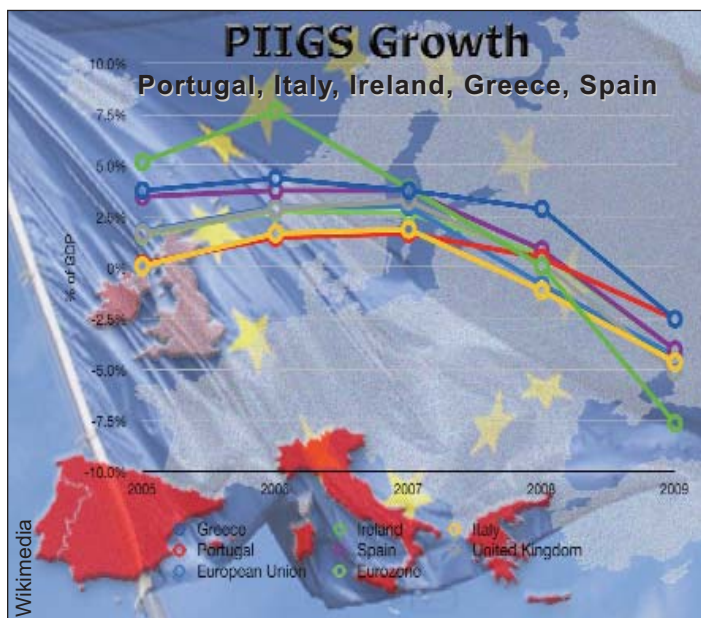
BIBLE PROPHECY FULFILLED!

Incredibly, Bible prophecies show a modern Roman Empire will arise from an abyss or "bottomless pit" on the European continent at the end of the age just as Nazi Germany emerged from the depths of the Great Depression prior to World War II (Revelation 11:7).

This empire, too, will be led by a ruthless dictator who will cause widespread death and destruction! It will clash directly with Anglo-American nations, which it will savagely attack and enslave, believe it or not!

Rising from the smoke and rubble of what appears to be an imminent global economic collapse, this resurrected monstrous beast will be united politically, religiously and militarily. It will impose a restructured economic system that will restore prosperity to the world, but demand absolute allegiance to its authoritarian rule.

"Democracy could 'collapse' in Greece, Spain and Portugal unless urgent action is taken to tackle the debt crisis, the head of the European Commission has warned," the *Daily Mail* Online reported June 15.



"In an extraordinary briefing to trade union chiefs last week, Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso set out an 'apocalyptic' vision in which crisis-hit countries in southern Europe could fall victim to military coups or popular uprisings as interest rates soar and public services collapse because their governments run out of money."

Hungary, Italy and Romania also face public insurrections due to severe austerity plans, it noted. Britain, holding Europe's highest deficit in 2010, could also be wracked with social upheavals and financial collapse, some observers warn. Cities in Greece, Spain and Germany already have seen large public demonstrations against austerity measures.

"Mr. Barroso's warning lays bare the concern at the highest level in Brussels that the economic crisis could lead to the collapse of not only the beleaguered euro, but the EU itself, along with a string of fragile democracies," *Daily Mail* Online stated.

John Monks, European Trades Union Congress leader, warned new widespread austerity measures could take the continent "back to the 1930s." In an *EU Observer* interview, he said: "This is extremely dangerous. This is 1931. We're heading back to the 1930s, with the Great Depression, and we ended up with militarist dictatorship. I'm not saying we're there yet, but it's potentially very serious, not just economically, but politically as well."

Paul Donovan, UBS senior economist, told CNBC.com: "Two years ago no one questioned whether a euro zone member would default. Now people are questioning if the euro will even exist in three years."

In a sermon he gave in the 1980s, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong warned a dramatic banking crisis would be the catalyst to forge the creation of a European empire that will attack the United States and British Commonwealth nations, launching World War III. Titled “Banking Crisis in Prophecy,” the sermon was reprinted in the Jan/Feb 2009 issue of the *Philadelphia Remnant*.

“I can see now the event that is going to trigger the formation of the reunification in Europe, the resurrection of the medieval Holy Roman Empire ... **I believe that some event is going to happen suddenly, just like out of a blue sky, that is going to shock the whole world, and is going to cause the nations in Europe to realize they must unite!** ... It is the economic situation in the world,” Mr. Armstrong said. “Now **when the financial structure breaks down, all civilization is going to break down!**”

For decades, **Mr. Armstrong thundered a warning that a remilitarized Germany led by a powerful despot will drive that resurrected Roman Empire and bring about the Great Tribulation!**

News events are bearing that out. Resentful of subsidizing Greece’s bailout, many Germans yearn for the return to the Deutschmark and scrapping the euro as their nation’s main currency.

The conservative *Die Welt* recently asked: “Should We Start Printing Marks Again?” *Der Spiegel* devoted a prominent article to possibly abolishing the euro. A survey published in Germany’s *Bild* tabloid recently showed almost half the nation wants the Deutschmark back! The Lebanese *Daily Star* in June quoted the Bank of New York Mellon’s chief currency strategist as saying the euro’s future as a single currency is insecure for the near future, but it should emerge from its crisis weathered and completely transformed.

“What we are looking at is the possible reintroduction of the Deutschmark or a transformation in the euro that would make it more comparable to a ‘Greater Deutschmark.’” Simon Derrick said. “The only thing we can take credibly is that as **Germany is the economic powerhouse of Europe**, a German withdrawal from the

euro would effectively end the single currency.” Revelation 18:3, 11-13 shows this resurrected Roman Empire or “Babylon the Great” will be an economic as well as military juggernaut prior to the return of Jesus Christ. Merchants of the world will become “rich through the abundance of her luxury,” profiting from international commerce, including slave trade!

Its restructured economic system, however, will come with a high cost to pay in loss of human rights and liberties. It will cause “all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand and their foreheads, and that **no one may buy or sell** except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name (Revelation 13:16-17).”



This oppressive pagan empire ultimately will be destroyed by Jesus Christ, the Rock who will smash it into smithereens after its rampaging war machine wreaks havoc throughout the earth (Daniel 2:34, 44).

“The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one

mind, and **they will give their power and authority to the beast.** These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful (Revelation 17:12-14).”

This scripture indicates the European Union’s existing configuration will undergo a drastic change that very well could be brought about by complete chaos initiated by the collapse of global stock markets and currencies, including Wall Street and the American dollar! Mankind will be plunged into a hellish nightmare!

Despite this frightening scenario, we can take comfort knowing beyond this traumatic upheaval, Christ Himself will establish the Kingdom of God – which will succeed in providing everyone true wealth, abundance and prosperity like no other nation or empire has ever produced in all the annals of history!

That is mankind’s only hope and tremendous good news beyond this tumultuous time of extreme peril.



Decline and *Fall* of America



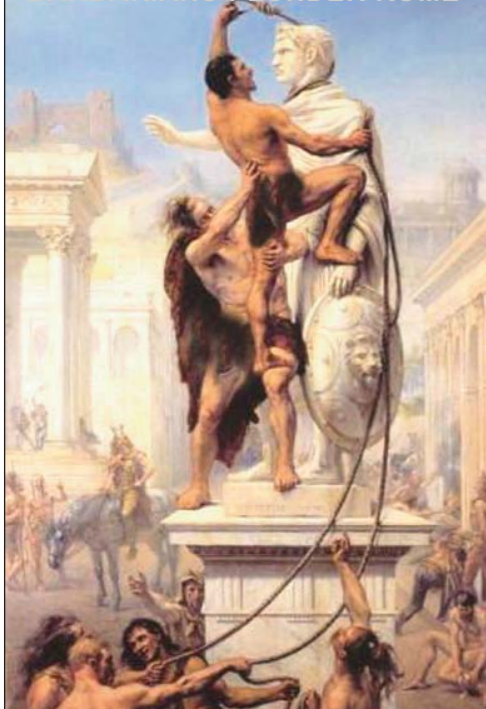
By Garfield Gregoire

Like ancient Rome that towered over nations in power and influence, so has the modern nation of the United States of America. America's economic and military might have made it the greatest nation to ever exist on this earth, but now – like ancient Rome – America is losing its standing in the world. It is in a free fall or toboggan slide into destruction!

The English historian Edward Gibbon, author of *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, believed that Rome fell because the empire had lost the will to stand up for itself.

"According to Gibbon, the Roman Empire succumbed to barbarian invasions in large part due to the gradual loss of civic virtue

BARBARIANS PLUNDER ROME



among its citizens. They had become weak, outsourcing their duties to defend their empire to barbarian mercenaries, who then became so numerous and ingrained that they were able to take over the empire. Romans, he believed, had become effeminate, unwilling to live a tougher, 'manly' military lifestyle," Wikipedia states.

Does this sound familiar? Though America still has the greatest military in the world, the nation has become fearful to use its military might – when such force is required. Even more so, America is relying more on other countries, including the United Nations, to



U.S. Department of Defense

U.S. HOMELAND SECURITY SECRETARY JANET NAPOLITANO ADMINISTERS CITIZENSHIP OATH TO FOREIGNERS

make its decisions. North Korea and Iran continue to pose great threat to world peace. Instead of taking decisive action, the United States continues to beg and plead with other nations for support to bring these rogue countries into line.

AMERICA'S MILITARY

America is using more and more foreigners in its military. A Jan. 15, 2010, AFP French news agency article titled, "Foreigners in U.S. Military Get Fast Track to Citizenship," stated: "U.S. military personnel who have served since the September 11, 2001 attacks will be put on fast track to U.S. citizenship under rules enforced Friday as part of a bid to attract new recruits."

