

The _____ Philadelphia Remnant

September/October 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://phillip.greenspun.com>

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 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>*)

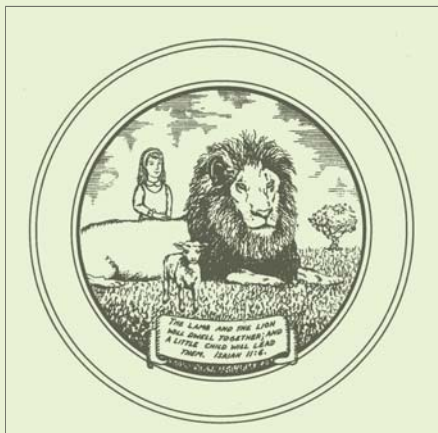
The Church of God Faithful Flock, with headquarters in Modesto, California, humbly presents this magazine – *The Philadelphia Remnant*, which continues to provide a conduit for the work Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong spear-headed, the work of reaching out to people worldwide with the message of the soon-coming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

Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley

DESIGN/LAYOUT

Mark Mendiola

WRITERS

Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley
Mark Mendiola
Garfield Gregoire
Tom Cooper
Ed Tidwell
Duane Miller

PHOTOS/GRAPHICS

Barbara Mendiola

PROOFING

Barbara Mendiola
Marie Duncan

COVER, WEB GRAPHICS

Jason Busa
Raymond Mills
Frank Olive

PUBLISHER

Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley

CIRCULATION/BUSINESS MANAGER

Joseph Duncan

SECRETARY

Larry Burns

Published by
Church of God Faithful Flock
P.O. Box 130
Valley Springs, CA 95252
www.cog-ff.com

Foundation of a New World

By Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong
December 31, 1983

Greetings, brethren! The doomsday clock has just been set up by the atomic scientists from four to three minutes before midnight. The 11th hour struck some time ago. World leaders are perplexed. They're frightened. They have no solutions. The unthinkable has become very thinkable, and hundreds of millions now are beginning to worry about it. The president of the United States recently said it would seem like Armageddon is approaching near.

If you happened to stay tuned after the movie "The Day After" appeared on the ABC network, let's see that's a little over a month ago, I think about the 26th of last month, there was quite a discussion of some of the leading advisors to the United States government.

The panel in the discussion to discuss the whole thing included the secretary of state and the former secretary of state and many others that had been advisors to the president or former presidents of the United States in regard to this very world condition and the possibility of nuclear war.



MR. HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

HUMAN EXISTENCE IN QUESTION

And everyone is beginning to realize now that we have come to the place where a nuclear war can blast all humanity out of existence! Not leaving a man, woman or child alive on the face of the earth, and that includes every one of us.



Now, in a world of absolutely awesome progress and yet a world of appalling evils, as I've said so very many times, are we now reaching the end of human existence? Are we reaching human extinction from this planet? Is the crowning achievement of technology and science and massive governmental production going to be the



thing very special to do with this particular Church; I mean the whole Church of God worldwide.

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

Now, Jesus preached the solution, and He preached a great deal of it in parables. He preached in parables so that the world would not understand. They didn't understand what He meant by His parables. He did explain it to His own disciples. He said it was given to them to understand. And it is given to you and me, brethren, to understand. It is not given to the world in general. They do not understand. They can't understand.

Now, if we weren't pre-empted tomorrow morning ... I think the program will be on an interview with one of the leaders in the government of Israel, and if you will watch in that interview you will notice that as I begin to explain what does lie ahead, he seems to be perplexed, and he rather admits that he doesn't understand the Bible, and he did ex-

Frankenstein that will destroy us all and blot out all humanity?

World leaders are bewildered. I talk to many of them. Perhaps I've talked to more in their own home offices than any other man alive, recently. They are absolutely helpless. They have no solutions. They're bewildered. They don't know how to face the future. Why?

Now, this does mightily concern us all, and it has some-





The Gospel is His message. That is not preached and was not in the world until God opened radio to me before the days of television, and it was proclaimed all over the United States, and a 19-year time cycle and then precisely a century of time cycles from the time that the Gospel was suppressed, Radio Luxembourg, the most powerful radio station on earth was opened up in Europe, and the Gospel went out to Europe.

THE WORLD LIKE A CRUMBLING BUILDING

I want to give you a certain analogy today. It's not a parable. Let's call it an analogy, but it's similar, and one that I think you will under-

press that he wished I could explain to their rabbis so that they could understand the Bible a little better.

And I thought it was a clear indication that he recognized that I have a better understanding of their own Bible than their own Rabbis do, which I will agree with him, and that doesn't have to be any boast, because they don't understand it.

Jesus explained to His disciples something that the world never did understand, and it was all about the Kingdom of God, which is the overruling purpose of God and that was Jesus' message – the Kingdom of God.

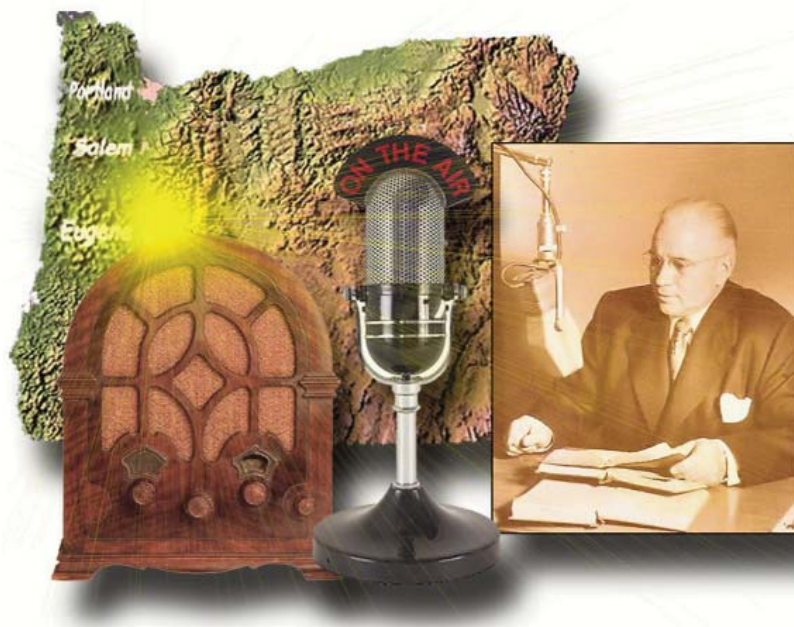
And the world didn't understand it, and they don't yet because that Gospel has not been preached to the world. They have not preached the Gospel OF Christ.

They have preached man's gospel ABOUT Christ. They have merely preached about the person. The person, Jesus, was the messenger.

stand. The people that God has called WILL UNDER-
STAND.

This world is a building. It has a foundation. It has a super-structure. It has been built, and it has been built in a certain way. Now, we read in Revelation the 13th chapter and in verse eight, in the middle of the verse, it talks about *the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world.* The





and there the world is likened to a house that is built, and except God build the house they labor in vain that build it.

THE HOUSE THE WORLD HAS BUILT

Now, God did purpose to build a house. That house is a kingdom. That house is a great nation. That house was a great civilization, and He chose to build it out of matter, out of dirt. So, He formed a man out of dirt, out of the dust of the ground, and He intended to build the house from that man.

Now, the man wasn't complete. He hadn't completed even the foundation yet. Physically, the man was incomplete because God wanted him to reproduce and produce more people to

build so that the building would carry on and grow.

world was built on a foundation. You build a house or a structure on a foundation.

Now, I've been going back to the foundation of this world for the last, I think maybe two or 2½ years, most of the time, and you can't understand it without going back to the foundation. It's the one thing that I'm afraid the Church had been overlooking.

I've said so many times it's like coming into a movie when it's about 90 to 95 percent finished, and you don't know what went before. You don't know what events led up to what you're seeing in the movie now, and consequently you don't understand what's going on when you see the movie if you didn't see it from the beginning.

The beginning always sets the foundation for the whole thing. And so people always try to look at the world that way from what they see today, and if you don't go back and see what led up to it, you don't understand the world. You don't understand how it came to be this way.

Now, what was the foundation of this world? God purposed to build a kingdom, and that kingdom is something built, and it is likened to a building, and it's compared to a building in the Scriptures.

Now, like a building, it had to be built on a foundation. And we read in Psalm 127, where David wrote, **"Except the Eternal build the house they labor in vain that build it,"**

And the man, of course, couldn't do it alone. So, God took one of his ribs and out of Adam He made a woman. He didn't make the woman out of ground like He had Adam. She was made out of him, and woman came from man. Man came from the ground. Also, he was incomplete as I've said so many times, mentally and spiritually. He had a brain like animals, no better than animals, just like animals, but God had put something in the human brain that was not put in the animal brain, and that is a human spirit.

Continued on Page 30



Personal from the Editor

By Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley

'The Next Disaster!'

When the Next Disaster Hits ... Will We Be Prepared?

"... In simpler times, we didn't need to think so much about dangers on the domestic front. But for reasons no one fully understands [except God's true Church], times have become much more dangerous. It is estimated that of the 20 costliest catastrophes in the world, half have occurred in the past decade alone – and no less than 13 of the world's total have been in the U.S. It is also estimated that 91 percent of Americans now live in places with moderate-to-high risk of a natural disaster or terrorist attack."

VIEWS Parade Magazine, Aug. 15, 2010,
Page 10, by David Gergen

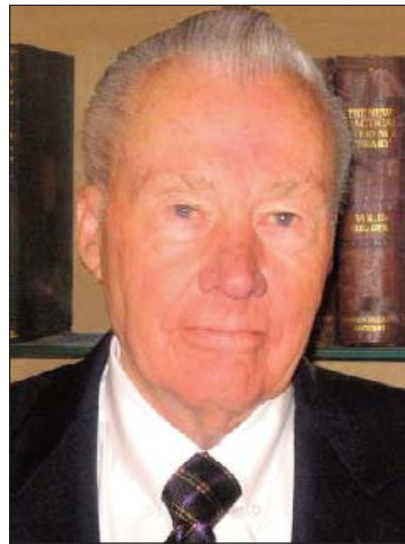
'The Feast of Tabernacles'

Presently, excitement has built in men, women and children with joyous anticipation of being able to observe another Feast of Tabernacles at the site of their choice – while not taking into consideration that it is Jesus Christ who chooses the location where He places His Name, and not places chosen by men who have gone astray from His teachings (Deuteronomy 16:13-15).

Be assured – Jesus Christ will not be in those Feast sites!! As to why – reasons of rebellion against God's teachings and His Government due to accepting some, if not all, of the Protestant teachings from the apostatizing top-level leadership that came into office and power in 1986!!!

To most the Feast is just a fun time with no serious thought of where we are in time and taking little notice of the recent disasters with the thought that next time an even bigger one could strike where they may live!

Little thought is given of this very dangerous time we have now entered – a time of which we were forewarned over many years by Jesus Christ through His late apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong (1934-1986).



Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

It would appear that both ministers and members give little real sobering, prayerful thought that when the next **BIG DISASTER STRIKES** in this country, or in Britain, or in other nations, as to whether we have the kind of relationship with God and Jesus Christ whereby we may have the faith that we will be protected from its destruction to life and property.

We always think it will be elsewhere and not where we live! Maybe, and maybe not! It should be realized to be protected, there must be a real, abiding relationship with God and Jesus Christ. And this will not happen unless there is a real reverent fear of disobeying God by these ministers (Psalm 34:7).

A REAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND JESUS CHRIST

When we pray – do we really know God's presence is there in the room with us and listening to us? Do you ever soberly think about the teachings and beliefs of your Corporate Church as to whether they square with the true doctrinal teachings that Jesus Christ restored within His Church through His late apostle and the promised Elijah of the end time? The LORD, Jesus Christ, spoke of the Elijah coming in this end time:

"Behold, I send you Elijah the prophet BEFORE the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD (Malachi 4:5)."



Jesus Christ confirmed what He had promised through Malachi by sending Elijah before this terrible coming time that will precede His return to this earth:

“And His disciples asked Him, saying, ‘Why then do the scribes say that the Elijah must come first?’ (before His return to earth, as made known by His Transformation, Matthew 16:28, 17:1-6) Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Indeed, Elijah truly is coming FIRST and will RE-STORE all things (His laws and true doctrinal teachings that had virtually died with the Sardis Era, Matthew 17:10-11).’



John the Baptizer was already dead at this time as made known by Jesus Christ: “But I say to you that Elijah HAS COME ALREADY, and they did NOT know Him, but did to him whatever they wished (beheaded him, Matthew 14:1-12). LIKEWISE the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands. Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist (Matthew 17:12-13).”

The identity of Mr. Armstrong as being the promised Elijah is abundantly clear to those who are not *biased*, not those who refuse to be honest with what Jesus Christ said in these Scriptures. Sadly, there are more than 450 corporate churches who will argue against these Scriptures – while others will lamely say, “*I do not know.*”

This means they are either dishonest, unconverted and/or hostile against the teachings and rulings which are not acceptable to them, including *the Government of God, Physical Sin (Passover), Born Again, Makeup, etc.* – doctrinal teachings that Christ instilled within His Church through Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong (Romans 8:7).

The Church of God – *Faithful Flock*, is, as far as we know, the only Congregation that Jesus Christ is using because it still fully believes all of those teachings and also abides by the rulings that Christ led him to make within His Church regarding makeup and birthdays, while respecting God’s use of Mr. Armstrong. Why? Because we believe God! Do you?

THE BEGINNING OF SORROWS

A major disaster occurred on 9-11-01 with terrorists using well-planned simultaneous attacks and passenger planes as bombers striking the World Trade Center in New York City – and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. – with the loss of almost 3,000 lives. Another passenger plane piloted by terrorists was narrowly averted from its believed pre-assigned target of the White House by passengers attacking the terrorists and causing the plane to crash in Pennsylvania.

Due to this national tragedy, the people of America came together for a brief moment in time in prayer and thought. It only lasted for a brief period of time. At the same time – knowing the terrorists live among the peoples of both America and Britain – both countries have lived with the fear of further strikes by them in one form or another.