The article quotes Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano as saying: "Expediting the citizenship process for service members reflects our commitment to honoring those who come from all over the world to serve our country and become its newest citizens."

The United States is now recruiting foreigners to serve in the military. The article men-

tions that this lure of citizenship has drawn thousands to the U.S. military. The German magazine *Der Spiegel* in an Oct. 22, 2007 article stated: "Without its foreign soldiers, the United States would have trouble coming up with enough troops to meet the demand in Iraq. The foreigners, for their part, take the dangerous job mainly for its biggest reward: U.S. citizenship. Since Sept. 11, 2001, the United States has granted U.S. citizenship to 32,500 foreign soldiers. In July 2002, U.S. President George W. Bush issued

an executive order to expand existing legislation to offer a fast track to citizenship to foreigners who agree to fight for the U.S. armed forces. About 8,000 non-Americans have joined the U.S. military every year since then."

So this is where America stands – like ancient Rome it is now recruiting foreigners to compose its military. Considering that the lure for these foreigners is to become American citizens, one must wonder where their true allegiance lies. Perhaps time will tell.

There is a prophecy in Ezekiel 7:14 that says, "**They have blown the trumpet, even to make all ready; but none goeth to the battle.**" Could



foreigners in America's military help fulfill this prophecy? Could it be that when the call is made to defend American soil, many of them will refuse to fight – thus causing indecision and the nation's lack of will to engage the enemy? This is something to think about.

THE PRIDE OF YOUR POWER

“And if ye will not for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. And I will break the pride of your power (Leviticus 26:18-19).”

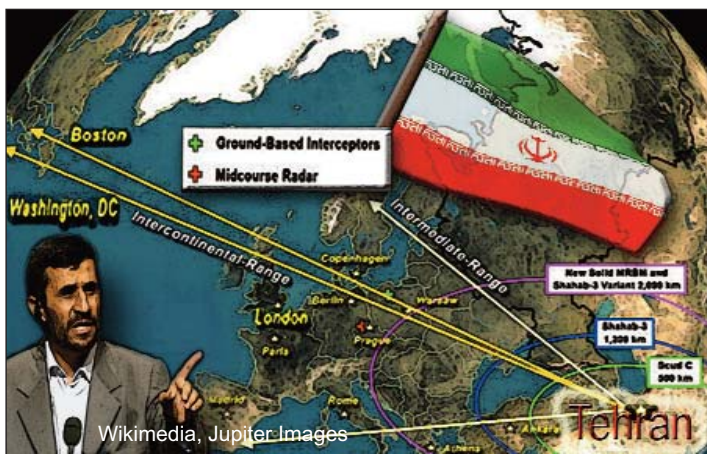
On page 163 of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong writes: "You need to wake up to the fact that the United States, even still, possessing unmatched power, is afraid – fears – to use it, just as God said. The United States has stopped winning wars – that America was unable, with all its vast power, to conquer little North Vietnam! The United States is fast riding to the GREATEST FALL that ever befell any nation! The hand writing is on the wall!"



On Feb. 18, 2010, BBC News stated the following: **“The U.N. nuclear watchdog has expressed concern that Iran may currently be trying to develop a nuclear payload for a missile.** The information is carried in a leaked confidential report by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency. It also confirmed that Iran had begun enriching uranium to higher levels.”

The BBC reported: "Western powers fear Iran is heading towards enriching uranium to 90 percent – to produce a nuclear weapon."

For years, Iran has been ignoring America's plea to halt its nuclear program. Time and time again the call has been made for the U.N. to impose sanctions against Iran, but Iran remains defiant and unmoved by America's threats.



NUCLEAR WEAPONRY

Because of the danger nuclear weaponry poses to world security, it is clear that we are living in the most dangerous period in the world's history. We are living at a time when terrorists could possible acquire and unleash either a nuclear device or some form of biological agent on an American city – which could be catastrophic to our nation!

On the other side of the spectrum, Iran could possibly acquire nuclear weapons – compelling the entire Middle East to become a nuclear camp.



THE SUN SETS ON U.S. MILITARY MIGHT

LEADERSHIP LACKING

U.S. President Barack Obama is viewed by many as one who lacks the will to effectively engage or stand up against those who would seek to bring down the United States.

Mr. Obama is more often viewed as one who appeases than a man of strength.

Before he became U.S. president, Ronald Reagan said "the greater risk lies in appeasement." Having a president or leader who projects an image of weakness sends a bad signal to the rest of the world. Few realize such perception of America's president is connected to God's promise that He would **"break the pride of our power."** Yes, God did not deny our nation would have power – for He is the One who endowed America with that power, but God is now breaking the nation's pride in that power.

AMERICA'S WORSENING FINANCIAL CRISIS

"The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high, and thou shalt come down very low. He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: and he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail (Deuteronomy 28:43, 44)."

Which of lawmakers or leaders in Washington would take this Scripture to heart? And yet they should because it is a prophecy from the Great God of the universe to America today. God has warned the nation would be borrowing from these foreigners.



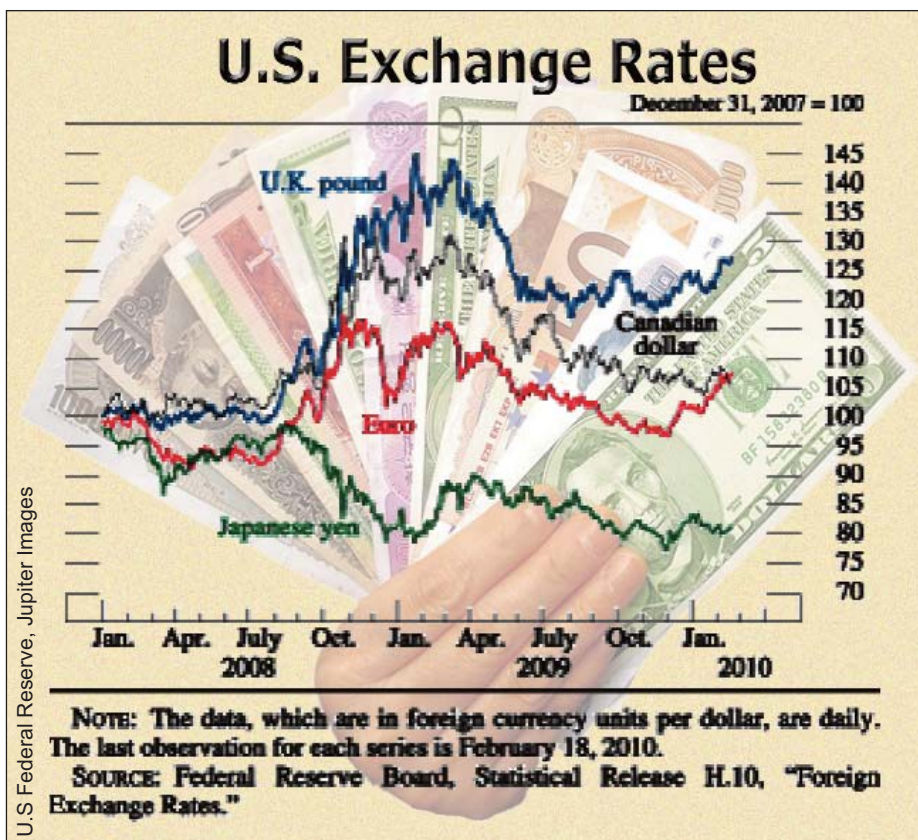
Today, the United States is in a financial meltdown – becoming the greatest debtor nation on the face of the earth. Like a whorish woman that has gone about seeking lovers, America has bared its shame by borrowing from many nations around the world. The national debt of the United States exceeds \$13 trillion – with much of that money owed to foreign investors and foreign nations, including China, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Brazil, Venezuela and even Libya!

BOWING BEFORE OTHERS

The Associated Press reported on July 3, 2009: "... the debt stands today at a staggering \$11.5 trillion — equivalent to over \$37,000 for each and every American. And it's expanding by over \$1 trillion a year. The mountain of debt easily could become the next full-fledged economic crisis without firm action from Washington, economists of all stripes warn."

Clearly, the nation is in a financial crisis that continues to worsen. A Feb. 17, 2010, ABC News article states, "But now the problem of **mounting national debt** is worse than it ever has been before with potentially dire consequences for taxpayers, according to a report by the nonpartisan Peterson-Pew Commission on Budget Reform."

On Feb. 2, 2010, President Obama said the worsening national debt is keeping



him awake at night. "The only way that we are going to fix it is if both parties come together and start making some tough decisions about our long-term priorities," he said. In 2009, Federal Chairman Ben Bernanke told Congress: "Unless we demonstrate a strong commitment to fiscal sustainability in the longer term, we will have neither financial stability nor healthy economic growth."

The Bible says "**The borrower is servant to the lender** (Proverbs 22:7)." In borrowing from foreign nations, the nation's leaders are turning the United States into a vassal – or leading the nation into subservience to gentiles.

Due to its insatiable hunger for money, America is likened to a drug addict who must continually rely upon a dealer to give him his fix. One can see the power such lenders as China now wield over the United States!

Yes, America's time has come. Americans have rejected the laws of God – and embraced all forms of immorality,



SHUNNING the GREAT and MIGHTY GOD of ISRAEL. Prayers are banned in public schools and the very name of God has become an offense to the people. God is now punishing the nation for its wicked ways.

In directing His wrath against His people, God says, "**Wherefore, as I live, saith the LORD God; Surely, because thou hast defiled My sanctuary with all thy detestable things, and**

with all thine abominations, therefore I will also diminish thee; neither shall mine eyes spare, neither will I have pity (Ezekiel 5:11)."