The tragic attack by terrorists on September 11, 2001, appears to have set the stage for the disasters that have followed, and they are not all that far apart anymore! Scripture makes known the ones of the recent past will be paled into insignificance compared to what is now looming up before us (Leviticus 26, Deuteronomy 28). A leading headline of that time: ‘**America Changed Forever!!!**’

Many prominent speakers and writers are voicing their alarm because of the disasters they are now seeing almost on top of us while hoping for a miracle to save us. This will not happen anymore than the passengers on those airplanes



U.S. Air Force, EPA, Department of Defense, Jupiter Images

were hoping for a miracle to save them from sure death on that tragic date in 2001.

Scripture reveals that miracles will not happen short of real genuine and lasting repentance, and they would – IF, they were to really cry out to God.

That tragic time triggered other grave problems particularly in America so close as to appear to have been chained together since then:

The devastation of New Orleans by Katrina, the flooding of the Gulf of Mexico with BP oil, the acceleration of earthquakes, volcanoes, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods and drought (Matthew 24:6-7).

Though none of these has been destructive enough to devastate this nation, they are only a prelude to what Jesus Christ said! **“All these are the beginning of sorrows** (Matthew 24:8).”

The disasters are intended by Christ to wake us up to where we are in time while living with the ever-hovering threat of more frightening dangers to life hanging over us! It is His intent and desire that in the little time remaining we find shelter

under His wings of protective loving care by heeding these **WARNING SIGNS** – unlike the Jewish people who failed to heed those that were given in Jerusalem just prior to its destruction in 70 A.D. They suffered horrible deaths and slavery, as the result.

To escape the coming disasters and the major one – **the Great Tribulation** – ministers and members alike must return to God with real repentance, and to His true teachings as taught by His late apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

Those true teachings can be found in the book of his last writing, **the original unedited MYSTERY OF**

THE AGES, and fully supported by His Holy Bible.

THE GREAT TRIBULATION

Within the very next few years, or less, the most frightening of all disasters that have been foretold by Jesus Christ through His prophets will strike with intense fury!!! God’s apostle both wrote and spoke of this in a very descriptive sermon of this befalling both America and Britain:



Oscar Garcia, Florida State University, Louisiana Sea Grant College Program, Jupiter Images

The Unthinkable Will Happen,

By Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, June 19, 1982

Excerpts from the Sermon

“Well, brethren ... there is both good news and bad news. And there is some wonderfully good news, clear beyond human comprehension coming, but there is some bad news still completely beyond comprehension that is coming first. And God has told us to prepare for it and shown us how He is going to protect us, but the unthinkable is coming. ... [Matthew 24:21-22, Luke 21:29-36]

“[A] quotation from a former Harvard professor who gave this report to the *Plain Truth*: *‘Survival is the only issue that matters now! The other issues pale into total insignificance if we don’t do anything about it – that is the nuclear war threat – within 10 to 20 years we’ll all be killed anyhow.’*

“And most people don’t realize what the hydrogen bomb will do! It seems that in television they are afraid to show you the reality of it and that it really will happen, and it is going to happen! I want to read a description that is here:

“In the first millionth, milliseconds after detonation, gamma radiation would kill everything within six miles,”



just in milliseconds. “An electromagnetic pulse created by the nuclear blast would fuse all unprotected circuitry within several hundred miles, knocking out communication. A fire-ball would consume everything within 280 square miles.

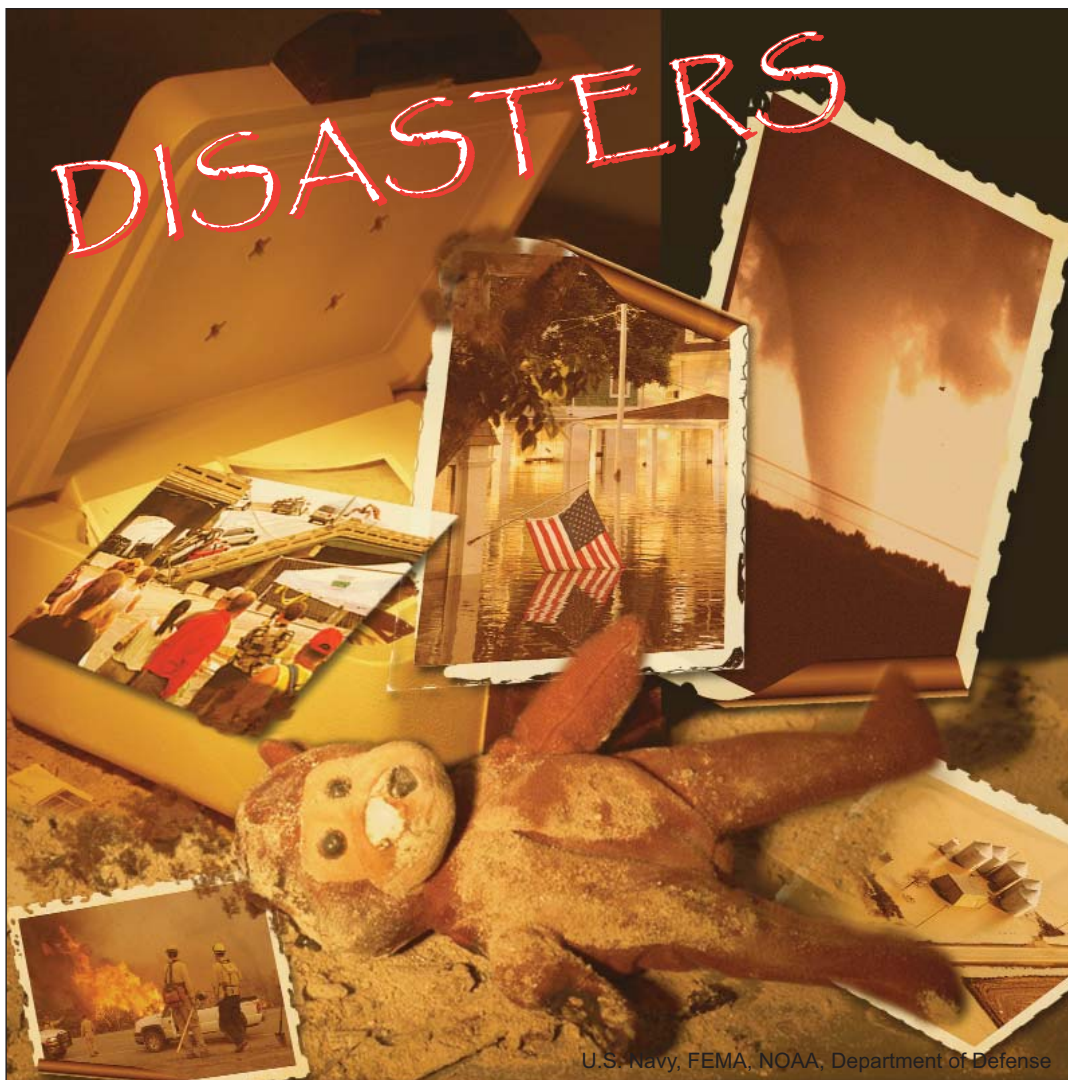
“Now this is only one bomb, 280 square miles, “in 10 seconds, followed by a blast wave that would flatten remaining structures within 4½ miles and severely damage other buildings dozens of miles away. If the device exploded near the ground, hundreds of tons of debris, now highly radioactive, would be thrown into the air; returning and settling for days afterward as fine, deadly ash.

“And the long-term effects are as devastating as the initial blast, if the device exploded on the ground, the surrounding area would be uninhabitable for decades.”

“Now, imagine if that was New York City. This is only talking about one bomb on one city!

“The high radiation would kill most, if not all, of the local bird population, allowing the exponential growth of radiation resistant insects. Radioactive particles would cause Beta burns and kill plant life. Radioactive fallout would be carried into water supplies and aquifers through streams and lakes rendering drinking water unfit in many areas and many areas outside of the area of the city in which the bomb fell.” And they know how to hit the target right on the nose today. “Burn victims and the injured would find the hospitals obliterated in





the blast and clogged with other victims. In short, society as we know it would be taxed to its limit by a single blast and unable to function in the event of a minor nuclear attack.

“Now that is just one nuclear bomb! Just one nuclear bomb! ... And now, we need to realize what’s prophesied, and it’s not going to be one city only, but many cities [Ezekiel 6:6, 12:20] ... What would be left of the United States of America? *The nation would be gone!*”

[The timing is now!] “And I think we are going to be tried and tested in the next MONTHS, this year, *because some are predicting a worst depression than EVER happened! The economy is going to take a terrible tailspin now economically and unemployment will grow VERY great and if that happens it’s going to hit God’s people!*

“And it’s a warning, and I have warned you. I warned you a couple of years ago to tighten your belts and get ready for a **LOWER** cost of living. Because you are not going to be able to **ENJOY** all of the **MATERIAL** things and the

GOOD LIVING you have had, and I tell you now once again, brethren, and you will see that God is showing me what is coming! It’s not going to be easy! It’s not going to be just peaches and ice cream from here on, and just getting into the Kingdom of God, and everything is going to be all wonderful. We are going to be **TRIED** and **TESTED** and **PURIFIED!** Have you got what it takes? Are you going to be able?

“We’re right close to final exams [Luke 21:29-36]. We are supposed to have been learning. Where are each one of you?”

“Now, here is this Babylon, and God calls us out of that in verse four, Revelation 18, ‘I heard another voice from heaven saying, **COME OUT OF HER**, my people.’ That’s out of this world’s church, which is really the church of Satan. **‘That ye be**

not partakers of **HER** sins, and that ye receive not of **HER** plagues.’

“She will punish you if you keep the Sabbath. That time is coming, and you’re going to have to stand up and be counted. Have you got what it takes? It’s going to cost you money. It’s going to cost you everything. Where are you going to be, brethren?”

“Well brethren, I just know we are in very perilous times in the very last days. [II Timothy 3:1, 12-14] ... I don’t like to have to come and talk this way and tell you about it. I’d like to just tell you that everything is just nice and easy and is going to be easy and everything is just wonderful – and it will be! But I have to tell you the bad news is going to come first. *Your mettle is going to be TRIED brethren!* Are you going to come through?”

THE END TIME IS HERE

God led Moses [as He has Mr. Armstrong] to forewarn the nation of Israel what would happen to them in the **LATTER**



U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, Department of Defense, Morguefile

“For they are a nation void of counsel, nor is there any understanding in them (Deuteronomy 32:28).”

Sadly, this also applies to the many corporate Churches of God! The vast majority are sleeping! No longer is any real value placed on the true teachings as taught by God's late apostle and His promised Elijah; the reason being – he is dead!

And the unacceptable teachings he taught died with him – so they reason!!!

As it was with Moses who had gone up into the mountain to be with God, Israel cast aside the teachings of God, so the 450-plus corporate Churches of God have cast aside the unacceptable

DAYS – first, the **PRELUDE** – then followed by **Nuclear Devastation!** Note his prophetic words:

“For I know that after my death you will become totally corrupt, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you. And evil will befall you in the LATTER DAYS, because you will do evil in the SIGHT of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger through the work of your hands. ...

“I will heap disasters upon them; I will spend My arrows upon them. They shall be wasted with hunger, devoured by pestilence and bitter destruction. I will send against them the teeth of beasts, with the poison of serpents of the dust. The sword shall destroy outside; there shall be terror within for the young man and virgin, the nursing child with the man of gray hairs. ...

“Oh, that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their LATTER END! ... Vengeance is Mine, and recompense; their foot shall slip in due time; for the days of their calamity is at hand, and the things to come HASTEN upon them (Deuteronomy 31:29, 32:23-25, 35).”

recorded works of a proven apostle of God while preferring to retain all or some of the heresies taught by an apostate pastor general, while using human reason (Proverbs 14:12, 16:25).

History is repeating itself as we find in the parallel of the time of the Book of Judges, the **bloodiest** book of the Old Testament, the reason being: “**Because there was no king in Israel; everyone did that which was right in their own eyes** (Judges 21:25).”



God's Church for the most part is asleep – indifferent to the seriousness of these sobering times, and there seems to be no way to wake everyone up! If they place any real value on the hereafter, they would do well to awaken and heed very seriously the following quoted writings of Mr. Armstrong:

"The Holy Spirit of God is given to those who have **REPENTED** of – **TURNED FROM** – sin. ... If we do not **FOLLOW** where God's Spirit leads, the 'lamp' – or its light (the Holy Spirit) leaves us." [Romans 8:14, John 16:13]

"YOU LET DOWN YOUR GUARD AND ALLOW SATAN TO DECEIVE AND USE YOU when, once you have known the truth, repented, received God's Spirit, started on **GOD'S WAY**, you take a step away from that way, begin to liberalize, compromise with Satan." [Hebrews 6:4-8, 10:26-31]

"He, if deceived by Satan and used by him, is one who, like Lot's wife, began to 'look back' – even if just a little at first. He may




have been willing to compromise on a minor point. He became a little 'liberal' on some point."

"Brethren, ministers and even chief evangelists in God's Church: **'EXAMINE YOURSELVES** to see whether you are holding to your faith. Test **YOURSELVES.**"

"For **GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS**. For if God spared not even the **ANGELS** that sinned (II Peter 2:4), He would no more spare **YOU!**" – *Herbert W. Armstrong, "Satan Deceive and Use Me? Never!!" Worldwide News, 1980.*

Repenting and making the right and good changes could mean the difference between life and death!

Time is rapidly running out!!! My heartfelt plea to all is to please consider *where you now are* – and where you should be lest you lose your life in the major disasters that are just before us. After that is the judgment of God – how will we be found by Christ? 

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The Black Horse Gallops



By Mark Mendiola

In Revelation 6, we read about the infamous “Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse,” which Jesus Christ revealed to the Apostle John in vision while the elderly original apostle was exiled by the Roman Empire to the Greek island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea as punishment for preaching the word of God and the testimony of Christ (Revelation 1:9).

In the prophetic Book of Revelation, John was inspired to record “things which must shortly (*quickly* or *swiftly*) take place” and “all things that he saw” for “the time is near (verses 1-3).” It was Jesus Christ, the “Lion of the tribe of Judah” and the “Lamb as though it had been slain,” who took a scroll sealed with seven seals from the right hand of God the Father and opened each of those seals, revealing their meaning to the Apostle John (Revelation 5:1-14).

The first four seals were symbolized by four horses of different colors – white, red, black and pale (Revelation 6:1-8). In Matthew 24, Christ interpreted their meanings for us (II Peter 1:20). When asked “What will be the sign of Your coming and the end of the age?” Christ answered: Religious deception, wars and rumors of wars, famines and pestilences, (Matthew 24:4-8), calling them “the beginning of sorrows.”

These conditions coincide exactly with the four horses of Revelation 6 – the white horse, the red horse, the black horse and the pale horse. Devastating earthquakes, which Christ also cited in Matthew 24, often cause famine and pestilence, as does war.

The black horse symbolizes grain shortages, steeply rising food costs and mass starvation, which is beginning to accelerate as the black horse starts to gallop throughout the world!





RUSSIAN GRAIN DISASTER

On Aug. 19, Reuters reported: “Russian grain imports are likely to soar after the country's worst drought in more than a century damaged its harvest and forced it to ban exports ... Analysts estimate that Russia, usually a major grain exporter, may have to import 1.5-2.2 million tons this year after the worst drought in more than a century damaged its harvest, but a report in *Vedomosti* daily said **Russia could import at least five million tons of grain this year.**”

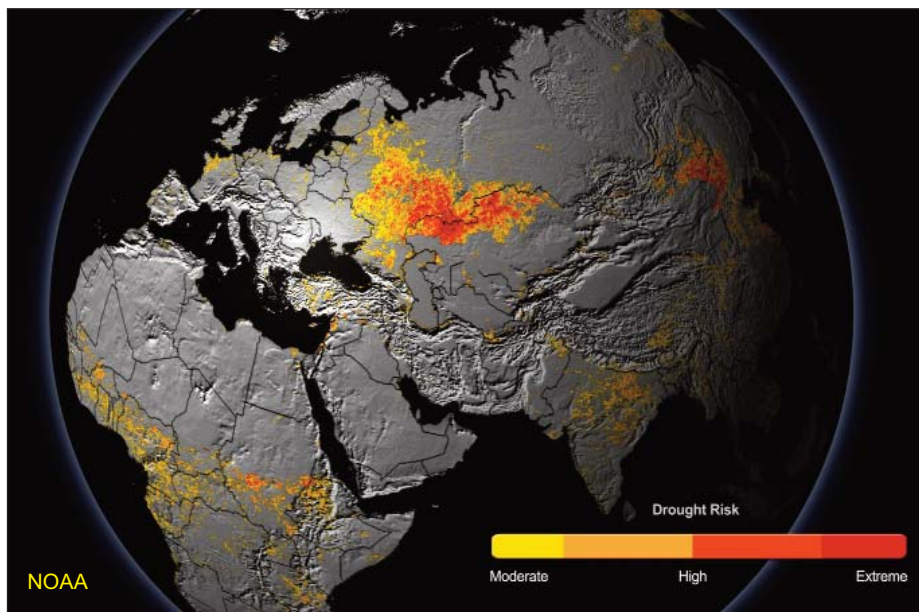
Russia's deadly heat wave destroyed an estimated 25 percent of its grain crop, causing much of it to go up in flames, eliminating \$14 billion in revenue, killing hundreds of people, pushing many farms into bankruptcy. Because of the devastation, Russia has imposed a ban on grain exports at least through Dec. 31, although Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has said that ban could be extended into 2011. Its total grain crop could fall below 60 million tons, down sharply from the 2009 harvest of 97 million tons – a short-fall of 37 million tons in one year!

Russia and other former Soviet countries have accounted for about 15 percent of total world wheat exports. Russian imports of barley, however, now could rise from 50,000

Revelation 6:5-6 describes this frightening development with graphic symbolism: “When He (Christ) opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature (*which had a face like a man*, Revelation 4:7) say, ‘Come and see.’ So I looked, and behold, **a black horse**, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, ‘*A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.*’”

This scene described by the Apostle John shows **extreme inflation** and **severe grain shortages**. No longer will food costs be relatively inexpensive! Christ showed in the parable of the vineyard workers that **a denarius**, a form of Roman currency, **was a full day's wage!** “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. Now when **he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day**, he sent them into his vineyard,” Christ said in Matthew 20:1-2.

So, the black horse symbolizes a time when a full day's wage will buy only about a quart of wheat and only three quarts of barley. A quart of wheat would equal about six cups of flour, which would make only about two loaves of bread. **Those are extremely expensive loaves of bread!** No longer will bread be abundant or inexpensive! Oil and wine also are mentioned in scarce supply in the same context, implying widespread drought and other natural disasters wiping out a variety of global crops, including corn, olives, soybeans, peanuts, safflower, canola and grapes!



RUSSIAN DROUGHT ZONE

tons to 700,000 tons! It also may need to import corn to feed livestock. Some regions now will not be sowing any winter grain at all this year.

As a result, European milling wheat futures have risen sharply on prospects Russia will need to resort to large imports to feed its hungry population. Most of the imports were expected to come from the Ukraine and Kazakhstan,



UKRAINIAN GRAIN PORT

but they also may reduce grain exports following a scorching summer and severe frosts.

The *Financial Times* reported Aug. 19 that wheat prices rebounded more than 5 percent in Europe. Earlier in the month, wheat futures closed above \$8 per bushel on the Chicago Board of Trade, the highest price since August 2008. Traders were starting to absorb the profound impact of Russia's worst drought on record – realizing more clearly that the world's third largest wheat exporter would need to make its largest grain imports in a decade to compensate for the domestic deficit.

"The recent run-up in wheat prices to their highest level in almost two years may offer the good kick-in-the-pants the world needs to realize just how fragile the global grain market really is. Of course, it may take a bigger rise in wheat, corn and soybean prices to convince it," columnist Myra P. Saefong wrote Aug. 20 for MarketWatch.

She noted the price of wheat spiked nearly 70 percent in two months while mid-August corn and soybean prices remained at more than 10 percent above their mid-June levels, moving "the entire global grain market to higher prices."

Ned Schmidt, *Agri-Food Value View* editor, reported the real cause for the surge in higher

grain prices is the "just-in-time inventory approach" for grains from growing season to growing season – in other words, barely growing enough crops from year to year to meet escalating global food demands. World stockpiles continue to get tighter and tighter annually as populations multiply.

MarketWatch columnist Saefong observed: "Weather issues abound worldwide, not only with the drought in Russia and its surrounding region, but in the U.S. where it's been wet in the northern Corn Belt and dry and hot in the Delta and Southwest."

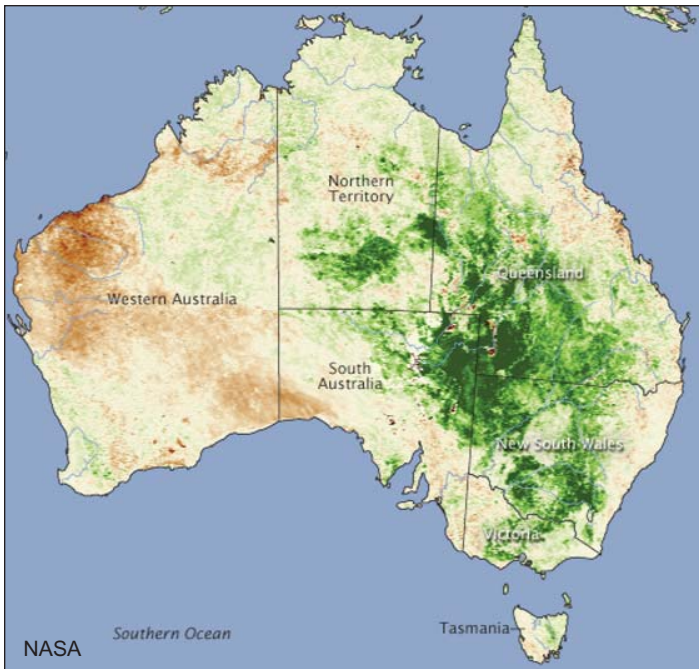
The United Nations has called recent horrific flooding in Pakistan the worst humanitarian crisis in recent history. Reuters reported Aug. 12 that agricultural losses in Pakistan from the flooding that has impacted 20 million people and inundated about 20 percent of the country have been staggering.

"The devastation to crops is immense. I think it's safe to say it will take some billions of dollars to recover. I am referring to livelihood for agriculture and farming to get back in shape," a U.N. spokesman said.



Qasim Berech/Oxfam International

DEVASTATING PAKISTAN FLOODING



LUSH VEGETATION FOR DEVOURING LOCUST

‘SWARMAGEDDON’ LOOMS FOR AUSTRALIA

The **worst plague of locusts** in more than three decades that threatens crops in drought-ravaged Australia, the world’s fourth largest grain exporter, has been called “Swarmageddon” or “the Perfect Swarm” because of its potentially massive destruction that could reach apocalyptic proportions.

“As early as mid-August, eastern Australia may be hit with the **biggest locust plague in more than 30 years**. Without intervention, there could be more than \$1.8 billion worth of damage to pastures, cereal crops and forage crops,” *Time Magazine* reported on Aug. 9. Chris Adriaansen, Australian Plague Locust Commission director, said 12.5 million acres of land could be affected. The government in Victoria has allocated \$39.9 million to combat the plague.



Niv Singer, Flickr

Time continued: “**The locusts** have already chewed through some farmland. Heavy rainfall during the Australian summer led to higher numbers of the insects. Those that hatched in autumn managed to destroy (87,000 acres) of wheat and barley crops in Forbes Shire in central-west New South Wales. Graham Falconer, deputy mayor of Forbes, calculates \$36.7 million worth of damage. Falconer believes that Australia wasn’t prepared for **the locusts** in March and is even more worried about what will happen in August. ‘It’s like a war,’ he says. ‘If we don’t win it, we lose billions of dollars in crop. ... They will eat everything in their path.’”

Time concluded its article by stating: “For now, all that Australia’s farmers can do is hope that preparation is adequate, that **the locusts** won’t be as nightmarish as a decade of drought.”

The Times of London reported April 15: “Farmers across the Australian Outback have been warned of **a potential explosion of locusts** in the coming months, after **a plague of millions of the grasshopper-like insects** swept across four states earlier this month. Millions of the quick-breed-



ing and fast-moving insects have damaged crops and caused havoc in country towns ... covering an area of approximately (190,000 square miles), roughly the size of Spain.

“Hundreds of thousands of hectares of crops of early sown wheat and barley as well as pastures and gardens have been eaten by the ‘**widespread infestation**’ of the native Australian **pests**, which break out annually and are the bane of the Australian agriculture industry. However this year’s outbreak could potentially be worse than the devastating plague of 2004 – when **locusts** swept through eastern Australia damaging an area twice the size of England – because of recent rainfall across drought-affected inland Australia.”

Like the Apostle John who described looming global famine as a **black horse** that would trample grain and other crops under its hooves, the Old Testament Prophet Joel foresaw **massive locust plagues** and drought also causing extensive grain, oil and wine damage, plus widespread starvation.

Joel forewarned at the outset of his prophetic book: “Hear this, you elders, and give ear, all you inhabitants of the land! ***Has anything like this happened in your days, or even in the days of your fathers?*** ... What the **chewing locust** left, the **swarming locust** has eaten; What the **swarming locust** left, the **crawling locust** has eaten; And what the **crawling locust** left, the **consuming locust** has eaten.

... The field is wasted, the land mourns; for the grain is ruined, the new wine is dried up, the oil fails. Be ashamed, you farmers, Wail, you vinedressers, for the wheat and the barley; Because the harvest of the field has perished. The vine has dried up, and the fig tree has withered ... all the trees of the field are withered; Surely joy has withered away from the sons of men (Joel 1:2, 4, 10-12).”

Joel describes the same ***“beginning of sorrows”*** that coincides with the four horses of Revelation, specifically the **black horse**, leading up to the unprecedented time of the **Great Tribulation**, which Christ said ***“has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be*** (Matthew 24:21).”

Referring to this same traumatic period, the Prophet Jeremiah said, ***“Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob’s trouble*** (Jeremiah 30:7).” Massive crop failures, food shortages and starvation will no longer be limited to Third World countries. With a vengeance, they also will directly impact modern Jacob, the Anglo-American countries descended from the ancient patriarch Jacob.

The agricultural calamity happening to Australia is a precursor of disastrous days ahead for the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and other countries sharing a history that dates back to the ancient House of Israel.

MODERN JOSEPH’S BREADBASKET

The United States, Canada and Australia for decades have been among the world’s leading grain exporters. Like Australia, Canada has witnessed recent grain crop losses, fur-



MOUNTAINS OF U.S. GRAIN

ther tightening the availability of wheat and barley on the global market as demand and prices rise.

Bloomberg reported July 30: “Western Canada will produce 15.6 million metric tons of wheat in the 2010-2011 crop year ... down 17 percent from an estimated 18.8 million tons a year earlier as unusually wet weather prevented seeding in some areas and limited plant growth.”

The Canadian Wheat Board reported Aug. 25 that unseasonably cool, wet weather in Canada’s grain-growing western prairies limited crop maturing and harvesting.

Statistic Canada estimated Aug. 20 that Canadian grain “output will decrease 15 percent as flooding in Saskatchewan and Manitoba curbed seeding and crop development,” Bloomberg reported. Prices hit a 23-month high of \$8.68 a bushel on Aug. 6.

While grain supplies and harvests are sharply reduced or depleted throughout the world, silos and bins conversely are bulging with bumper crops this year in the United States, which like a modern Joseph, enjoys huge stockpiles needed to feed a hungry world clamoring for U.S. wheat, corn, barley and soybeans. U.S. ending wheat stocks this year at 26 million tons are three times larger than only a few years ago.

In the Old Testament, Joseph – one of Jacob’s 12 sons – rose to power in Egypt as Pharaoh’s “prime minister,” collecting and storing massive quantities of grain during seven years of plenty prior to seven years of famine. “Joseph gathered very much grain, as the sand of the sea, until he stopped counting, for it was without number ... The famine was over all the face of the earth, and Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians. And the famine became severe in the land of Egypt. So all countries came to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain, because the famine was severe in all lands (Genesis 41:47-49, 56-57).”

As famine stalks the earth, the United States, like Joseph, now has an abundance of grain stored to meet global demands. Reuters reported Aug. 25: “U.S. grain handlers, al-



MOUNTAIN OF DONATED U.S. WHEAT IN AFGHANISTAN

ready burdened with big wheat inventories, are bracing for a mammoth corn and soybean harvest ... across America's heartland. Merchants will have to find room for 17 billion bushels of corn and soybeans – the largest U.S. harvest in history. A recent spike in U.S. exports after drought-stricken Russia announced a ban on grain exports should ease some of the storage pressure – but not all.”