You are most likely are not going to hear the preachers of this nation quote Scriptures like these, but God is not going to show mercy on His people until He first punishes the nation for its rejection of His laws. This financial crisis is speedily worsening – catapulting the nation into a crisis of unimaginable proportion. Watch! Members in God's Church will be eyewitnesses to the fulfillment of many sobering Bible prophecies.



White House



White House

PRESIDENT OBAMA MEETS WITH ABU DHABI CROWN PRINCE, CHINESE PREMIER

Revelation 12

Continued from Page 4

Verily I say unto you, there shall not be left here one stone upon another that shall not be thrown down.”

He was speaking of the temple, all the buildings of the temple, and it was to be destroyed. Now, that did happen in their lifetime. That happened in the year of 70 A.D.

He was probably speaking to them around 29 or 30 A.D. or it might have even gotten into the beginning of 31 A.D.

“And,” later now, **“as He sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when shall these things be?’”** What things? He’d been speaking about the destruction of the temple.

But now they asked another question, **“And what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the age?”** The reason they tacked that question on was because they thought it was going to happen in their lifetime, the same as the destruction of the temple did happen in their lifetime.

So, here was Jesus’ answer to them. **“Jesus answered and said unto them, ‘Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in My name, saying, I am the Christ; and shall deceive many.’”** Many will come in Jesus’ name saying Jesus is the Christ. It’s Jesus speaking, saying others will come in My name saying I am the Christ, not saying they are the Christ.

Anyway, Jesus told them what would happen in their lifetime first, and He didn’t tell them what would be the sign of His coming, because that was going to be more than 1,900 years later, until a little later. So He started out, and He said that many will **“come in My name, saying, that I am the Christ,”** deceiving the many. Now, that happened

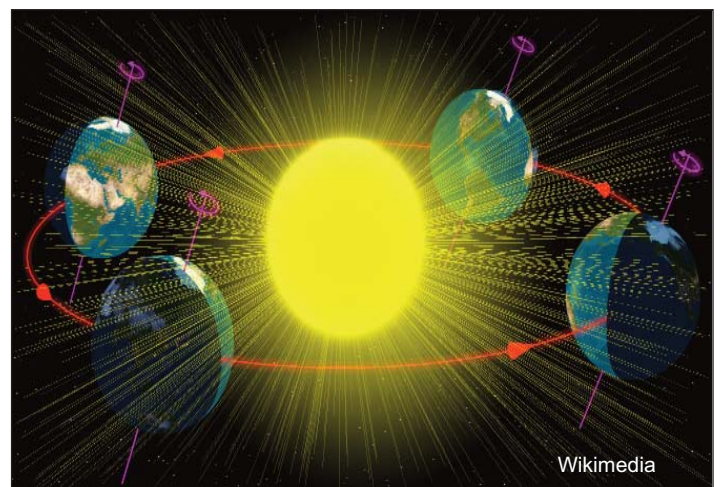


in their time. The gospel was suppressed. Another gospel was given, but they claimed to be the ministers of Jesus Christ. Satan claims to be and is the god of this world. Now, Jesus didn’t come to answer the second question until we get down here to verse 14 because that didn’t happen in their lifetime.

THE GOSPEL AND THE 19-YEAR TIME CYCLES

“And this gospel,” which He was preaching, this gospel **“shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”** Now, Jesus was preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom as I said. Another gospel suppressed it, supplanted it. The Gospel of the Kingdom was not preached for 1,900 years. That’s 100 time cycles.

Now, God put the sun, the moon in the heavens in relation to the earth to mark off certain spaces of time. One day is marked off by one revolution of the earth as it is measured by the sun, by what appears to be a sunset to us. Actually, the sun isn’t setting. It’s the earth has just moved past the sun. The week is measured by God’s Sabbath, not by the sun or moon or earth, but by God’s Sabbath. But the month is measured by the moon and one revolution of the moon



Wikimedia



And you know today is the crucifixion anniversary of the death of Christ. We celebrated that last night as a memorial, and it is 1,950. In other words, it is a century of time cycles plus 50 years, exactly, from the time which Christ did die. God does these things on time.

THE SARDIS ERA OF GOD'S CHURCH

All right, now Revelation 3 and in verse one I'd like to read, **"And unto the angel of the Church of Sardis,"** remember these, notice that these messages in the second and third, yes, second and third chapters of the book of Revelation, the actual message is given to the angel of the Church.

Now, that word comes from the Greek word. I don't know whether to pronounce it "ane-gelus" or "an-gelus" or "an-gelos," but it is also translated in

around the earth is one lunar month. And one revolution of the earth around the sun is a solar year.

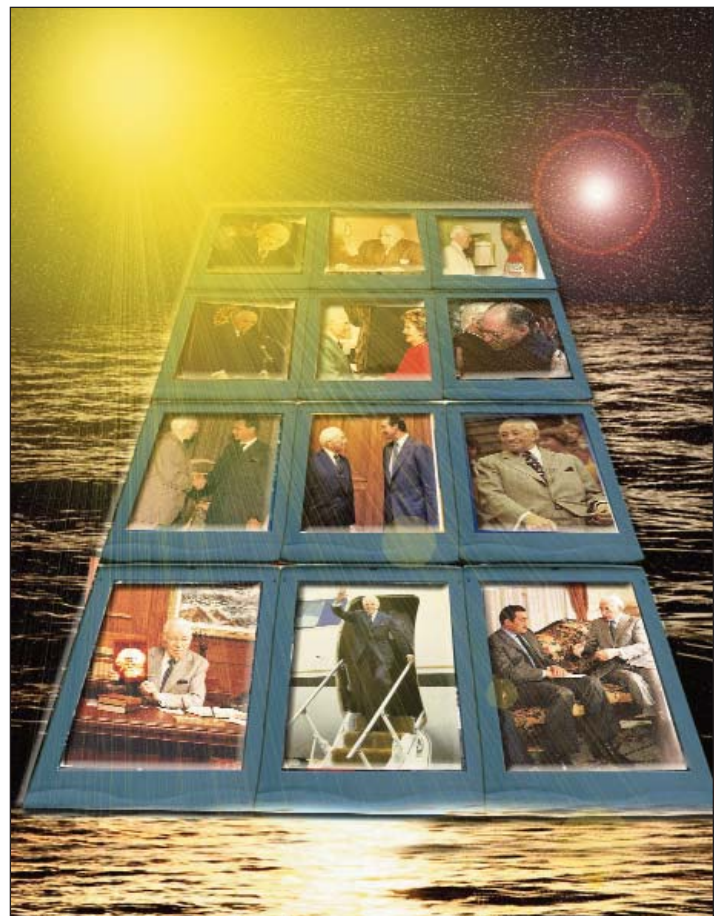
Now, those three bodies – the sun, the moon and the earth, which mark off time – come into precise or almost precise conjunction, once in 19 years. Now, that's another thing that has been scoffed at by those who will not go along with true teaching of Christ and of God and of the Bible, but there is a 19-year time cycle and 19 years is a cycle of time as measured by the sun, the moon and the earth.

Apparently, the gospel was suppressed about 53 A.D. It went on the most powerful radio station on earth after it had gone coast to coast in the United States for one time cycle of exactly 19 years, beginning in 1934 on the first Sunday, the beginning of January. And in the first week of January 1953, 19 years later the gospel began going to the world and that was one century of time cycles from the time it apparently was suppressed, according to Galatians chapter one, verses six and seven.

PREACHING THE GOSPEL TO THE WORLD

God does things right on time, and we need to sort of wake up to that fact and realize it. Maybe we should be on time a little better than we always are. Now, let's get the time now. That gospel is going to the world, and it has gone through this Church and through the one God has raised up as the leader of this Church. That gospel has been going to the world for the first time in 1,900 years.

many cases **"messenger,"** speaking of a human messenger, like John the Baptist for example, and it could be either. In any event, it is not speaking just to an angel. It is speaking either of and to a human messenger of the Church, and leader, or it is speaking to the Church as a whole.





all. It is just something that is mentioned. Whether that is a real angel or another human messenger must be decided, but never the less that is mentioned in Revelation. Most people have never even noticed it there, but they made a whole gospel out of it.

THE PHILADELPHIA ERA OF GOD'S CHURCH

Now, we come on to the next Church because I came among them, and God did use me in the raising up of this Church. So now we come to verse seven, **“And to the angel of the Church in Philadelphia,”** now this is the Philadelphia era now, following the Sardis era. Of **“Philadelphia write; These things saith He that is holy, He that is true, He that hath the key of David, and that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works; behold I have set before thee and open door.”**

An open door and you will find that Paul explained how an open door was open before him to preach the gospel, to go to another place and preach the gospel. It's the door that is an opening to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, and no man can shut it. They've tried to shut it, but they have never been able.