The United States, the world's largest grain supplier, ranks first in wheat and soybean exports and accounts for more than half of the world's corn exports. On Aug. 26, weekly export sales data of U.S. corn, soybeans

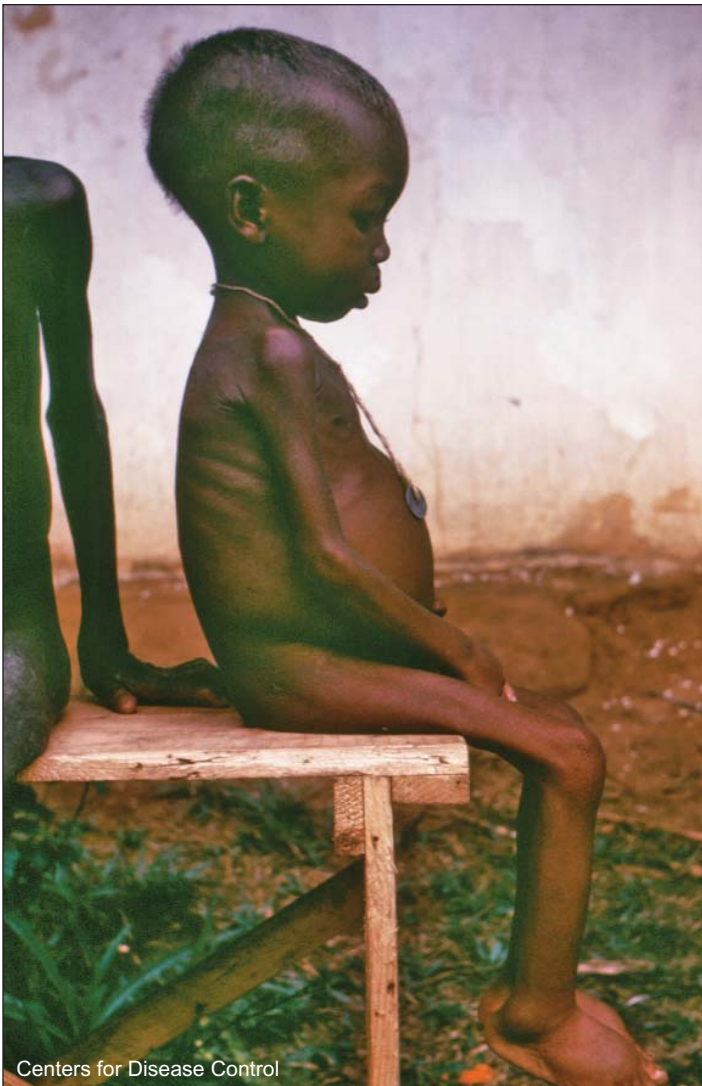
and wheat hit the highest point ever for the three crops combined. For the first time since the 1970s, U.S. grain storage is at full capacity. More than 130 million tons of U.S. grain are expected to be exported in the coming year!

EUROPEAN HARVEST WOES

While the United States is reaping bumper crops, European Union countries are suffering from reduced grain production, pitting the EU against the U.S. in competition for global markets. A German farm organization said Aug. 25 that Germany's grain crop will fall 12 percent this year to 43.9 million tons from 49.7 million tons in 2009, Bloomberg reported. Germany is the EU's second-largest wheat grower after France.

“Like many European countries, Germany witnessed higher than normal temperatures in July following a long, cold and wet winter, conditions that do not favor a strong harvest. Heavy rains since then might produce crops of inferior quality, in particular for wheat destined for milling,” RTE Business reported Aug. 11. “In Germany, wholesale flour prices have already gained 30 percent. The cost of bread could be expected to rise as well in September.”

About 25 percent of the United Kingdom’s wheat crop also faces “questionable quality” because of rain damage. “Europe’s got problems with rain,” said Andrew Dewing, owner Dewing Grain in England. “All the news seems to be worse.”



Centers for Disease Control

Reuters reported Aug. 27 that U.S. grain is positioned to flood the immense Middle East and North African markets, “outgunning the EU whose supplies are drying up as both producers scramble to exploit Russia's grain export ban.” Predicting the U.S. is likely to be the big winner filling the gap caused by Russia’s export ban, one trader told Reuters, **“The EU is unlikely to be able to keep up its recent export surge as it does not have the large supplies the U.S. has.”**

Wheat stocks in France, the EU’s top grain exporter, are “fast selling out.” Some traders estimate a massive four million tons of France’s remaining nine million tons of wheat have been sold for export in the first two months of the new season to Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen and Libya. **The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates 2010/11 EU wheat stocks at their lowest level in more than a decade.**

The International Grain Council reported Aug. 26 that world output will total 644 million metric tons in the marketing year that ends next June, down 1.1 percent from a previous estimate, putting more upward pressure on grain prices. Verdict Research predicts if wheat prices remain el-

evated for the next few months, **shelf prices for many grocery products could go up by nearly 7 percent within a year.**

Rising grain prices from Russia's drought will pressure populations already hit by the global financial crisis and could fuel unrest – particularly in the Middle East, North Africa and parts of Europe. **Wheat prices are at their highest since 2008 when protests and riots occurred in various countries.**

“Much will depend on how long the price increase lasts and to what extent it filters through other commodities and foodstuffs. That could swiftly bring angry mobs on the streets particularly in relatively poor authoritarian countries where maintaining food supply is seen as key to government legitimacy,” Reuters reported. Tony Sagami, editor of *Asia Stock Alert*, warns: **“Third World governments should prepare for food riots and social unrest.”**

CAUSE AND EFFECT

Global market conditions today have been compared to the “Great Russian Grain Robbery of 1972,” when the Soviet Union bought up all exportable U.S. supplies. **The United States is expected to boost wheat exports by 36 percent this year,** ensuring profits for agribusiness conglomerates and farmers, but sharply drawing down the nation’s stockpiles.

The U.S. is playing Russian roulette with its own food supplies, which are in abundance this year, but dependent on favorable growing conditions each year. This risky hand-to-mouth approach literally is a life-and-death gamble with the survival of millions of people!

The Bible shows the world soon will no longer be able to rely on the United States, Canada or Australia for ample grain supplies. A major drought in any or all of those nations could plunge the world into global famine depicted by the black horse of Revelation 6. When countries get desperate for food, they often go to war to ensure their populations are fed. As witnessed in Africa, when starvation grips countries, disease epidemics invariably ensue.

In other words, we are witnessing the **red, black and pale horses of Revelation getting saddled and ready to ride hell-bent throughout the world** at a pace that will leave death, suffering and destruction in their wake.

It will be extremely tempting for the United States to deplete its stockpiles of grain and export vast volumes of wheat, corn and barley overseas to countries willing to pay any price. Growers and agribusinesses will be able to earn hefty profits. There’s no guarantee, however, that ideal growing conditions will prevail next year.



The United States easily could find itself feverishly scrambling like Russia to feed its own population were natural disasters to decimate its crops. The nation has rejected the fact its wealth, prosperity and abundance come as blessings from the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

“For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land ... a land of wheat and barley ... a land of olive oil and honey; a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing. ... When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you. Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, lest – when you have eaten and are full ... when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God ... then you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.’ And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day (Deuteronomy 8:7-12, 14, 17-18).”

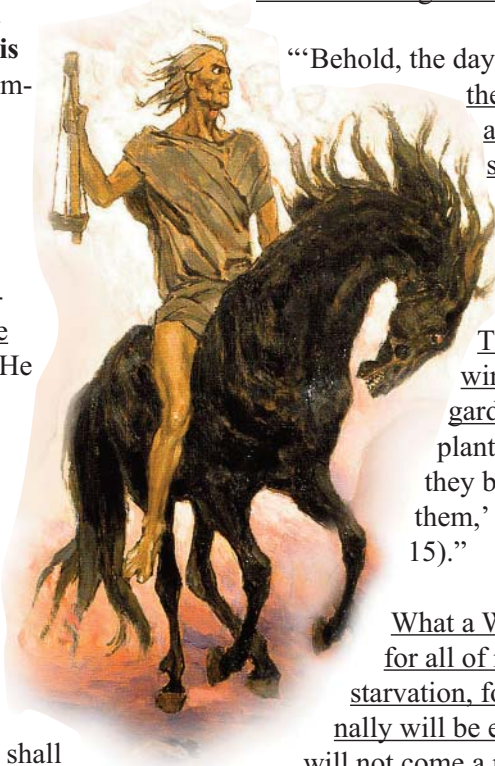
God warns in Deuteronomy 28 when He is not obeyed “all these curses will come upon you and overtake you. ... Cursed shall be your (bread)basket and your kneading bowl. ... And your heavens which are over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you shall

be iron. The LORD will change the rain of your land to powder and dust; from the heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed. ... A nation whom you have not known shall eat the fruit of your land and the produce of your labor, and you shall be only oppressed and crushed continually (verses 15, 17, 23-24, 33).”

God also shows in Ezekiel 5:12 that three of the four horses of Revelation – war, famine and pestilence – will directly trample the House of Israel at the end time: “One-

third of you shall die of the pestilence, and be consumed with famine in your midst; and one-third shall fall by the sword all around you; and I will scatter another third to all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them.”

Christ explained in Matthew 24 that beyond these sorrows leading to the **Great Tribulation** He will establish the Kingdom of God and rescue mankind from complete annihilation because “unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved (v. 21).” The Good News of the Kingdom of God is the Gospel message that Jesus Christ proclaimed throughout His ministry.



“Behold, the days are coming,’ says the LORD, ‘when the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; The mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it. I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them,’ says the LORD your God (Amos 9:13-15).”

What a Wonderful World Tomorrow that will be for all of mankind throughout the earth! Hunger, starvation, food shortages and famine finally will be eradicated on all continents. It will not come a moment too soon!





Israel Preparing for War with Iran?

Israel has ordered a record \$2 billion in military fuel from the United States, raising speculation it could be preparing for a military assault on Iran or a regional war involving Hamas in Gaza or Hezbollah in Lebanon, WorldNetDaily reports.

In early August, the Jewish state ordered 284 million gallons of JP-8 aviation jet fuel, 100 million gallons of diesel fuel and 60 million gallons of unleaded gasoline, WND said.

The sale was detailed in an Aug. 5 notification posted on the Defense Security Cooperation Agency of the U.S. Department of Defense web site as required to give Congress advance notice of foreign military sales.

"The proposed sale of the JP-8 aviation fuel will enable Israel to maintain the operational capability of its aircraft inventory," the notification to Congress said. "The unleaded gasoline and diesel fuel will be used for ground forces' vehicles and other equipment used in keeping peace and security in the region. Israel will have no difficulty absorbing this additional fuel into its armed forces."

The last fuel order Israel placed with the U.S. was July 15, 2008, when it ordered 186 million gallons of JP-8 aviation jet fuel, 54 million gallons of diesel fuel and 28 million gallons of unleaded gasoline at an estimated cost of \$1.3 billion. Prior to that, Israel ordered 90 million gallons of JP-8 aviation jet fuel and 42 million gallons of diesel fuel Aug.

24, 2007, for an estimated cost of \$308 million; and an unspecified amount of JP-8 aviation jet fuel July 14, 2006, for an estimated cost of \$210 million, WND reported.

Israel's last two military operations were the summer 2006 Lebanon War that lasted slightly more than a month and the Operation Cast Lead in the Gaza from Dec. 27, 2008, to Jan. 21, 2009.

Middle East tensions have escalated since Iran started a nuclear power plant with the assistance of Russia in August. John Bolton, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, has warned repeatedly the plant would be much more difficult for Israel to attack after it started up, largely because a military strike would release radioactivity that could harm civilians.

Israel's unwillingness to attack the Iranian nuclear power plant before it came online has caused considerable controversy within Israel. Jerusalem Post columnist Caroline Glick observed that from a military perspective, the longer Israel waits to attack, the harder it will be for Israel "to accomplish the mission."

The former head of U.N. nuclear inspections worldwide claimed that Iran has stockpiled enough low-enriched uranium to make one to two nuclear bombs.

Iran, meanwhile, successfully test-fired a third-generation surface-to-surface solid-fuel missile with a 150-mile range and unveiled an Iran-manufactured drone bomber with a flight range of 620 miles.

The *Jerusalem Post* reported Aug. 20 that an assistant to U.S. Middle East peace envoy George Mitchell told Lebanon's army chief of staff that Israel was ready to enforce a plan to destroy all Lebanese military infrastructure, including army bases and offices, within four hours should the Lebanese military fire upon Israel Defense Forces.

U.S. Economy Worsens

"The American economy is once again tilting toward danger. Despite an aggressive regimen of treatments from the conventional to the exotic – more than \$800 billion in federal spending, and trillions of dollars worth of credit from the Federal Reserve – fears of a second recession are growing, along with worries that the country may face several more years of lean prospects," the *New York Times* reported on Aug. 28.

"It increasingly seems as if the policy makers attending like physicians to the American economy are peering into their medical kits and coming up empty, their arsenal of pharmaceuticals largely exhausted and the few that remain deemed too experimental or laden with risky side effects. The patient — who started in critical care — was showing signs of improvement in the convalescent ward earlier this year, but has since deteriorated. The doctors cannot agree on a diagnosis, let alone administer an antidote with confidence. ...

"Economists debate the benefits of previous policy prescriptions, but in the political realm a rare consensus has emerged: The future is now so colored in red ink that running up the debt seems politically risky in the months before the Congressional elections, even in the name of creating jobs and generating economic growth. The result is that Democrats and Republicans have foresworn virtually any course that involves spending serious money."

Nouriel Roubini, a New York University professor who forecast the U.S. recession more than a year before it began, said the Federal Reserve is running out of effective ways to stimulate the economy. "We cannot prevent slow economic growth for a number of years," Roubini said in an Aug. 27 interview on Bloomberg Radio. "We are running out of policy bullets."

Banks are "sitting on" \$1 trillion in excess reserves, but cutting interest rate on excess reserves to zero from 25 basis points isn't going to make them lend money, Roubini said. "The point is monetary policy is becoming ineffective."

In an Aug. 26 *New York Times* column titled, "This is Not a Recovery," economist Paul Krugman wrote: "After its last monetary policy meeting, the Fed released a statement de-

claring that it 'anticipates a gradual return to higher levels of resource utilization' — Fedspeak for falling unemployment. Nothing in the data supports that kind of optimism. Meanwhile, Tim Geithner, the Treasury secretary, says that 'we're on the road to recovery.' No, we aren't. Why are people who know better sugar-coating economic reality? The answer, I'm sorry to say, is that it's all about evading responsibility."

In an Aug. 26 column, *U.S. News & World Report* Publisher Mort Zuckerman called the Obama administration and Congress "The Most Fiscally Irresponsible Government in U.S. History."

Warning of a debt crisis that could destroy the nation, Zuckerman wrote: "The Fed has lowered rates dramatically to keep the economy ticking and maybe continue the painfully slow recovery, but at the receiving end there is no feeling of relief at all. People know that the stimulus is about to stop stimulating. They know that money is petering out. They know that states are preparing to cut \$200 billion to balance their budgets. They realize that the Great Recession has wiped out huge amounts of wealth and that, unlike other recessions, this will not be followed by the kind of economic boom when people who had sat on their money during the lean years unleash pent-up demand for all sorts of goods and services."

'Jerusalem' on Negotiating Table

In a Sept. 1 interview with the *Haaretz* newspaper, Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak disclosed that the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is willing to concede Jerusalem's Arab neighborhoods as part of a Palestinian state and allow "a special regime" to govern holy sites.

Barak made his comments prior to direct peace talks in Washington between Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas at the coaxing of U.S. President Barack Hussein Obama.

Asked what is the solution for Jerusalem, Barak responded: "West Jerusalem and 12 Jewish neighborhoods that are home to 200,000 residents will be ours. The Arab neighborhoods in which close to a quarter million Palestinians live will be theirs. There will be a special regime in place along with agreed upon arrangements in the Old City, the Mount of Olives and the City of David."

Following the 1967 Six-Day War, Israel annexed northern and eastern Jerusalem, including the Old City and the Temple Mount. The Palestinians have claimed eastern Jerusalem as their future capital.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE 'MORE THAN CONQUERORS'?

By Duane Miller

Most people, whether members of God's Church or not, go through their lives without any notoriety or public recognition for great or small accomplishments.

Yet, what we have been called to accomplish as God's people is more demanding spiritually – with risks far more dangerous – than physical demands of those striving to achieve “physical crowns.”

What we are striving for are **spiritual crowns** that have **eternal** consequences whether we are successful or whether we fail. This is especially vital as we look forward to God's fall Holy Day season – the Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day in particular. Are we doing the minimum with possible failure or are we “**More than conquerors**”?

The world around us is completely oblivious to the struggle God's Church members are engaged in at this time against Satan and his destructive tactics.

GREAT FEATS BY MORTALS

Periodically, we learn of those accomplishing exploits way out of the ordinary that gain news media attention and public notoriety. They become in a physical sense “*more than conquerors*”!

One man in particular made such a recognized achievement. By his example, a very vital spiritual lesson can be learned this Fall Festival season.

The following is a report from the *National Geographic*, July 2003:

“Q&A: Blind Mountain Climber Tom Foreman, Inside Base Camp, July 30, 2003

“In the 50 years since Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay first saw the view from the top of Mount Everest, thousands have tried to reach that lofty vantage point.



“Eric Weihenmayer made it. Pushing through brutal cold, savage winds and crushing fatigue at 28,000 feet (8,840 meters), he reached the top of the world, but he never caught a glimpse of the famous view. He is the only **blind person** to ever stand on Everest’s peak.”



ERIC WEIHENMAYER SPEAKS AT CONFERENCE

WHAT IT MEANS SPIRITUALLY TO GOD’S CHURCH

Romans 8:37 states: “**Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors.**” (NKJV throughout unless otherwise indicated.) What does it mean to conquer? “*Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance*” defines “conquer” as “*To vanquish, to gain a decisive victory.*”

“*The Reader’s Digest Great Encyclopedic Dictionary*” defines the word “conquer” as: “*To overcome or subdue by force, as in war; vanquish, to overcome by mental or moral force; surmount, to be victorious.*” Does this sound like a minimal effort at overcoming? This is something for each one of us to consider.

Below are three points that should be seriously considered that can be of help especially at this time as we continue to strive against the self, looking to God, drawing near to Him in fasting (especially on the **Day of Atonement**), prayer and Bible study, remaining *focused* on the GOAL of God’s Kingdom and the Work we have yet to do, as we look forward to all of God’s fall Feasts.

1. WHAT IT TAKES – A DECISIVE VICTORY

Whether it’s overcoming obstacles, climbing mountains or vanquishing sins that seem like mountains, it takes courage to move forward regardless of how insurmountable the path seems to be. Let’s notice what Erik Weihenmayer relates in his interview with Tom Foreman of the *National Geographic*:

Foreman: “Other climbers look at great chasms and fear them. You hear them?”

Weihenmayer: “I can hear the sound of space around me ... sound vibrations ... constantly bouncing off objects and coming back at us. And you can hear the sound of open and closed space. So definitely, when I’m near a drop off, I can hear it.”

Foreman: “Is it just as *frightening* to you as it would be to anyone else?”

Weihenmayer: “It’s an *overwhelming* and *pretty scary sound*, but I’m not looking, you know, thousands of feet down, so I’m not as freaked out as somebody looking down into some scary crevasse.”

Notice what Weihenmayer is saying here. He was not looking at the *danger* ahead! Foreman asked Weihenmayer then what was it like as he pushed ahead— and Weihenmayer’s response? “... I was just putting one step in front of the next, and trying to keep a *very clear focused mind* because I just knew this wasn’t a place to make a mistake.”

A very clear focused mind, one step in front of the other, knowing this isn’t a place to make a mistake! And so must we be as we face the obstacles before us before the end of this age now rapidly approaching! Let’s notice some things God’s word has to say to us in this regard.

Psalm 27:14: “**Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait I say, on the LORD!**” A *command* from God to wait on Him for His strength in time of need! And we’re to remain as focused on the path ahead spiritually as this blind climber was on the physical path before him.

Notice II Corinthians 5:7: “**For we walk by faith not by sight.**” And Hebrews 11:1: “**Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**”

Notice! We walk *by faith*, not being able to see the path ahead of us, just as this blind climber could



DEEP CREVASSE



not see his physical path ahead, and we rely on God to help us in our climb to God's Kingdom as this climber in faith in his fellow climbers helping him at critical points in his climb to the top of Mount Everest!

Can we see the lesson here? It is relying on God in *faith* for our spiritual victory over sin and Satan, at critical points in our lives, to reach the top of our mountain – God's soon coming Kingdom!

And who gives us the victory? Notice now I Corinthians 15:57: **“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”** So, we see the victory over sin and Satan comes from God as we rely on Him in faith to help us, not our own power alone. What else does it take?

2. SATAN, OUR UNINTENDED ALLY

This blind man made an interesting and important point in the interview that can work in our favor, one that is ironic where Satan is concerned.

Weihenmayer: “I’ve been climbing since I was 16 years old. That was my first love, rock and ice climbing, because I could feel my way up this pattern of rock. *There wasn’t any ball that was flying through the air that was gonna hit me in the face ...*”

Foreman: “... like in a volleyball game?”

Weihenmayer: “Yeah, exactly ... just me and the rock ... I was learning to use my body at certain angles; positioning my weight to figure out my way up the rock face. But there was a point I thought, *‘Maybe I have the talent to climb Mount Everest.’ I wasn’t sure. I knew it was a big step up from anything I have ever done.*”

Satan will throw obstacles in our way designed to distract, confuse and even cause us to want to give up on God's way and the Kingdom of



God, in the face of seemingly insurmountable trials and setbacks as this blind climber faced in his quest for a physical crown of material accomplishment.

As can be seen, he did not let the physical surroundings he encountered in his climb of Mount Everest discourage him – at least not for very long. If anything, the trials he went through *steeled him and strengthened him, making him more determined than ever to reach his goal.* And neither should we let trials, physical or spiritual, deter us from our ultimate goal as kings, priests and teachers in God's soon coming Kingdom!

God intends that our tests and trials *make us more determined than ever to reach our goal* – quite the opposite of what Satan intends! In other words, Satan is unintentionally, unwittingly, helping us achieve our ultimate goal of replacing him and his demons! Amazing!

Let's see a couple of examples in God's word that makes this point.

This first one centers on the time shortly before the birth of Moses in Goshen, Egypt about 1200 B.C. Israel's captivity of about 430 years was nearing its end according to God's plan.



Exodus 1:8-9, 11-12: **“Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. And he said to his people, ‘Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we.’ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to**

afflict them with their burdens ... But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were in dread of the children of Israel."

Notice what happened here. The Egyptians were in fear of the growing prosperity and might of the people of Israel, so they felt drastic action was required to address the perceived threat. The Egyptians imposed tyrannical policies over Israel to contain them, and it *backfired* – big time!

Satan's attempt to quell Israel's growth only made the Israelites more determined to resist Pharaoh more than ever as the trial continued. The Israelites continued to grow stronger against Egypt's tyranny the more they were oppressed (v. 20), exactly the opposite of Satan's intended plot. The ultimate result was Israel's expulsion from Egypt as God intervened, and the creation of the nation that produced the Savior of all mankind – Jesus Christ!!

How *much more*, as the people of God having His Holy Spirit, should Satan's attacks **steel** us against him, individually and collectively, as God's Church; this **little, little flock** doing God's Work, qualifying to replace Satan and his demons as rulers of this world!

The other example is in the New Testament. The time is 30 A.D just hours before Christ's sacrifice on the stake for our sins. Jesus and the disciples were taking their last Passover with Him as He instituted changes in the Passover service, transforming it into the first real New Testament Passover, adding the foot washing ordinance with the new focus on His sacrifice and humility.

John 13:2, 27, 31: **"And (during) supper the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him ... Now after the piece of bread (Judas having dipped it), Satan entered him ... So when he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in Him' ..."**

Satan's intended plot was from the time Christ was born up to that time to destroy Christ to keep Him from completing His mission on earth and to thwart God's plan of salvation for man. This plot *failed* as all others have, only to play into God's hands for our ultimate salvation. Somehow,

Satan thought destroying Christ at this point would thwart God's plan, or he would not have done this! Such is the perverted mind of Satan!

Our trials work for our salvation! Please read Romans 8:28, 30-31.

3. IT'S ALL WORTH IT!

Continuing the interview:

Foreman: "All of us, who have not been there, imagine the view. What was the sensation for you?"

Weihenmayer: "I could hear prayer flags flapping in the breeze ... hear the wind ... the sound of space. I reached down and touched the snow ... I didn't have those views dropping away in front of me ... but I think a summit is a lot of internal feeling anyway... I think it's a lot of an internal symbol of what your life is about."

Foreman: "*and it was worth it.*"

Weihenmayer: "*And it was worth it. Yeah.*"

What is our response in going through what we have to go through in this life toward our goal?

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be

compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us ... for the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the Sons of God (Romans 8:18-19)."

Without realizing it, the world is waiting for the resurrection of the true people of God. And that time is soon to come (please read all of I Corinthians 15, the Resurrection Chapter).

It will be by the grace and mercy of God who will give us the true and everlasting victory over the insurmountable obstacles – as the apostle Paul wrote: **"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory (to be more than conquerors!) through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the Work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord (I Corinthians 15:57-58)."**

Will it be worth it? **Definitely!!**



FOCUS ON GOD'S TRUE CHURCH



By Tom Cooper

Fantastic news will begin arriving for God's true Church sooner than many might believe! That news is now being determined by each member as to how joyful an occasion it will be – *by our choice* in this most important test of character.

It should be recalled that each of us was admonished to prove everything from the outset of our calling.

This article is intended to be a reminder to recount our experiences and guide us in making right choices to receive the joyful optimum of the coming Good News.

Due to end-time events, we all have been placed in positions to make serious choices that are intended to have an incredible and valuable outcome.

How much of God's Spirit we might have will be critical in our very near future! See Matthew 25:8

REVERENTIAL FEAR

Before considering this wonderful news, it is vital to bring to mind how to properly weigh facts: First consider Proverbs 1:7: **“The fear (*reverential awe*) of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”**

When we were called, didn't we have our minds opened to the real truth? Remember how it felt? Doesn't God's word still stir us to repent and change what can be seen and proven? Hopefully, **you have held fast to God's commandments and understand Jesus Christ's testimony**, which must include the Gospel of the Coming Kingdom of God (Revelation 12:17).

Looking closely at the 12th chapter of Revelation, we see **those words also apply to those who will go into the *Great Tribulation*!** So it is imperative to maintain a *reverential awe* for our Creator and to seek wisdom and instruction from Him. Ask yourself: Do I still **love God's truth** enough to die for it?



THE GOOD NEWS

What is the fantastic good news? Look closely at Revelation 3:10: **“Because thou hast kept the word of my patience (*to persevere*), I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation (*trial*), which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.”**

It is clear that some of God’s people will indeed be taken to a place in the wilderness to be kept safe from horrifying end-time events. That is the terrific news that every member of God’s Church should remember as we see Jacob’s time of trouble unfolding before our very eyes (Jeremiah 30:5-7).