“For thou hast a little strength,” and often that is translated, **“but a little strength.”** You have very little strength,

“But unto the angel of the Church of Sardis write, These things saith He that hath the seven spirits of God, and the seven stars,” that you found in the first chapter. **“I know thy works, that thou hast a name, that thou livest, and art dead.”**

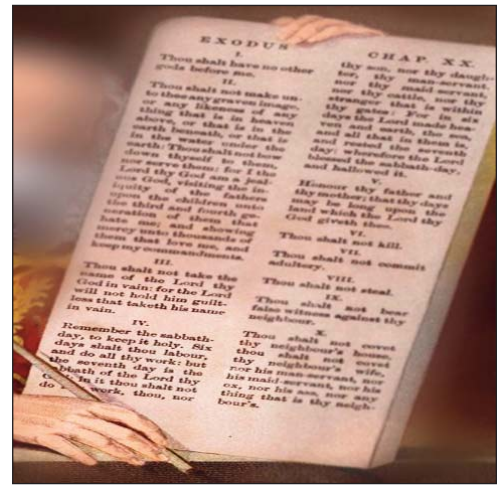
That Church was spiritually dead. I came among that Church myself. I came among that Church back in 19... I first heard of it in the latter part of 1926 and the beginning of 1927, and they were spiritually dead, but they did have the right name. They still went by the name **“Church of God.”**

They did believe in obeying God to the extent that they kept the Sabbath, but they had lost so very, very much of the truth. They had lost a very great deal of it. They didn't know about the annual Sabbaths. They only knew of the one weekly Sabbath. They didn't know about the Kingdom of God. They didn't know what the true gospel was. Instead of the true gospel of the Kingdom of God, they were preaching what they called a “third angel's message,” which is not a gospel at





did they get it
and from whom
did they get it?"
And in every
case they got it
from other men!
THEY GOT IT
FROM OTHER
PEOPLE!
THEY DID
NOT GET IT
FROM
CHRIST! But



where did the original apostles get it? They got it from
Jesus Christ in person.

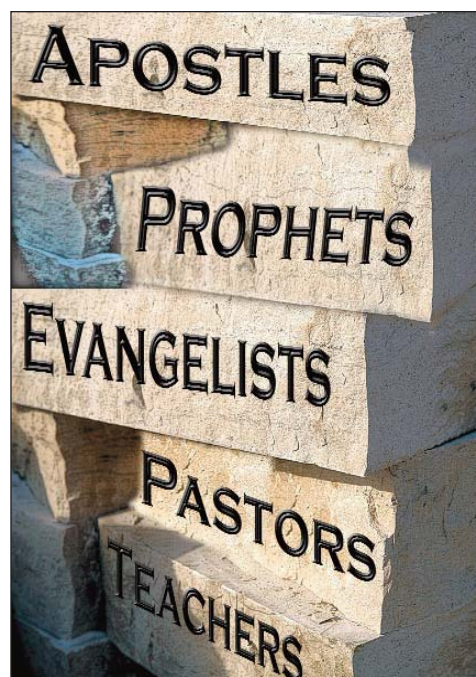
Now get this, Jesus Christ in person is the personal Word of
God. He is the Word of God in person, but the Bible here is
the Word of God in writing, and it's the same word exactly.

Now, I had been raised and taught by men in one of these
Protestant churches, a respected church, yes. I turned in my
study when I was challenged, and I was trying to have my
own way, and I was trying to prove just the opposite of
what the Bible says, as a matter of fact. That is, I hoped I
would find that was true. I wasn't trying to prove the Bible
wrong from that point of view. That isn't the way I mean it,
but I was trying to prove that what is right is the opposite of
what the Bible says.

very little strength. My name may be Armstrong, but it only
is the arm that is supposed to be strong, and it is not as
strong as it's supposed to be. I might
just mention that in passing.

**"And hast kept My word and hast
not denied My name."**

I'd like to tell you one thing, one dif-
ference between the raising up of
this Church and the other churches
in the world today. You take the
leader or the founder of any church,
take the ... Wesley was founder of
the Methodist Church, Luther was
the founder of the Lutheran Church,
any of them that you want, and ask:
"Where did they get their teaching
that they taught to their followers as
the doctrines of their Church? How



And I came across Romans 6:23, **"The
wages of sin is death."** And I said,
**"Well, that's not what I've been
taught."** What I'd been taught by men
is that the wages of sin is eternal life, of
course, it's eternal life in hell fire.
That's a little different than in heaven,
but its still eternal life. You're going to
live forever and burn forever and never
burn up. You'd be suffering and suffer-
ing and suffering every second, as long
as you'd live, and you'd live forever be-
cause you're an immortal soul.

Well, I read the last of that verse and it
says that, **"the gift of God is eternal
life through Jesus Christ our Lord."**



of the ground.” Now, man is formed of the dust of the ground, **“and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man,”** formed of the dust of the ground, **“became a living soul,”** not an immortal soul. So what became a soul came out of the ground! Not spirit, not immortal life, but something out of the ground that had to be there to live. And in other places in the Bible you find that the blood thereof is the life thereof.

“Well, that can’t be right! I’ve already got eternal life. Why do I have to get it as a gift from God? Something I already have. I am an immortal soul or I have an immortal soul, whichever.” That’s what I supposed.

So now I go on a little further in the Bible, and I found other things that weren’t as I supposed. I found Jesus said no man had ascended up to heaven. I found where in the first inspired sermon on the Day of Pentecost Peter said, **“David is not ascended into the heavens”** and **“his sepulcher is here with us even to this day,”** and David was a man after God’s own heart, and David has not ascended into heaven. Jesus said no man was.

Then I looked up the immortal soul, and I found, **“the soul that sinneth, it shall die,”** and that’s stated twice in the Bible.

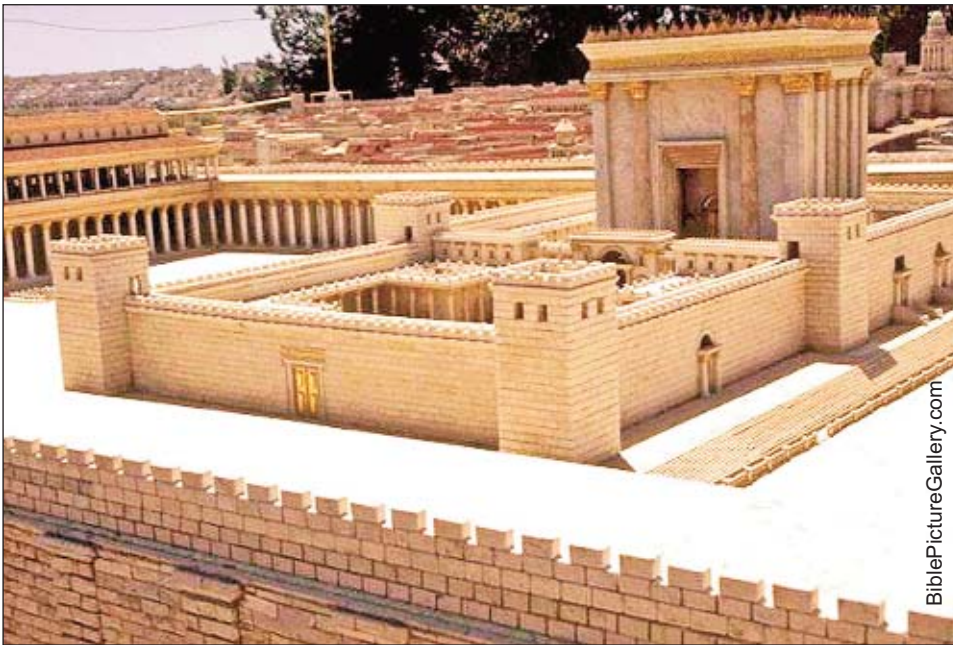
Then I found Jesus talked to a couple of souls, Adam and Eve. And then in the second chapter of Genesis, verse seven, **“God formed man of the dust**

drinking of water to constantly give us fuel, and that’s what keeps us going. It’s just a chemical, temporary existence. It’s not life. We don’t have life.

Adam was offered life in the Garden of Eden, but he didn’t take it. All he had was a temporary, chemical existence. He didn’t have life. That’s why you read in Ephesians 2, verse one, that the people in Ephesus had been dead in trespasses and sins. They hadn’t been alive. They were dead. But now they’re alive by having the Holy Spirit of God.



People who do not have the Spirit of God do not have life. They are dying every day they live, from the minute they were born; from the second they were born they began dying. Dying is a long process. Sometimes it takes a couple of three hours and some little infants die right about the time they are born, some take 70 years before they die, some few of us, they live quite a little longer than that, but not too many. But it’s a temporary existence.



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Now, the Bible says it's appointed to men once to die and as in Adam all die, so in Christ shall all be made alive. We need to remember those things as we go along.

THE SPIRITUAL TEMPLE OF GOD

I'd like to turn now back to Malachi, last book in the Old Testament, Malachi 3, and I'd like to read a little more than verse one this time. We usually stop at the end of verse one. You don't get the real meaning if you stop there.

"Behold," it's a prophecy, **"I will send My messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me."** Who is speaking? Why the Lord Jesus Christ Who is the God of the Old Testament. He's the Word of God.

"And the Lord whom you seek, shall suddenly come to His temple." Now we want to know something about that temple, too. Christ is coming to a temple, and He did come to a temple when He came, didn't He?

All right, **"even the Messenger of the Covenant,"** Jesus came as the Messenger of the New Covenant. Moses was the mediator of the Old Covenant. The new was a different Covenant, based on better promises but the same law.

Which **"ye delight in: behold He shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. But who may abide the day of His coming? And who shall stand when He appeareth? for He is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And He shall sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and shall purge them as gold and silver,"** and they, **"that they may offer unto the LORD and offering in righteousness."**

"Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in the former years. And I will come near unto you in judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against adulterers, and against false swearers" and against a lot of other people.

Now, what I want to ask you is, did that happen when Christ came? The answer is, no, it didn't. Those things didn't happen at all. Those are all things that are going to take place when Christ comes the second time. Therefore, this is speaking primarily of the Second Coming of Christ and not the first.

But remember I said there is a duality? There is a second Adam. There is a first Adam. There is an Old Covenant. There is a New Covenant. There was the government of God. There is going to come later the Kingdom of God, and



the government of God will be restored to the earth. God often does things in a dual manner. In fact, most prophecies are fulfilled that way.

Now go back, **“I will send a messenger to prepare the way before Me and the LORD will suddenly come to His temple,”** and it’s speaking about His Second Coming. What temple is He coming to? What temple is He coming to? And who is to prepare the way?

Now, you will read in Mark the first chapter, you’ll read it in Matthew, and yes, I believe it’s in Luke, too, that John the Baptist really sort of fulfilled that prophecy. He prepared the way before Christ. But this is speaking really of the Second Coming and not the First Coming, and John the Baptist just prepared the way before Christ’s First Coming. So, this is really speaking of a Second Coming.

Now there is another prophecy I’d like to read to you back here in Haggai, the second chapter. Here was Haggai building a temple, a temple to which Christ came the first time.

John the Baptist prepared the way before His coming the first time. Let’s get something about the preparation of the temples of the first time and the second time.

The temple had been destroyed at Jerusalem— that is Solomon’s temple. That was so glorious you know, probably the finest building that was ever built on earth. I don’t know whether St. Peter’s of Rome would be considered finer now today or not. It’s ugly and filthy and dirty though, and Solomon’s Temple was just glistening with

shiny gold and silver and beautiful things. It was very, very beautiful. Of course, St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome is beautiful in a way, but it is dirty.

But, beginning with verse three here, in the second chapter of Haggai, **“Who is left among you that saw this house.”** ... in Zechariah 4, verses six and nine, **“This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, ‘Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ saith the LORD of hosts.”**

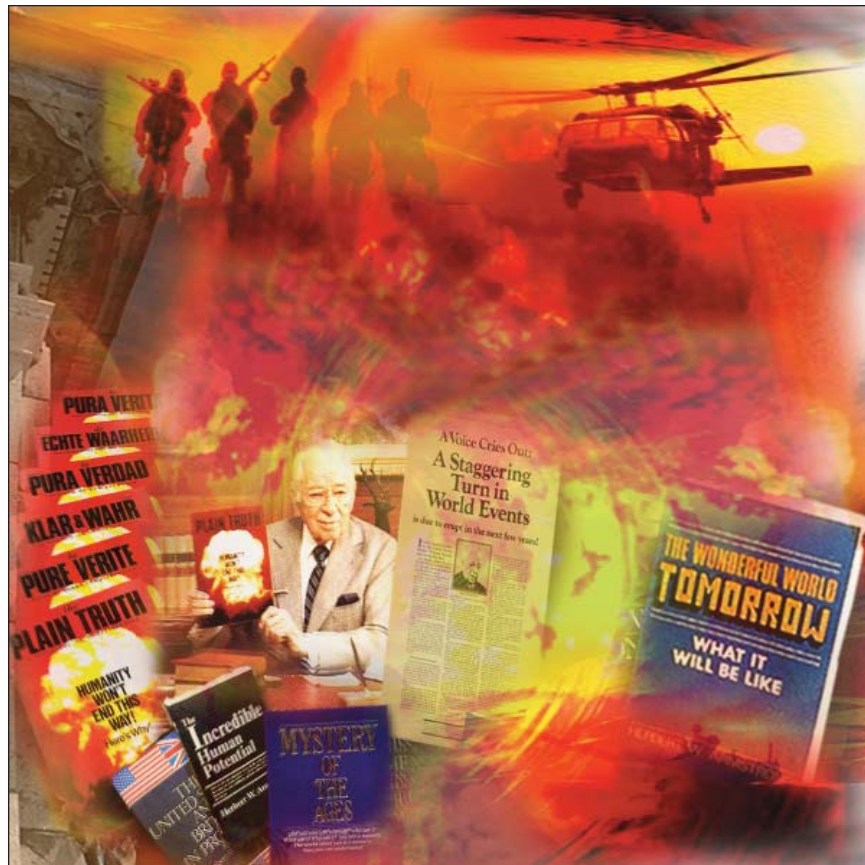
He’s talking of the type, of the forerunner of one who would have very little strength, or power, or spirit. **YOU CAN’T DO IT ON YOUR OWN POWER! YOU HAVEN’T GOT IT! YOU’RE A HUMAN BEING! You do it by the SPIRIT and the POWER of the LIVING GOD!**

Brethren, I didn’t build this building here! I had something to do with it though, but it was Jesus Christ Who built this building.

I didn’t build this campus, Jesus Christ did, but He used me in doing it. And I had something to do with designing almost every inch of this building and every inch of this campus.

And I knew that God had shown me He wanted it to be beautiful. Three times we have won the award of being the most beautiful; the best landscaped and best maintained campus in the United States of America.

God’s campus ought to be, and it is. And I say praise be to God and not to any human being because we are only instruments. I didn’t do it. Christ did it. To Him goes all the credit and glory. It’s been done by faith. It’s been done by the POWER of the SPIRIT OF GOD. Let’s realize that.





I've noticed in this Work that when some men get advanced to a certain higher position, they want to climb a little higher in the Work. They want a little bigger salary. It isn't always a bigger salary they want. They want a little more POWER. They want the POWER, and God doesn't give it to them, and many of them are out, out in the world, out in the cold, cold world going nowhere.

They are just like that man back in Moses' time, Korah, and the people with him. Moses said to him, he said, **"Korah, you had a high position. You had been elevated to quite a lot of authority, but it wasn't enough! You wanted more authority! You wanted, you were thinking of yourself and your position and how much position you could get!"** What did God do? Moses didn't do it. God did it.

God just let the earth swallow, fall away from under them, and they sank down, and the earth swallowed them up and covered them, and they were buried alive. And God is the same yesterday, today and forever [Hebrews 13:8].

Well, today those that do that are coming to nothing, those that get to glorifying themselves and want power for themselves. God doesn't give it to them. He just does not give it to them.

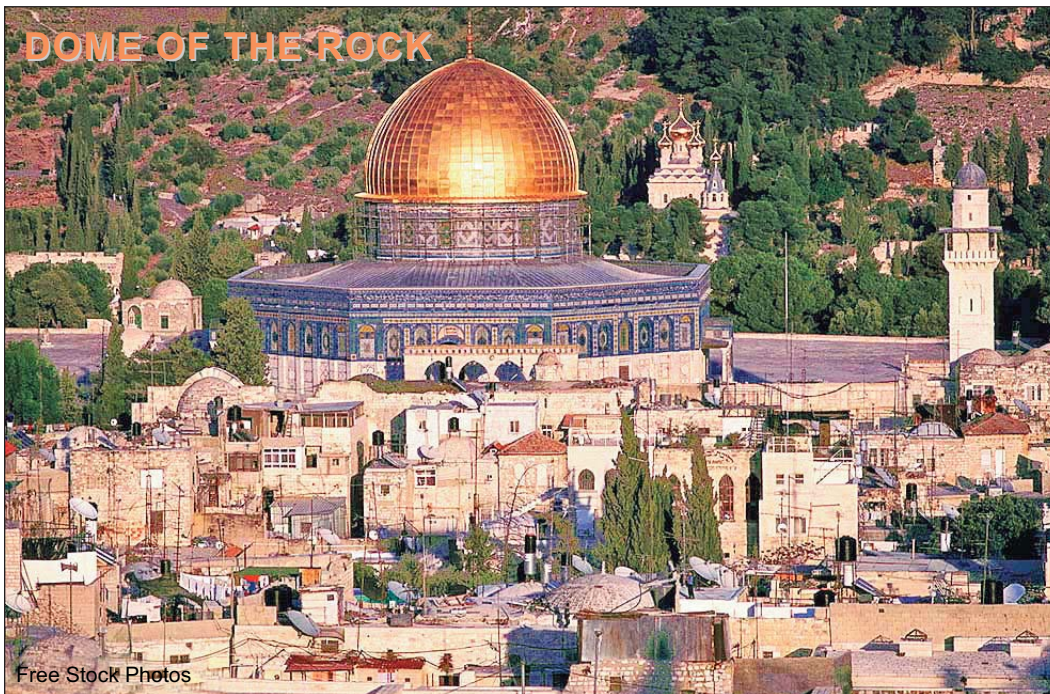
There is one other verse I'd like to read here, verse nine, **"The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house."** Now, that was a type of the house or the temple to which Christ is coming. **"His hand shall finish it. And thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hast sent me unto you."** If he was a type, I hope that the one he's a type of will finish the Work and will be kept alive. So I go back to Isaiah 40 and the last three or four verses there, and I find how

God renews our youth like the eagles, and how God can keep us alive and can even bring us back from death as He has brought me back from death because I died, and I was brought back.

Now, what about the temple? I'd like to turn to Ephesians the second chapter and just a few words here. **"Now therefore you,"** that's the Church at Ephesus, and this would be the same as the Church of God anywhere in that day, today or anytime.

You **"are no more strangers and foreigners."** They had been Gentiles, but are **"fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God."** Now, if they're citizens, they're speaking of their citizenship and their nation. They're no more foreigners, but they're also of the household of God. Now it's speaking of a family. A household is a family, so they are in a family relationship, the family of God.

"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone." Now he's talking about them being a building. **"In whom all the BUILDING,"** that's the Church. The Church is a building, **"all the building, fitly framed together, groweth unto an holy,"** what? A **"holy TEMPLE in the Lord!"** That's the temple to which Christ is coming!