EXAMPLES FROM PAST HISTORY

God shows us how to choose our path! Consider the parallel with Nehemiah when the Levites, speaking of God in Nehemiah 9, recount their history. In verses 13 and 14, they say, **“You came down also on Mount Sinai, and spoke with them from heaven, and gave them just ordinances and true laws, good statutes and commandments. You made known to them Your holy Sabbath and commanded them precepts, statutes and laws by the hand of Moses Your servant.”**

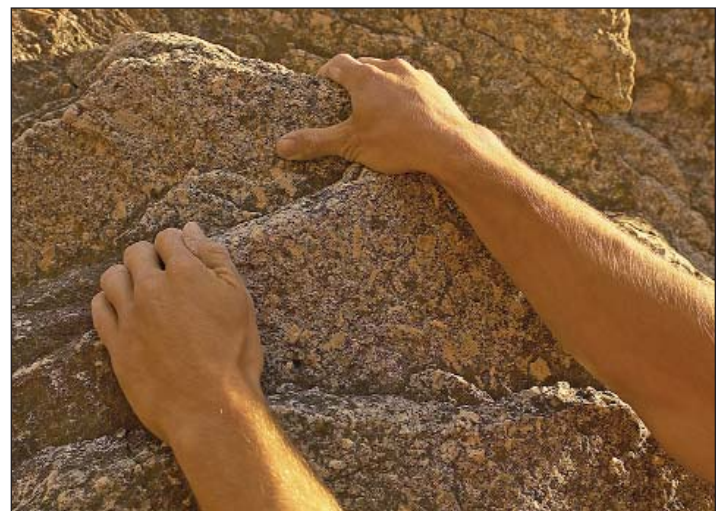
God also spoke to you and me through His Holy Spirit and taught us through His end-time Elijah who restored all things (*truths, laws and doctrines*). He taught us a format for services, respect by calling elders “Mister,” wearing our best to services as a sign of respect to God, proper hair length for men and women, our ultimate purpose to become

God and teach during the Millennium, and that women would not make it into the kingdom wearing makeup. In all these things, a reverential, teachable attitude counted with God. **And we learned and changed accordingly.**

In Nehemiah’s time consider what he had to do: To rebuild the wall around Jerusalem which everyone needed for security. First, the need was to unite the

people: Nehemiah 2:17: **“Then I said unto them, ‘Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: Come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach’.”**

Enemies, used by Satan, opposed their Good Work. Verse 19: **“But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, ‘What is this thing that you do? Will ye rebel against the king?’”** Scorned and accused, Nehemiah ended up arming his crews who worked on the walls. Nehemiah 4:13 (NKJV): **“Therefore I positioned men behind the lower parts of the wall, at the openings; and I set the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows.”**





Looking back at the path we entered in our beginnings, consider the individual steps each of us took, one at a time and see where it led us – to *the Path of Life*:

- 1) We proved the existence of the true God and that His Holy Bible was the foundation of truth.
- 2) We proved that God's true Church yet exists— and which one it was by the Word of Truth, His Holy Bible.
- 3) We were baptized and upon receiving God's Holy Spirit came to realize no other church had this blessing.
- 4) We learned about one coming in the power of Elijah who would restore all things and that we were recipients of those restored doctrines.
- 5) We learned we were not born again – yet, but will be when resurrected as God beings.
- 6) We learned all this came from God through His end-time Elijah (*one coming in the power of Elijah*) who virtually used God's signet ring of authority.

7) We learned that in the end time there would come *a falling away from the true teachings of God* because they did not receive the love of the truth of God (II Thessalonians 2:1-3, 10-12).

8) We learned that after the Church was scattered about, the end-time pastors are condemned in Jeremiah 23 and Ezekiel 34 for selling God's word and abusing God's flock, but thankfully, Christ brought us out from under the leadership of those pastors.

9) Later we learned to be cautious which group we might associate with while searching for where the truth was still being preached fully convinced we would recognize the right one.

10) We also learned as of January 2010, that God's Church had entered into another 19 year time cycle. And during this cycle members of the Philadelphian era would be under God's protected care. Thus end-time events will be fulfilled in the next few years. "Now, what do I do?" crossed our minds!

GOD IS NOT AUTHOR OF CONFUSION

Numerous Scriptures make known with understanding that Jesus Christ will bring His faithful and enduring people together with organization according to His timetable – those who love His truth before the imperative need of leaving for the place prepared for them as found in Revelation 12:14.

OPPRESSION FROM NOBLES, RULERS

Nehemiah was confronted with another obstacle. Nehemiah 5:1: **"And there was a great cry of the people and their wives against their Jewish brethren."** The nobles and rulers had taken advantage of their brethren through the unlawful exacting of usury, confiscating their crops and lands, and even slavery (verses 2-13). God used Nehemiah who adhered to God's laws and past judgments to resolve this burdensome problem as well as other problems that developed.

FESTIVALS OF THE SEVENTH MONTH

When the seventh month came and the law was read to the people, they found they should keep the Feast of Tabernacles (Nehemiah 8:1-18). After the Feast of Tabernacles concluded, the Jewish people entered into a FAST.

Nehemiah 9:1-2: **"Now in the twenty and fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, and with sack clothes, and earth upon them. And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers."**

They had turned around by looking back and seeing where their path went wrong. **Can the Church of God do that as well?**



Since they as a large unidentifiable group do not yet exist, it is safe to say that the Scripture referring to one being taken and one left will from this scattered condition be coming together at exactly the right time.

We in Faithful Flock believe there is a nucleus. To help those who will be drawn together, **there is instruction from Jesus Christ to consider.**

ENTRANCE TO GOD'S PATH OF LIFE

Like the example found in Nehemiah, persecution waits for any who consider their path and repent. Jesus Christ makes known His path and what each one has to do to enter and remain in it:

“Jesus answered them and said, ‘My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him (John 7:16-18; 10:1-16).’”

Christ here makes known that anyone who doesn't stay true in His teachings or explaining doctrine correctly is unrighteous. Those placing themselves above God's end-time Elijah in deciding doctrine are seeking their own glory.


Consider some erroneous teachings: A voting government in God's Church is not of God. The assumption of the title *“That Prophet”* only belongs to Jesus Christ! The claim made about the makeup issue that it was changed several times is inaccurate – *only twice!* Even changing the format for services is moving away from the tradition established by God's late apostle!

FAITH VS. FEAR

Why so many inaccuracies? The answer for most is the seeking of one's own way rather than God's way of life. With many, there is also a lack of faith and thus fear.

If Christ would not deviate from the doctrine God the Father gave Him, then we mere mortals should tremble before God's word and Christ's example. Remember Satan uses fear, and God requires faith!

All of the doctrines we were taught, unchanged, are on the 'Faithful Flock' web sites. They will remain there until Christ closes the door to His Gospel and the Ezekiel warning message. Shortly thereafter, God's true and faithful elect will begin their departure for the place that will be prepared for them to escape the horrifying test that will befall the whole world.

Focus on God's Church and His true path of life! Consider the incredible accomplishment Nehemiah managed as he renewed Jerusalem by re-establishing God's law through repenting, and consider where you want to be when God's fantastic news arrives! 



New World

And the human spirit is the psyche. It imparts intellect to a physical brain. The spirit can't see. It can't think. It is the brain that sees through the eye that hears through the ear. The brain does the thinking, but the spirit sort of impels the brain. It suggests. It sort of leads the brain. It gives the brain the power of intellect.



Now again, in Genesis the first chapter and the first verse, we read how, **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth,”** and the word for “God” is **“Elohim,”** which is a plural word meaning more than one person. Now, it could be written **“in the beginning Gods,”** plural **“created the heaven and the earth.”** I think the translators didn't translate it that way into English because they thought that would confuse people, and yet you come to **verse 26, and you find, “and God said let Us make man in OUR image after OUR likeness.”**

MORTAL MAN

Now, God intended them to reproduce and multiply, and He was going to build a structure from that foundation. In the second chapter of Genesis and verse seven, it says that the Eternal **“formed man out of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man,”** that is the dust of the ground, just formed into a man, **“became a living soul.”** The dust of the ground became a soul that's altogether matter. Now, there was a spirit in the soul. The soul itself is NOT a spirit. So many, in fact, the whole world has been deceived on that point. It's good to make it clear right here as I have many times.

Now, the man had only temporary existence. His life came, the only life he had was a temporary existence that came by the breath of air, **“the breath of life”** it is called and the circulation of blood. Now, the blood was oxidized in the lungs, and as it passed through the lungs by the air and it sort of fired it, like your engine of your motor car is fired by a spark plug and that ignites the gas and fires it and produces power.

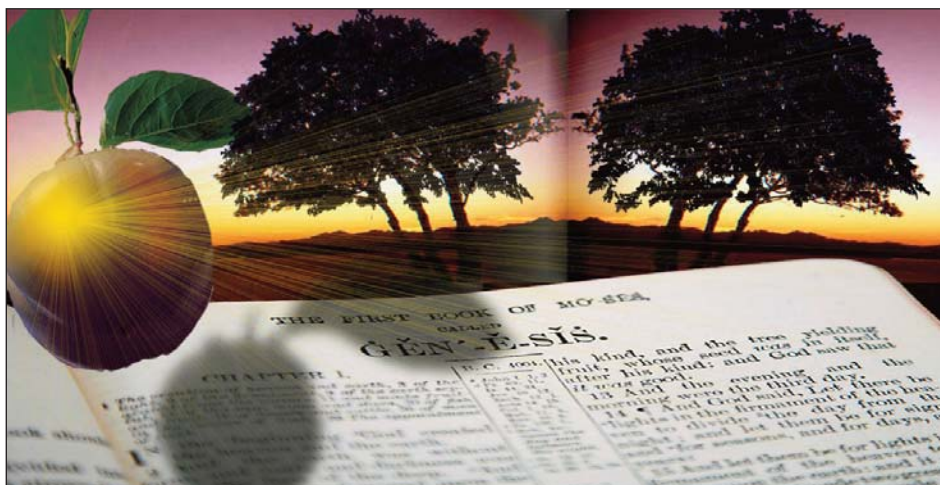
So man had only a temporary existence, but God offered him immortality and perpetual existence. That was offered in one of the trees in the garden. God had moved him into the Garden of Eden, which must have been the most beautiful garden that has ever appeared on the face of the earth. One of the most beautiful gardens I have ever seen was the Japanese garden over in the campus at Bricket Wood, which was our college campus for some 17 years.

Another most beautiful garden is the one at Exbury, a garden of rhododendrons and millions and millions of dollars have been spent in building that garden. It occupies several acres, and some of us from here went through it last May. I have a movie of it, showing it. **“The Glory of the Garden,”** it is called, and it is just one of the most beautiful things you ever saw. Millions of dollars have been spent in building it.



But the Garden of Eden was undoubtedly far more beautiful because God built it, and He beheld everything He had built and made and **“behold it was”** not just good, it was **“VERY GOOD!”**

So man was offered immortal life and that came through the Tree of Life, but it would come from God. And it was just as if God had said to Adam, it would come from God through the Holy Spirit, and God might have said to Adam something like this, **“I have given you a human spirit in your brain to give you a human mind to know of yourself good and evil and that you had self-existence, but it**



would be a selfish good.” That’s as far as he would be able to see. And if he took it, it would ultimately result in death.

He would have a sense of good up to a certain point on a human level as far as he could, but it would be self-centered and selfish, and he would also have evil. Now, he would have good toward himself and evil toward other people, and that’s what has happened.

But if he took the Tree of Life God might have said, **“With it and the Tree of Life, you will receive My Spirit and in it you will receive My mind because it is a better mind than yours, a mind that can understand all SPIRITUAL knowledge, and you will only be**

able to understand physical and materialistic knowledge, and the spiritual qualities of good and evil on the human level, on the physical level, more or less. But you, to understand it on the higher spiritual level, you will need My Spirit, and you will need the life that comes from Me. I will give you My own life. You will be born, first begotten and then born of Me, and your life will come right out of Me, and I will give it to you from Me,” God might have said to Adam.

And with it, of course, would come spiritual knowledge. Otherwise, you would have merely human knowledge if

you take of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, which would be human knowledge. But without God you’ll never be happy. You cannot succeed, and you’ll be confined to a lower level, and your life will run out because you don’t have eternal life, and you will surely die. So that could have been called the Tree of Death, and the other tree that God did offer him freely was the Tree of Life.

But God forbid him to take of the Tree of Death, and if he did he would surely die. In other words, it was just merely good on the human level, and on the human level he only had a human existence, so naturally he was going to die.

Now, if he took of the Tree of Life, he would also, through the Spirit of God, that God would have given him from that, meaning receiving it of that, receive the guidance of

God, and he needed that guidance. Now, Adam did receive guidance, he made the decision, “Well, I’ll go it alone. I’ll depend on myself. I’ll decide good and evil. I don’t need you to tell me good from evil. I’ll decide it for myself.”

SATAN BROADCASTS IN ATTITUDES

Now, he didn’t meet up with Satan himself. His wife Eve stole out when he

wasn’t looking and met Satan, and Satan deceived her, but Satan must have gotten to Adam, too, since he gets to everybody as the prince of the power of the air and a spirit. A spirit being can communicate at least attitudes into the human brain because our human brains are on Satan’s wavelength.

Now, you can’t understand things that are going on the radio stations that can be heard right here in this auditorium. If you, if your ear could be tuned in on their wavelength, and you could even hear voices and see pictures



coming from television stations, if you could be tuned in on their channel, but it takes instruments to do that for us, but Satan broadcasts.

He doesn't broadcast in words, or definite thoughts, *but in attitudes that lead to thoughts and lead to motives and motivations*. So he received whatever good he had from Satan, and then God closed up the tree of life until Jesus Christ, the Second Adam, should come and pay the penalty that Adam had incurred and that all of his sons were going to incur.

Now, God could not give His sons the Holy Spirit because Adam had sinned, and before the sons had become old enough to comprehend and understand and receive the Spirit of God, Satan had gotten to every one of them with the attitudes of selfishness that led to sin.

And those sins had to be paid for because sin is the transgression of the law, and the law has penalties, and the wages of sin is death, and all had then inherited the penalty of death until Christ came – who had never sinned and then had died and paid the penalty of human sin – God could not open up the Spirit of Life to ANY human being.

Now, He made an exception in the prophets of the Old Testament for the writing of the Bible, and they were sort of a pre-foundation of the Church, and the Church has come to receive the Holy Spirit and because Christ had paid the penalty and our sins could be forgiven and Christ came, His death doesn't give us salvation. It doesn't impart eternal and immortal life to us at all. It reconciles us to God.

Now, there again is something else. God had purposed, and I could even have another sort of an analogy or sort of a parable, God had purposed to build a family. It was His family, and His family potentially began with Adam and was all coming out of Adam because Eve came out of Adam, and then Cain and Abel and Seth, and then they had other sons AND daughters after that. All came out of Adam and Eve. And then other children came out of them, and so you trace it back. Ultimately, every human being has come

out of Adam, and we're all the family of Adam, and it was the potential family of God.

Now, there's another analogy. Satan came along and kidnapped that family, and I'm writing now another book, and the first chapter will appear in the February number of the Plain Truth, and some of us have already received advance copies of that issue. The lead article "A World Held Captive," which will be the title of the book, and that is the first chapter of the book if I can get around to finding the time to write the rest of it. At least, the first chapter is written.