People have argued the Jews going to destroy the Dome of the Rock that the Arabs have in Jerusalem, standing on the very site where Solomon's Temple once did and where the temple did to which Christ came the first time? And are the Jews going to build a temple for Him to come? OH, NO! The temple it's speaking of is a spiritual temple.

Now, someone is to prepare the way for His coming. John the Baptist prepared the way for His First Coming. John the Baptist was a voice crying out in the physical wilderness of the Jordan River, and he was preparing the way for a physical Jesus to come in the human flesh, and He was coming to His physical temple built of stone that Zerubbabel built. Now, just as John the Baptist may have been a type, so Zerubbabel was a type of the one that would build the Second Temple. That is that Christ would use in the building, because actually it's God doing all these things anyway, or God doing it through Christ and Christ does it through the Holy Spirit.

But He came the first time to the physical temple and to a physical human, Judah and He came announcing that He WOULD bring about the Kingdom of God, but that was to be more than 1,900 years in the future.

Was that a type of someone crying out in the SPIRITUAL WILDERNESS of religious confusion of this 20th century? Of the SPIRITUAL CHRIST COMING IN POWER AND GLORY! Not of the PHYSICAL Jesus, but the GOD Jesus

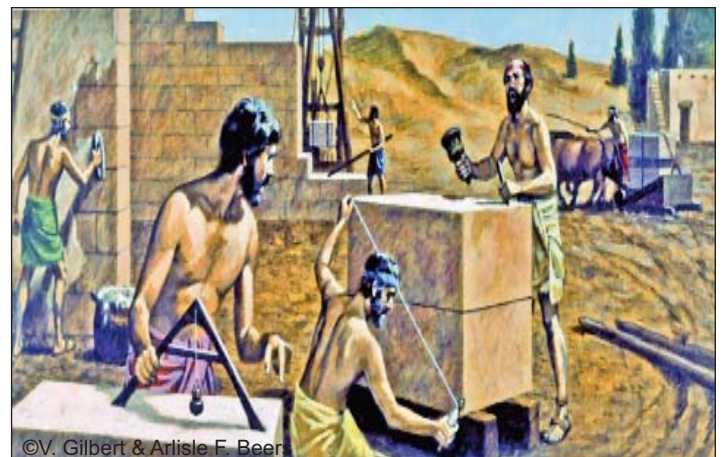
in POWER and GLORY to His SPIRITUAL TEMPLE that will meet Him in the air, in the clouds! The dead in Christ of that temple will rise first. We which are alive in Christ will be changed instantly from mortal to immortal and rise and meet Him as IMMORTAL people, far more glorious temple than Solomon's! A spiritual temple, that's what we shall be!

Your faces won't be the color that they are now, pale, or whatever color that they are. Your faces will all be as

bright as the sun itself full strength. Your eyes will be like flames of fire. You will be spiritual. You will be composed of spirit. You will have life and you won't be dead. You will have life. You'll have the kind of life so you NEVER CAN DIE! You'll have the kind of life that can never be unhappy. You shall always have joy and happiness. You shall always want to help others and do good as God does.

And He's coming this time to establish the Kingdom of God, which is a spiritual Kingdom which is the household of God, the family of God that will restore the government of God on this earth and put away Satan the devil. That is what is going to happen.

Now, we're just tracing the history of the Church here in its relation to Satan the devil and some of these things. I want to get this history of it over to you.





dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found anymore in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world.” The whole world, not part of it, all of it.

“He was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” Now, that is right near the time of the coming of Christ, be-

cause the next words say, ‘**And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now is come salvation, and strength, and the Kingdom of our God.’**”

Salvation comes at the Second Coming of Christ and the Kingdom of God. So this is prior, just prior, ah, it could be as much as 10 or 15 or 30 years prior, but it’s getting close considering the time of the thousands of years that this has been going on here on the earth and 1,950 years for the Church itself, comparatively short time.

But, “**the great dragon was cast out,**” now, wait a minute. This war in heaven, Michael won it. This is, again there’s duality. You read back in Isaiah 14 of how the archangel Lucifer had been put on a throne on this earth and said, “**I’ll exalt my throne above the stars of heaven. I will ascend.**” And he was going to knock God off the throne and take over the whole universe.

You also read of him in Ezekiel 28, where he was perfect in all of his ways from the day he was created until iniquity was found in him. The great archangel Lucifer became Satan the devil. He tried to swoop up to heaven with his angels and knock God off the throne. He was cast down. There is a duality. It’s happened again, and I think that has happened just recently in our time.

THE RESTORATION OF DOCTRINAL TEACHINGS

So now we’ll go back to Revelation 12 once again, in verses, beginning with verse seven. Now, we get down to our present time and here this Church has been raised up by one that God taught through the printed Word of God, the Word taught by the printed Word as the original apostles were by the personal Word, same Words exactly. You tell me any other religious leader in the world that got his religion that way and gave it out to the whole Church that way. There is none.

This is the only Church that has been built that way, brethren. You are the only ones that have the precious knowledge and much of that knowledge had been lost through the Middle Ages and God has restored it. And you have knowledge that the Church didn’t have a hundred years ago, two hundred, three hundred, five hundred, seven hundred years ago. You are privileged to have that wonderful knowledge. Do you appreciate it? Do you value it? Do you realize how precious it is? It’s time we wake up and that we do realize.

SATAN THE DEVIL CAST OUT OF HEAVEN

I’d begun with verse seven now. I’d read the first six verses back here in Revelation 12. “**And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the**

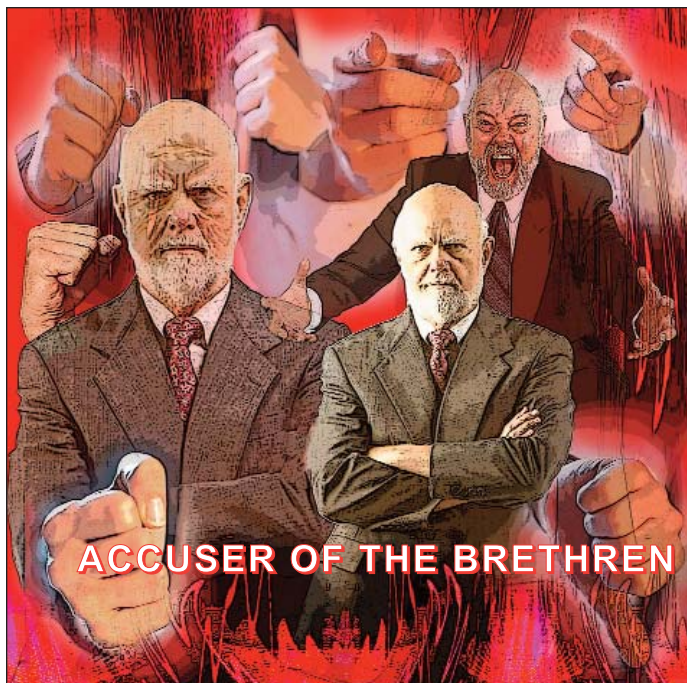
Now, the Bible doesn't tell when. We have to judge by what has happened, by the fruits you know. And what are the fruits? What has happened?

The persecuting power always was the governments of this world, the governments of Satan. Satan persecutes through his government, the world's governments, the world's kingdoms, the world's laws. They are all masterminded by Satan the devil. It's time that a lot of people begin to wake up to that fact, for they exalt the governments of this world; the courts of this world!

The Bible speaks of the unjust judge when it speaks of the judges and the courts of this world. There isn't justice there, and we should have learned it in the recent lawsuit, where the government tried to overthrow and take over this Church and did not succeed and shall not succeed because this is the Church of the Living God. And God did protect this Church and did preserve it, and He said the gates of the grave will never prevail against it. And this is the only Church that Jesus was talking about at that time.

Now, let's go on here in this 12th chapter again of Revelation, **"a loud voice"** in heaven saying, **"now is come salvation, and strength, and the Kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down."**

When people begin to accuse the brethren, they are doing the work of Satan, and I have heard a lot of that in the last three or four months! Accusing the people and the leaders

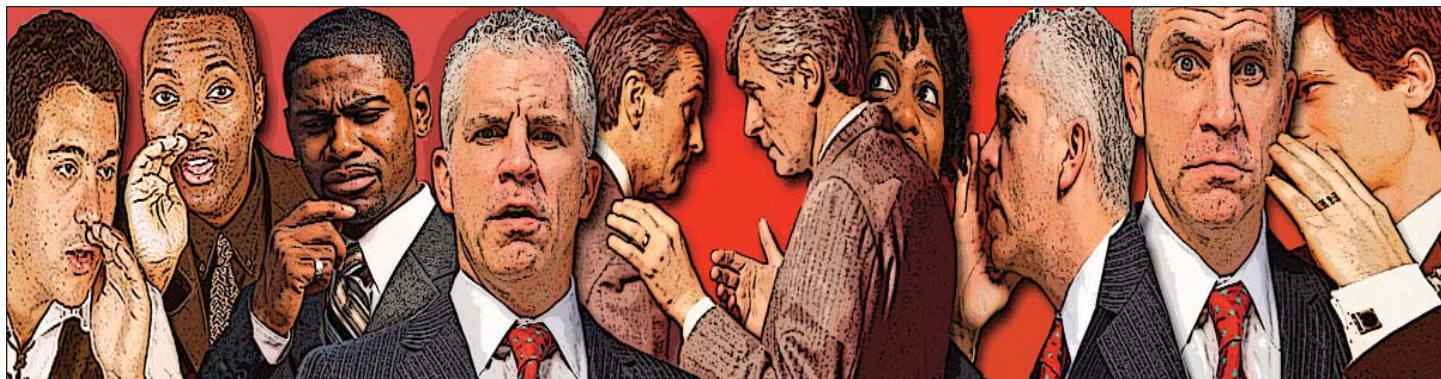


of God! Satan is the accuser of the brethren! **"Which accused them day and night before"** God. "Before our God day and night," that's what he was doing up in heaven.