SATAN'S ATTRACTIVE WORLD

Satan kidnapped this family and here we have the rather ludicrous and ridiculous idea or situation that the kidnapped person actually believed in the kidnapper, and the kidnapper's way of life a whole lot more than the potential Father. God is the potential Father, and He intended them to become His children, but they had to receive life from Him. And they had to first qualify. In other words, God is the perfect spiritual character.

And man was given a chance to receive the Spirit of God, but first He had to make a decision. He had to want that and wanting it, it was available to him, and God offered it to him freely. He would have received the Spirit of God, and through the Spirit of God he would have begun to receive the knowledge, and he would have received the LOVE of God shed abroad in his heart. He would have re-

ceived the knowledge of the law of God, of the way of perfection in life and perfect character.

But in order to perform that perfect character and produce it, it takes love, and God did not build Adam or not create Adam with that kind of love. That was like the icing of the cake.

It would have to come later and could have come through His Holy Spirit if Adam had taken of the Tree of Life, which he did not do. He rejected it, and so he could not have it, and it could not come to humans until the time of Jesus Christ.

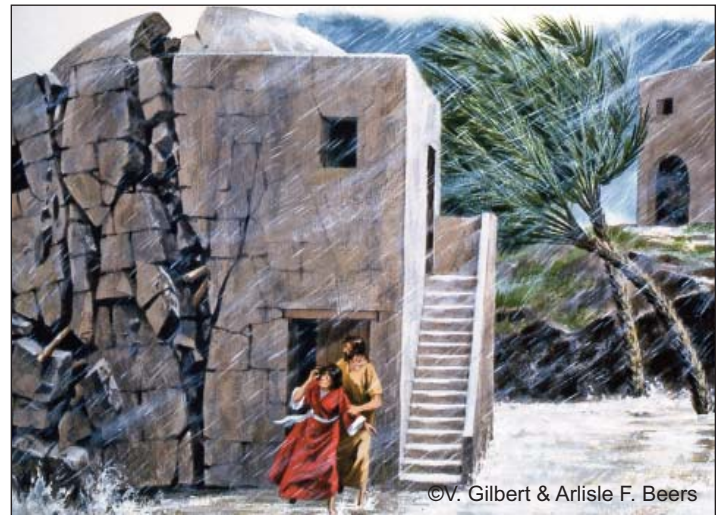
But, Adam instead of receiving the guidance of God now, received the guidance of Satan the kidnapper, and so the whole family did grow. It was the potential family of God, but it was kidnapped by Satan, and it has loved the way of the kidnapper.

Now, we had an example not too long ago when the granddaughter of the famous newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst, Patty Hearst, was kidnapped. And, lo and behold, she was brainwashed a little bit, and she came to love the way of the kidnapper more than the way of her own parents. And, while they were human and carnal, yet they, you see, humans have good as well as evil, and they were considered as an upright and good family, as this world goes. But Patty for a while preferred the way of them and even entered into a bank robbery with them with loaded gun, a loaded rifle.

Well, it seems that that situation finally came out all right from this world's point of view. She was finally rescued, and I think it's something in the past now at this time. But it does give us an illustration and that might be of some value. And I would think that even she herself would be glad if we could use the experience for the good of other people to illustrate it. But ALL humanity has loved the way of the kidnapper, and the kidnapper has deceived the whole world.



So, a world was founded on Adam, and he had made a decision, and he was going to go the way he did, and he was influenced and led by Satan when he could have been led by God. He became Satan's property, and it was Satan's way of self, do your own thing, resent authority, selfishness, vanity, instead of cooperation and serving and helping and togetherness. And that became the foundation of the world, but the foundation was faulty, and so the superstructure was bound to be faulty.



THE HOUSE BEING BUILT BY GOD

Now we turn to Matthew the seventh chapter and verses 24 to 27, "Therefore," Jesus said, "whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock," a solid foundation of a rock. "And the rain descended, and the floods came," there was a heavy storm, "the winds



blew, and blew upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded on a ROCK.”

It had a SOLID foundation. It had the right start, the right foundation and every building starts from its foundation. You know you don’t build the roof first and then the top floor and others and then build under it because what would hold up the roof and the top floor?

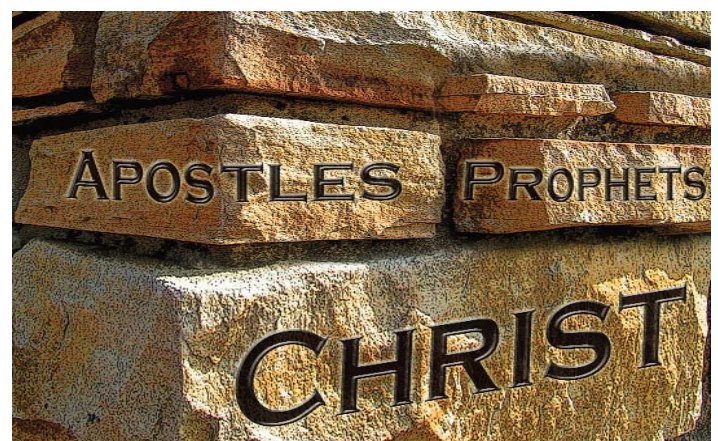
You build the foundation first, and **“every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew,”** there was a big storm, and it **“beat upon”** the house and the house **“fell: and great was the fall”** thereof.

Now, a house has been built. **“Except the Eternal build the house, they labor in vain that build it”**, and humanity has been laboring in vain 6,000 years building this house, this superstructure that we call the world, that we call this civilization. It is a world. It’s a building on a faulty foundation, and everything has been wrong with that foundation. Not only was it an unsound foundation, but it was started out on the wrong attitude, the wrong motive – self – from Satan, and it was influenced by Satan all the way through.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Now, Jesus came to save the situation, and I want to tell you how He came to save it, but first I want you to notice this, that He came and Satan tried to kill Him. Later, he tried to deceive Him and to get Jesus to sin, and Jesus didn’t, and so when Satan couldn’t do that and Jesus did found His Church, and His Church was a building started on a solid foundation of a rock, and Jesus Christ is that rock and the foundation, as I’ll tell you later is the apostles and prophets and

Christ, the rock is the chief cornerstone and the chief of the foundation. So Jesus came with the Good News of another building all together – the Kingdom of God.





Now, God was going to start a kingdom, but Satan kidnapped that kingdom, and that kingdom has built a certain superstructure we call the world, that we call civilization. It's been built on a false foundation.

Now, the Protestant churches have been deceived, and they're trying to SAVE the world. They plan to save the superstructure. They're not going back to repair the original foundation. No, there's a rotten foundation that's going to let the whole building crack, and they're laboring in vain because the Lord isn't building their house. They're trying to work on the superstructure and save that. God has no intention of saving that superstructure. Now, that may be a surprise to you, but just listen.

Jesus came and preached the Good News of the Kingdom of God, and the Kingdom of God is the FAMILY of God that will rule the world and become a nation. In other words, it, too, starts with a Church, and the Church is the Kingdom in embryo, and the Church is also called a house, or a building fitly framed together and it's built on a rock.

Now then, I want you to notice, Jesus preached this Gospel, but in Galatians, Galatians the first chapter and verses six and seven, the Apostle Paul said, **"I marvel," to the Churches up in Galatia he said, "I marvel that you are so soon removed from Him that called you," unto, "into the grace of Christ unto another gospel."** Now, what they were called to was the pure and safe foundation. The truth of God and the grace of Christ Who came to restore us back

to the Father, God, from whom Satan the kidnapper has kidnapped us.

"I marvel that you are so soon removed from Him that called you ... unto another gospel," another message about what it is all about, **"which is not another, but there be some that trouble you and would pervert the Gospel of Jesus Christ."** Well, Satan counterfeited with another gospel. He turned them to a different gospel all together.

Now, Jesus did not come to try to save this superstructure. What He came for was to start another building all together. God had started a potential building that could have been His building, but Adam rejected Him and turned to Satan and Satan's way instead. Now, God is going to let it CRACK! God is going to let this world come down! God is not trying to save this world! And this world is going to crash down and go into extinction!



Now, those words are a little bit shocking, I think, to most people. I don't think they should be to you, brethren, because I think you've already heard enough to understand. But most religions think Jesus came to save this superstructure, and that's what they're trying to do. They don't say, **"Come out of the world!"** They're a part of this world.

The Catholic Church is part of this world. The Protestant churches, the Methodists, the Presbyterians, the Baptists, the Lutherans, the Congregationalists and so on. They're all PART of this world, the religious part, and they are preaching, and they don't realize it. They're blinded. They're deceived, and they don't know it. I'm not saying that they are maliciously, intentionally wrong. They think they're right! They're just as honest in believing that they are right as you



are in knowing that we are right, but they are deceived, and they are trying to save this world.

God is not trying to save this world, and you can't find where Jesus Christ, when He was on earth, tried to save this world. Rather, He called His disciples out from this world, said, **“Come out of this world all together. We're going to start a new and a different world! We're going to start a new building! We're going to let this building crash! We're going to start a new building altogether, and it's based on a foundation that was first a rock.”**

And then the disciples that He taught became apostles, and the superstructure, the foundation of this building that God is building, is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Himself, the Rock, being the chief cornerstone. A building built on a rock.

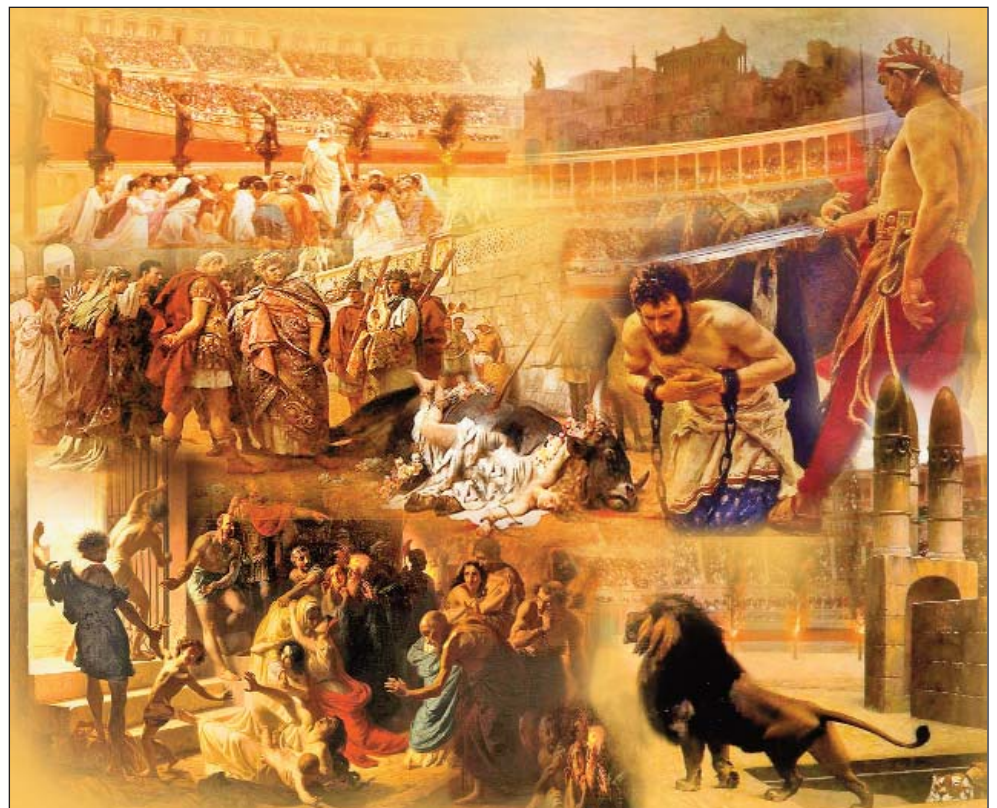
So, God sent Jesus Christ into the world as the Second Adam, starting all over where the first Adam failed. Jesus came as the Second Adam. Now, Jesus made the decision, in fact, He had the Spirit of God from birth because He was begotten by the Spirit of God and not by a human sperm cell. But He was *tempted* in all points, every way that Adam was and then some. Satan

tried to kill Him, then Satan tried to deceive Him, and Satan didn't succeed. And then Satan went after the Church, and he martyred the leaders of the Church, and they were put to death. And then he started a controversy as to whether the gospel should be the Gospel OF Christ, that Christ brought, His own Gospel, or some different gospel that they would make up, a gospel of men merely about Christ.

THE LOST CENTURY

And there was a hundred year lapse in the history of the Church. We have no record of what happened, but when the curtain lifts over that, that had been drawn down over the history of the Church, a hundred years later, we find a church calling itself Christian that is as different as night is from day from the Church that Jesus began that He started on the Day of Pentecost through the apostles, built on Christ and the apostles.

It was a totally different church, and that is what all the churches in this world have come on out of that. And men believe what they get from other people in the church. This Church, brethren, did not come that way. The original apostles were taught by Jesus Christ, and the apostle of this time



was taught by Jesus Christ. Jesus in person is the personal Word of God.

The Bible is the *SAME Word of God* in writing! And God taught me by Jesus in writing, just as He taught the early apostles by Jesus in person, but it's the same Word, exactly and the churches have preserved it, believe it or not, but they don't understand it because it's written in code, and they can't break the code, and they can't understand what it says.

Jesus came as the Second Adam. He started an entire new, different building altogether, a different civilization. Not reforming, not healing up this sick world, but starting a new world all together from start to finish, built on a new separate foundation, and He called His disciples OUT of this world. They didn't choose Him. They were not volunteers. He said, **"You have not chosen Me, but I have called you out of this world,"** and He taught them.

Now then, Jesus came to reconcile those that are called out of this world. They're no longer part of the world, and they're reconciled to God by the blood of Christ. Now, the world thinks that you are saved by the blood of Christ.

You read the fifth chapter of Romans, and you will see that we are not saved by Jesus' blood. We are reconciled to God by the death of Christ, not saved by the death of Christ. Death can't give you life, but we'll be saved by His life, His resurrection. We're not saved by His death. We are saved by His life, but His death reconciled us back to God from whom we'd been kidnapped.



Now, the world doesn't want to go back to God, and the world believes in a false Jesus and most of the churches preach about Jesus. They preach about Christ. They don't preach about GOD THE FATHER! You don't hear very much about GOD! That's why they say the LAW is done away. The LAW is honoring GOD! It is GOD who has established the Sabbath! It is GOD who said you are stealing when you take His tithe that is Holy to Him. The things that are Holy to God they're not concerned about. They're only concerned selfishly about the things that seem right to them. And that's what the Protestant churches are teaching all the time.