"And they overcame him with the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto death." I don't

think that is speaking of the time of the martyrdom. That is yet to come, but I think our people did not love their lives unto death when you filled this auditorium and the hall of administration and the other buildings so that the officials of government could not get in and you were holding religious services, so they were afraid to enter and disturb a religious service. God was with us and the power of God.

"Therefore rejoice ye heavens and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea for the devil is come down unto you with great wrath for he knows that he has but a short time." How does he know? How does he know that he has but a short time? Jesus said when this Gospel of the Kingdom is proclaimed to the world, THEN SHALL THE END COME! Satan knows that's been going around! He knows he has but a short time! Many people don't know that though. I wonder if we know it in God's Church. It's time we do know it. He knows that he has but a short time.

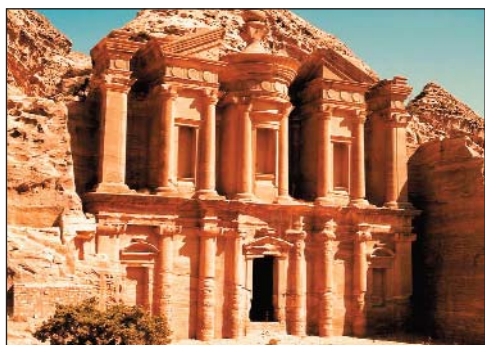


“And when the dragon,” which is the devil, **“saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.”** And that is us and he has been persecuting us and he will continue to persecute us. Satan is not through, and we’re going to be persecuted from now until Christ does come and put Satan away. So, prepare for it brethren, and if it doesn’t hit you, maybe you don’t belong to Christ as much as you think you do.

“To the woman were given the two wings of a great eagle,” when this persecution comes to its full strength. It hasn’t come to that yet. The **“two wings of a great eagle that she might fly into the wilderness, unto her place.”** God has a place! And there is a place!

“Where she is nourished for a time, and times and half a time.” This time it will be three and a half years. Now, the time, times and half a time, that’s 1,260 days, and at the end time, when you come down to this end time a day is a day being fulfilled, but prior to that back in history, a day is a year being fulfilled in prophecy.

Back in Numbers and in the Old Testament, you find the key to that. It’s all explained. I can’t go into that today, but I hope that you’ve read much of our literature and heard it preached so that you understand all of that.



Anyway, she is **“from the face of the serpent.”**

This 12th chapter is showing us the history of the Church, that

is the future history from Christ’s time, in relation to the devil. **“And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as of a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened up her mouth and swallowed up the flood,”** not the woman, **“which the dragon had cast out of his mouth.”**

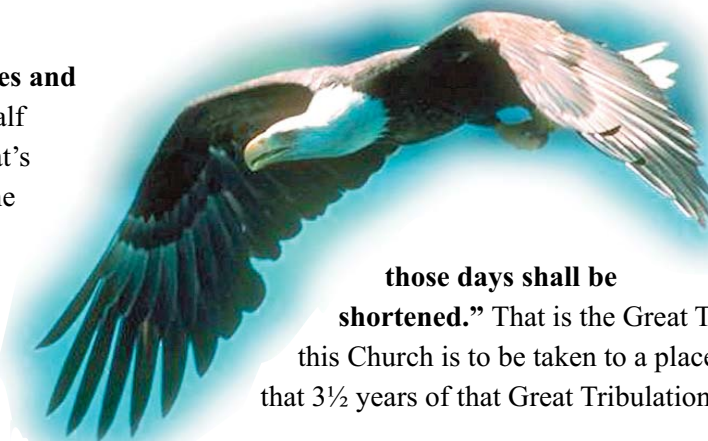
Now, that leaves one verse yet that I’ll come to later.

THE GREAT TRIBULATION

Now, I want to fill in a few other verses at this point. Next I want to go back to Matthew 24, what is just coming next now and what we’re leading into. It’s a result of Satan’s wrath, and we will very soon be coming to it. Matthew 24 and verses 21 and 22. Now this is coming very soon now.

We are almost up to that time. There **“shall be GREAT tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be, And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved alive.”** It’s speaking of keeping humanity alive, not

spiritual salvation in that case.



“But for the elect’s sake

those days shall be shortened.” That is the Great Tribulation and this Church is to be taken to a place of safety for that 3½ years of that Great Tribulation.

And at this point I’d like to turn back to a prophecy in the Old Testament again, in Joel 2 and verse 31, **“The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come.”** Now, that’s before the Day of the Lord.

Now, I want to show you verse 29 of Matthew 24, **“Immediately after the tribulation of those days,”** this is after the Great Tribulation, thus **“shall the sun be darkened and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven shall be shaken.”**

But that will be before the Day of the Lord, so you see first comes the Great Tribulation, after that the signs in the sun and the moon and the stars, after that the Day of the Lord and Christ comes in the Day of the Lord or very soon after it’s beginning.

And I don’t know whether that’s a few days, a few weeks or a few months. I don’t know. I don’t think it’s a few years, but God doesn’t give us the time, so I don’t know, and you don’t know.



Now, back to Revelation 6 this time, Revelation 6, and I want to show you about the sun and the moon being dark. Beginning with verse 12 in Revelation 6, **“And I beheld when He had opened the sixth seal, and lo, there was a great earthquake.”** Now, this follows the Great Tribulation which is the fifth seal in this chapter in Revelation.

“And the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs.” And I think that means there has to be a meteor shower and not stars that are bigger than our sun, of course.

And, **“when she was shaken with a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and every island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and EVERY bondman, and EVERY free man, HID themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said unto the mountains and the rocks, ‘FALL ON US, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb!’”**

Because they see the sight of this in heaven, and it’s going to FRIGHTEN them as they’ve never been frightened in all their lives! They are going to want to die and SEEK death and won’t be able to.

“For the great day of,” Thy, **“His wrath,”** God’s wrath, **“is come; and who shall be able to stand.”** The Great

Tribulation is really caused by Satan’s wrath, but the Day of the Lord is come, will come upon us as a result of God’s wrath on Satan and on the people that are following his way.

Now, I’d like to go on just mention a little bit about the seventh chapter of Revelation here, while I’m on it. After these things, there were four angels holding up the four winds of the earth that they should not blow on the earth or sea, the trees and so on.

And then appeared the 144,000 and another great innumerable multitude of all nations. Now, when they asked, **“Who are they?”** they are people that come to Christ OUT of the Great Tribulation. A GREAT, not revival, but a great conversion of people is going to happen as a result, or during the Great Tribulation.

Many people have heard our message. Millions have heard it that we have not heard from, believe me! They haven’t paid too much attention to it now, but when these things happen they will say, **“That was the truth that we heard!”** They’ve heard it on television. They’ve heard it on radio. They’ve read it in the Plain Truth. Millions of copies of the Plain Truth are going out now every month, over two million and I hope we get it built up over three million again very soon. We are reaching millions of people. And I think we don’t realize it. We don’t hear from all of those millions. We just hear from those that are a little bit interested. So many of them, they get it and they say, **“Oh, yeah.”** And they go on, and they don’t pay much attention, but believe you me they are going to pay attention when the Great Tribulation comes!

Now, we’re in a time of trouble now such as the world never had before, but it’s going to be a lot worse than this. This is a forerunner you might say of the Great Tribulation that we’re into right now.

Now, those of the 144,000 and the great innumerable multitude, they will be the Laodicean Church that is to follow this Church. The Laodicean Church has not appeared as yet. You want to know about that. Well, that’s it. It will come out of the Great Tribulation. You find the Laodicean Church in Revelation 3 and again in Matthew 25. The Laodicean Church, they are lukewarm. They are only half-filled with the Holy Spirit.

But now I'd like to have you notice in Matthew 25 just a moment. Here's something you might devote a lot of time to in studying, Matthew 25 beginning with verse one, **"Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto 10 virgins."** Now, that's speaking of those in the Church in the 10 virgins. This ties up with the 10 pounds and also the 10, the parable that follows this of the 10, the parable of the talents; but the pounds were 10 and they're talking about the Church in this time before Christ comes.

"Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto 10 virgins." That's the Church in this whole Church age.

"Which took their lamps and went forth to meet the bridegroom." They were told of the Second Coming of Christ over 1,900 years ago.

Now, their lamps are symbolic, as I say, Revelation is symbolic, **"Thy word is a lamp unto our feet,"** the Bible says. The lamps then are the Bible. We are a Bible-loving people. They didn't have Bibles to take back in the time of Christ, but they took the Word of God that they had heard proclaimed, never-the-less.

But they didn't have oil, the Holy Spirit. Now, I want you to notice something right here, five of them are wise and five of them were foolish, and **"they that were foolish took their lamps,"** but **"took no oil with them, but the wise took oil,"** not in the lamps, **"took oil in the vessels WITH their lamps."**

Now, the lamp is the Bible. The lamp is the Word of God, but the vessel that they took the oil in was the person, and in your mind, and you can't understand the Bible without the Holy Spirit. The oil is the Holy Spirit, and those that were foolish did not have the Holy Spirit. They had the Bible, but they couldn't understand it correctly because they didn't have the Holy Spirit.

"And at midnight," now that's the way it's been for 1,900 years, but now we get down to our time. They thought Christ was coming right then in their day. Paul thought so.



Peter thought so. He didn't come then, but you know, **"while the bridegroom tarried,"** Christ didn't come that soon, **"they all slumbered and slept."** The WHOLE CHURCH slumbered and slept and in that slumber and sleep they lost sight of the Second Coming of Christ. They forgot and the Second Coming of Christ was not proclaimed through the Middle Ages. The Second Coming of Christ, there was a duality there.

And the first, it began with the William Miller movement in 1843, or just prior to 1843. And he had it all figured that Christ was returning in 1843 and on a certain date. I forget the date. You can research it and look it up if you want to get it.

He didn't come on that date and so a lot of people were TERRIBLY discouraged. He tried to set the date. You can't do that, of course, but a lot of people followed a woman, a Mrs. Ellen G. White and that developed into what became, and they were people of the Church of God for a while, but they then had a meeting about 1860, and they changed their name to Seventh Day Adventist. But they also, had proclaimed the Second Coming of Christ, but they got it all wrong. Christ was only coming to meet us as we were going to heaven, where the Bible says that we're going to meet Him in the clouds as He comes to the earth.

So they invented their doctrine of the investigative judgment in the Seventh Day Adventist Church, and they have their doctrine of the 2,300 days, and the spirit of prophecy and some of their particular Seventh Day Adventist doctrines. So they wanted to get rid of the name "Church of God." They threw it away and adopted the name Seventh Day Adventist.

The Church of God continued on. Its headquarters was moved from a place in Iowa to Stanberry, Missouri by the time I came among them back in 1926 and 7.

Now we're getting down to our time, but the people didn't believe it, and they didn't have the truth about it or the purpose of Christ's coming or what He's coming for or anything about it. It was not the gospel.

But, **“and at midnight there was a cry made,”** I guess it’s like they expected Him about seven or eight o’clock, and they went to sleep, you know. But these virgins were sleeping, and they lost a lot of the gospel. **“But at midnight there was a cry made.”** A voice started to cry out now in the spiritual wilderness of the 20th century. **“Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him.”**

Now, as I say there was a type and anti-type or whatever you want to call it, and William Miller gave a little something about it in 1843 or just prior to that time. But we’ve been proclaiming it, and people haven’t paid too much attention to it, but still there are thousands in the Church today, and it is the Worldwide Church of God, and we are worldwide today.

“Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.” That is, they began to dust off the Bible and look into it a little bit. And, but **“the foolish said unto the wise, ‘Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.’”** Or, **“they are going out”** as some of the other translations have it.

“But the wise answered, saying, ‘Not so,’ but go there, ‘lest there be not enough for us and for you: but go you rather to those that sell, and buy for yourselves.’”

You know, you sort of have to buy the Holy Spirit when you stop to think about it. You have to give up, not money, you don’t have to give up money. You have to give up yourself. You have to give up your own way of life. You have to repent, and you have to begin to believe, and you have to give yourself to God. And that’s the way you receive the Holy Spirit.

“While they went to buy, the bridegroom came,” the Second Coming of Christ **“and they that were ready went in with Him to the marriage and the door was shut. Afterward, came also the other virgins saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open unto us.’ But He answered and said, ‘Verily, verily I know you not.’”** When they didn’t have the Holy Spirit, they didn’t have the life of God, and He did not know them.

It made me think there are a lot that understand part of the Bible, but they have never received the Spirit of God. Just believing certain parts of the Bible doesn’t save you, brethren. The Spirit of God is a different Spirit, a different attitude that comes into you. It does not possess you like a demon might possess you, but it will open your mind to understand and comprehend the Bible. And the Holy Spirit of God will lead the way and will show you the way and say, **“This is the way. Walk you in it,”** and the question is whether you will do it or not.

THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST

Well, at that time, now we get back to Matthew 24 again, just one verse here – Matthew 24 and verse 30, I read 29 awhile ago, **“And then shall appear,”** after these signs in

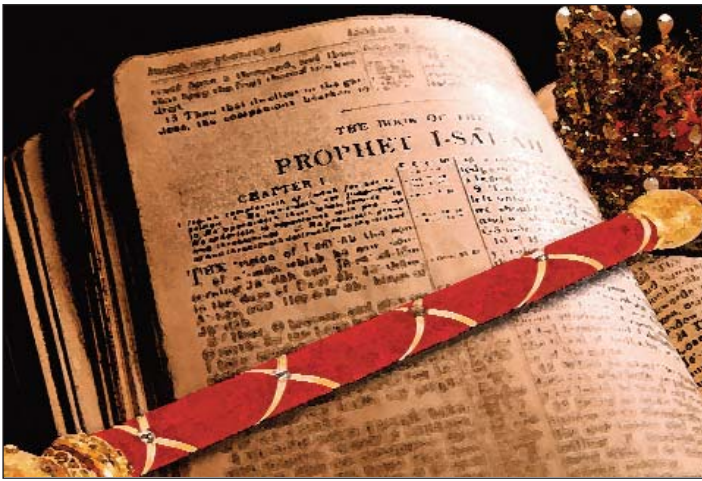
the sun and the moon and the stars that I read in verse 29, **“shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall ALL the tribes of the earth mourn and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”** And that will be the Second Coming of Christ.

Now, we turn back to finish Revelation 12 in, for the

final verse, verse 17, **“and the dragon was wroth with the woman,”** that’s the Church, **“and went to make war with the REMNANT of her seed.”** The remnant is the last part, the tag end of the bolt of cloth that you buy in a dry goods store. And the remnant then is the Laodicean Church that keep the Commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus. A lot of them may be commandment keepers, but they won’t have the Spirit of God, that is the Spirit and an attitude. We have to have the LIFE of God, the SPIRIT of God within us.

Now, in Revelation 11 and verse 15, finally, to just bring this down to something complete, Revelation 11 and verse 15, again, and then **“the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world,’”** that’s all the governments of this earth, **“are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and His**





Christ; and He shall reign even forever and ever.” And then you go onto the 20th and the 19th chapter and you find how Christ is coming as the King of kings and the Lord of Lords and then in the 20th chapter, how Satan is taken away, and the saints will rule with Christ in the Kingdom of God.

And so, that will complete the history of the Church up to the coming of Christ as it is in the 12th chapter of the Book of Revelation, and other scriptures that I have used to fill in a lot of the little points along the way.

We are right now, I think, at the time just after the war in heaven between Michael and his angels fighting against Satan the devil and his demons. And the devil is down and he's full of wrath and it hasn't come to the FINAL persecution yet. We're not right at the Great Tribulation, but it is next to happen. We're very, very close to it. There isn't much time left!

But I thought that you needed this message today. You need to know just where we are and what is happening. We need to remember how this Church has been resurrected and how God's knowledge has been restored, that had been lost while the Church slumbered and slept through the Middle Ages. They lost so much of the knowledge of God. It has been restored. Can you realize that, brethren?

GOD'S TRUE CHURCH

We should remember how this Church is not just something, just another church. It is something special that God has raised up. God revealed truth to me, and if there is any reason why He chose me, there is only one. It's not because of any righteousness of mine. It's not because of any abili-

ties or powers of mine. I've known scores upon scores of men with better minds than I have, better personality, better appearance, more leadership. I'd say about more of everything that you think about humanly, but God has not called them or used them. Why?

Why did He pick on one as inferior as I am? ***Because I was willing to believe Him!*** Adam and Eve didn't believe Him. Jesus Christ spoke to thousands who didn't believe Him, only 120 still believed Him after Christ had talked for 3½ years to multiple thousands of people. ***But I did believe Him!***

And I HAVE NOT COMPROMISED WITH THAT BELIEF ONE IOTA! AND I'VE BEEN WORKING HARD THE LAST 2½ YEARS TO GET THIS CHURCH BACK ON THE TRACK AFTER OTHERS WERE GETTING IT OFF THE TRACK! I don't think we're a hundred percent back yet. I don't think we have gotten ALL of the leaven out yet, but it's going out, believe me, and we're going to get it out.

Let's not be part of those virgins who don't have any oil in their lamps. If you have any doubt in your mind, begin fasting and praying, asking God to give you His Spirit, but His Spirit will only work with your mind to understand His Word, and you will have to follow it. The Holy Spirit is not going to pull you. It's not going to push you. It's not going to compel you. It will show you the way. You have to begin to want to walk on it on your own power, and you'll have to ask God for extra power and help.

Brethren, we're in the very last days, and we need to be sure that we are ready, and I hope that you will all take this very seriously. The things in this world are of no importance from now on at all. FORGET IT! I used to want to go down and see Laker basketball games. I haven't any time for that anymore. I'm just having to learn to forget everything of that kind. Sure you can get interested in things like that, but there are far more serious things.



Due to a lack of space, it has been necessary to edit out a small portion of this sermon given by Mr. Armstrong. However, this did not take away from the continuity of the subject. It is available in its entirety to those who will write or call us. P. O. Box 8819. Modesto, CA 95357, Phone (209)772-0737. **Don Billingsley**

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

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

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

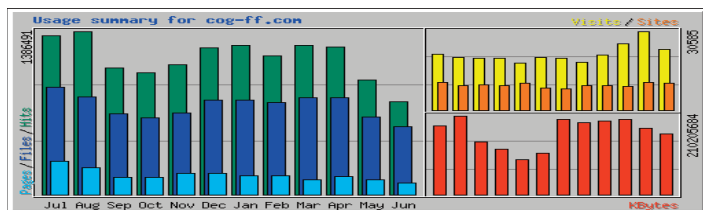
Which Day is the Christian Sabbath?
www.sabbathcentral.com

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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