Well, now, at the foundation of the world God had a plan, and our annual Holy Days picture that plan to us. But in Hebrews 9:27, **"And as it was appointed unto men once to die,"** that's from the foundation of the world, **"but after that the judgment."** Now, the judgment will come by a resurrection.

Now, next you go to I Corinthians 15, beginning with verse 22, **"For as in Adam ALL DIE."** Adam died. He lived 930 years, and then he died. His life ran out and then finally they lived to be about 500 years old, and then they lived to be about 120 years old, and finally in the days of David, King David, he was 70 years old and was **"old and stricken with years,"** and then he died when he had reached 70. And today that's about the expectancy of life, 70 years and God has blessed some of us with a little longer life than that.

But, **"as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall ALL,"** the same all, **"be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the Firstfruits,"** by a resurrection from the dead, the Firstborn among many brethren and afterward

they that are Christ's at His coming will be resurrected out of their graves.

Those that are alive and remain at that time will be changed in the moment, in the twinkling of an eye, from mortal to immortal and will rise to meet Christ in the air as He's coming back to reign in the new world that He came to start, not this same world at all, but a new entirely new and different building – a new world, a new civilization. [I Thessalonians 4:13-18]

Now, the present world started on a foundation, but God started another world on this foundation of Christ, but it is not, He is not trying to save this world, so that whosoever will in this world can just get saved, and the whole world is going to be saved one by one.

Instead, Jesus said in John 6:44, **“No man can come to Me.”** Now, there is only one door to God. The main thing is to get back to God the Father! And the Protestant churches and the Catholic Church ignore God the Father. The Catholic Church teaches you to go to Mary, and the Protestant churches teach you to go to Jesus. But you see the Law came from God the Father, and Christ came to restore us to God the Father and reconcile us to God, and its God Who has eternal life to give. God is the Father from Whom the potential family has been kidnapped.

Jesus said, **“No man can come to Me,”** and He's the only door to get to God, **“except the Father which (hath) sent Me draws Him.”** It's a case of getting to the Father, and the Father has to choose and call you and draw you, or you can't come to Christ and that's why you can't talk your relatives into seeing the truth of God. If God doesn't do it, you can't do it. They are blinded. They can't see it. They think you are crazy. And who is there among you that hasn't been called crazy by relatives and other people when you've tried to tell them the truth. They can't see it. To them, you're just crazy if you believe what I'm preaching.

So, the Church now is and is called a building. Notice in Ephesians, in the second chapter of Ephesians, I'd like to begin first at verse one, **“And you,”** said first to the Church at Ephesus, and they had been Gentiles originally, **“you hath He quickened,”** or made alive and given the Spirit of immortality. **“Who were dead in trespasses and sins; wherein in time past you walked according to the**

course of this world.” You were part of this structure, this superstructure built on a false foundation. It is led by Satan, that is built a superstructure we call the world, and you were part of it, and you were deceived by Satan.

“According to the prince of the power of the air,” who is Satan, **“the spirit that now works,”** now is working, **“in the children of disobedience.”** And he was working in every one of us, brethren, but we've been called out so he doesn't work in us any longer. We are no longer part of this building. This building is going to CRASH! This building is coming down!



If you're in a big building, and it's going to topple over in an earthquake, if you can get out and away from that building, maybe you can save your life. But you don't want to stay into it or you'll crash with it.

This world is going to crash down! It's a building that's going to CRASH and CRUMBLE and be destroyed! And,

if you stay in it, you are going to be destroyed with it!
Jesus said, “Come out of this world and be separate!”
He called us out of the world, and it is only those that are called.

Now, I took a sermon one time to devote considerable time going through, actually dozens of passages all through the New Testament showing that all of those that get into the Church have been called, have been chosen by God. They are not volunteers. They are drafted, draftees. We have been conscripted.

In Ephesians the second chapter, beginning with verse 19, **“Now therefore,”** you who were Gentiles **“are no more,”** he said to the Church at Ephesus, “are no more strangers and foreigners,” because the true Church was Israel converted and receiving the Spirit of God.

“But fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God.” Now, house, household, that is a family, and it’s a family living in a house, and that house is built on a faulty foundation, and we’re to come out of it, but the new family is built on a new foundation, and it’s a new house. It’s the house of God.

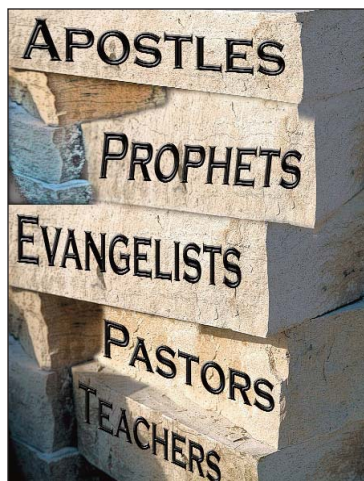
Now, in the Bible we find the Kingdom of Israel and the Kingdom of Judah are so often called the House of Israel and the House of Judah. The word “house” is used to designate a nation in many, many places in the Bible.

“And you are built upon the foundation,” now, notice the foundation here and in the Church we are built on a new and a DIFFERENT foundation, not the foundation of Adam and Satan. **“Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself the chief cornerstone.”** Just as I’ve been saying, we’re built on a Rock. We’re built on a solid foundation.

“In whom all the building,” you see now, we are a building. The Church and the world to come, the civilization is a building. **“In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord.”**

A spiritual temple, and you, brethren, and I’d like to include myself with you, are that temple to which Christ is coming. Some people think the Jews are going to build a new temple for Christ. The Jews reject Christ. They’re not

going to build a temple for Him to come to, but God is building that temple in you and me, and we, individually, each are the temple of the Holy Spirit and as a collective body we are the temple of God in whom the Holy Spirit dwells.



And we’re built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ, Himself, the Rock, is the Chief Cornerstone, or the foundation on which we’re built. **“In Whom, you also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”** It’s a building in which God will dwell, a habitation of

God an entirely new and different building, an entirely new civilization.

Now, Jesus taught the knowledge about the Kingdom of God, and so, He taught us that this world is going to crash, and He is going to come as the King of kings and the Lord of lords to start a new world.

Now, Jesus had to meet Satan head on, and He conquered Satan, and He qualified to replace Satan on the throne of the earth. Satan is on the throne of the earth, and he has kidnapped the potential family of God, and it has been his world, and he is on the throne of the world over all the governments of the different nations of the world, and Satan is the king over all of them. And they are blinded, and they don’t know it, and he has blinded them so they don’t see the truth as you read in II Corinthians, four and verse three.

Now, in Matthew 24, they asked Jesus about the end of the world. The world is going to come down and crash. This building is going to crumble and be destroyed. And He said that this same Gospel of the Kingdom that Jesus preached should be proclaimed in all the world, and it was not for 1,900 years.

And God has raised me up to proclaim that worldwide, and it has gone worldwide. This Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached for a witness unto all nations, not IN all nations,

but for a witness to them and **“THEN shall the end come,”** the end of this world, the collapse of this world. It will be ended.

It will be over and in verse 21 and 22 you find the final crash will be the Great Tribulation and ALL humanity would be destroyed. There wouldn't be a man, woman or child left alive from the nuclear war except that God will for the Church's sake, ELECT'S sake, that He has elected, shorten those days before everybody is made extinct. For OUR sake the whole world, not all of the world will be saved, but enough at least to start a new world, and we will be ruling over them.

Now then, finally in Revelation the third chapter and the 21st verse, Jesus said, **“To him who overcometh,”** that's in the Church, **“will I grant to sit with Me.”** That's in the new earth, after this earth has crumbled and fallen and crashed, and He's come to start the new world, the new building.

“Even as I also, overcame and am set down with My Father on His throne,” that was in heaven. In the second chapter and verses 26 and 27 of Revelation, **“he that overcometh,”** and we have to overcome and we have to endure to the end.

“He that overcometh, and keepeth My works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations.” We're finally, after the world has crashed and Satan is gone, we're going to start a new government, a new world, and we are, say the first floor or two of the next high rise building, built on the original foundation of Jesus Christ and the apostles and prophets.

Now, we're going to build the rest of the superstructure, and as Christ taught the apostles and they began to teach

others, and I've been teaching you people. And you are being taught so that you can teach others at this time when you are going to have power over the rest of the world, and you're going rule them.

You're going to judge them, and you're going to teach them the truth. And then THEY will be able to repent and come and receive the Spirit of God and take of the Tree of Life, which Adam rejected, the first Adam, which the Second Adam did take and which we will all be taking at that time.

“He that overcometh and keepeth My works unto the end ...will I give power over the nations: and he shall RULE them with a rod of iron.” Now, other Scriptures say that we are going to judge the world. We're even going to judge angels. [I Corinthians 6:3]

GOD'S MASTER PLAN

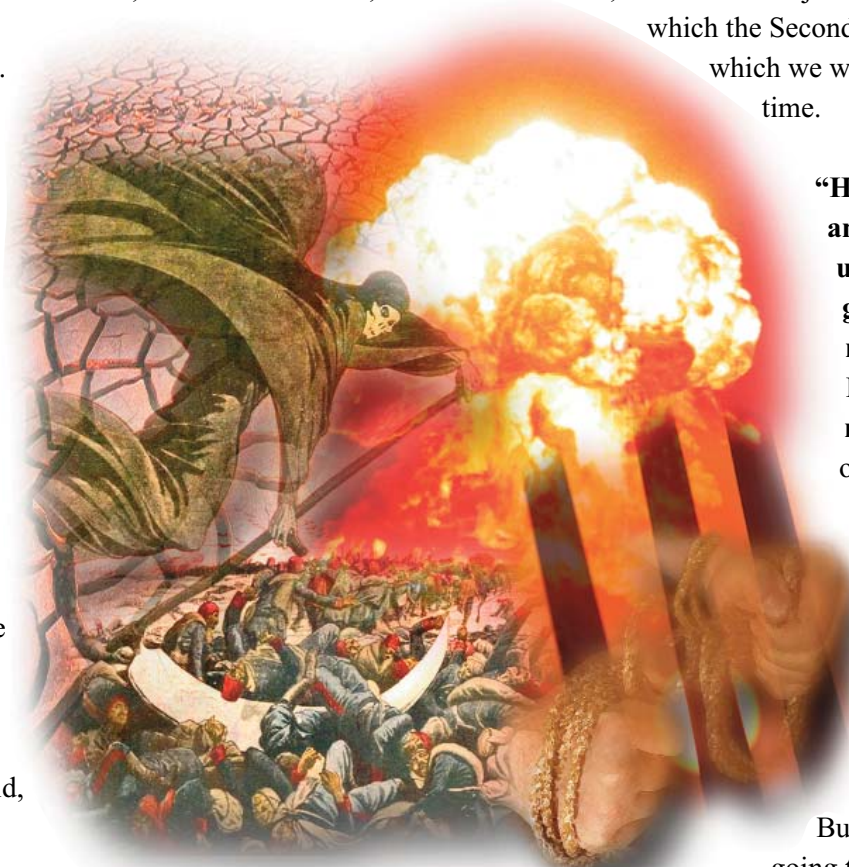
But this world, God is not going to save. He's going to save a lot of people out of it. Now,

those in the world that are not called now, I read you the Scriptures of how all who are not still alive have all died and many more are going to die before Christ comes.

In fact, I would say that more than two thirds of ALL of the people on the face of this earth. I would say that probably close to THREE BILLION people on the earth are going to DIE or BE KILLED between now and the Second Coming of Christ, and that's in our lifetime.

A PERPLEXED AND FRIGHTENED WORLD

TERRIBLE things are going to happen, and the world now is frightened, and the world's leaders are frightened and perplexed and they don't understand, and they don't have any solutions. They don't know what to do.



Brethren, God is using us as the solution. We're going to not save this world. We're going to build a new world, and those that are left alive, they will have been called out of this world because this world will have CRASHED and be dead.

TOMORROW'S WORLD

And we'll be starting a new world and there won't be any devil around to deceive them and then for a thousand years, which we celebrate at the "Feast of Tabernacles" every year, we're going to be saving the rest of the world and judging them and ruling over them in God's world, living God's way, according to God's Law and through the Spirit of God. And they will be given the Spirit of God, and then they will be given eternal and immortal life – that is, all who are willing, but they will have to repent. They will have to make the decision, every one of them.

But there won't be any Satan around to deceive them and mislead them. They won't be deceived. If they make a wrong decision, their blood will be on their own head. They won't be deceived. Today, most people are deceived, and God knows that, and He puts the blame where it belongs – on Satan the devil. That is, the primary blame.

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

Then after the Millennium there will be the Great White Throne Judgment, and everybody who ever lived is going to come back to life. And those converted during the Mil-

lennium plus us, will all be in the family of God in this NEW BUILDING, this NEW STRUCTURE, and the old structure will have crumbled and been long forgotten.

And then, every one of them is going to be just like Adam was in the beginning, Yes, just like Adam was in the beginning. They're going to face the two trees so to speak, but there won't be any devil there to deceive them, and we'll be there to teach them. And every influence around them is going to be a godly influence to lead them God's way.

Personally, I believe the overwhelming majority are going to respond and be saved when

they are no longer deceived, but not all, otherwise the Bible wouldn't say that there are going to be those who will become ashes under the soles of our feet. It's not a universal salvation. No one can be saved except he makes the decision himself, and it's not only making a decision, it's acting on that decision.

"Sin is the transgression of the Law," not just the temptation and the desire. It is acting on that temptation. It's when the desire comes, and you meditate on it, and you think and finally you give in and say, "Well, I'll go ahead and do it." The doing is the sin, and people are going to have to make their own decision. They're going to have to be doers as well as hearers, but finally it will be God's building, built on a SOUND foundation. But this world, this building, is on its last legs. We talk about the end of the world. It's drawing near. Be sure that you're not caught in the destruction when the building crumbles, that you don't fall down with it. Come out of it before that time because we're going to have protection. Come under that protection, and we have nothing to worry about, but all hope and glory lies ahead for all of us!



Editor's Comment: A very small portion has been edited out from this sermon. However, what was removed did not take away from the subject matter. For those who would like to have the complete sermon, please write or call and it will be mailed to you on a CD or cassette.

Alton 'Don' Billingsley



IN THE MIDDLE OF A MOVIE



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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

